

In the Glen

Spring 2023 | News and Activities of the Glen Helen Association



Old Traditions and
New Initiatives
at the Outdoor
Education Center

Also in this issue:

A New Crow for the Raptor Center
Meet Our New Staff and Interns

In the Glen

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

Contributors

Editor: Laurie Freeman; Contributors: Nick Boutis, Christine Avery, Sarah Cline, Laurie Freeman, Rebecca Jaramillo, Kelsey Mazur, Meigan Turner; 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
March 1- 12 Schedule
Friday-Sunday, 10am-4pm
Beginning March 16
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.
Spring 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., 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)

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On the Cover:

The Great Ecocamp Frog Search, Kelsey Mazur

From the Director

Bridges, boardwalks, and steps, oh my!

We are nearing the start of the most significant suite of trail improvements that we have ever undertaken. When we made our plans for the Campaign to Secure the Future of Glen Helen, it was with awareness that our trails needed a bit of love. We surveyed the entire 15-mile trail system, and found over FIFTY locations with problems-to-be-solved. Since then, our to-do list has grown, as we seek to accommodate a family of beavers who have impounded the Yellow Springs Creek and impacted over 600 feet of boardwalks on the Inman Trail.

The great news in all of this is that your support is making this trail work possible. Your campaign contributions, coupled with a nearly \$1 million dollar grant from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund from the state of Ohio, mean that we have now raised sufficient funds to get started.

We have a handful of complementary goals for the work ahead. Obviously, we want to make sure that our trail infrastructure is built to stand up to the weather and a steady stream of hikers, school-children, and other visitors. We also want to make sure that our trails work with – rather than against – nature. A well placed boardwalk, or a well-designed bridge can help minimize erosion, and help us have a light touch on the environment. We also want to ensure that we are able to be welcoming to all. We believe, strongly, that those with limited



mobility deserve the opportunity to access and develop a relationship with nature and the natural world. We recognize that the community is hungry for this access.

If you hike through the Glen in the early months of 2023, you may see signs in place around our existing bridges and boardwalks, as well as at unspanned creeks and other wet spots. We will be seeking competitive bids on priority locations for new or renovated bridges, boardwalks, and steps.

You can expect some big changes. Even the iconic bridge over the Cascades at Birch Creek is ready for a refresh. We hope to bring elegance, durability, and environmental sensitivity to this work, and can't wait to share it with you.

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

– Nick Boutis, Director, Glen Helen Association

Old Traditions and New Initiatives at the Outdoor Education Center



All photos: Kelsey Mazur

It is mid-January and here at the Outdoor Education Center we're in the midst of Beginning of Outdoor School Training (BOOST). Naturalist teacher interns arrived on campus about three weeks before our first group of grade-school students for the season. During this initial time together we spend intense, fun-filled days familiarizing this new team with our environmental science and social-emotional learning curriculum, the ins-and-outs of our campus, risk and behavior management techniques, the Glen's network of trails, and lay the foundation necessary for this group of young professionals to live and work together as a supportive, compassionate community throughout the Outdoor School season. As you might imagine, it is one of our busiest times of the year! It is also one of the most impactful, both for our staff, as our curiosity and love for this work is renewed, and for our interns whose enthusiasm is tempered with the knowledge and skills they'll need to be successful in the months ahead.

During our training weeks, I am always slightly surprised to feel the weight of our traditions playing out each day. At the end of the prior season, about a dozen adults performed the Wasted Food Cheer or responded in unison to dozens of prompts and verbal cues. Now we have to rebuild that chorus. BOOST provides us time to share these traditions with our new naturalists and for us all to practice them together until they're ingrained in our daily Glen-lives. The traditions we hold on to serve many useful purposes; they often convey our values as a community – cultivating compassion, encouraging better stewardship practices, and promoting curiosity and self-reflection. They also help us to create a space that feels predictable and safe for our student participants; the Glen is often extremely removed from our students' daily lives and familiar experiences. Our daily structures and announcements, especially those that masquerade as shenanigans, help students more quickly build their schema of the Outdoor



Top: Beginning of Outdoor School Training (BOOST) gives naturalist interns a hands-on introduction to environmental education.

Inset: An offsite training day at Caesar Creek State Park allows the naturalists to practice observation skills and learn more about our natural world.

Education Center and become comfortable with the flow of learning and living in the Glen. It doesn't hurt that they're seeing some truly inspiring adults act utterly goofy and model a willingness to be vulnerable and have fun. Our traditions are critically important to this work; however, like the natural world we teach in, with and about, the Outdoor Education Center is not a static entity and has seen an especially sizable evolution in the last five years.

Science Learning

Here at the Glen, we've moved to transition away from teaching science as specific informational content

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areas – geology, ecology, hydrology, etc. – and begun to focus on teaching what the educational standards refer to as ‘Science and Engineering Practices’. These practices describe behaviors that scientists and engineers engage in as they investigate, theorize, and build models to create a better understanding of the world around us. Specific practices include asking questions and defining problems, planning and carrying out investigations, and analyzing and interpreting data, among others. We utilize the ecosystems of Glen Helen as a medium through which these practices are engaged and student learning occurs. You’ll still find forest ecology on our course catalog, but that just means the forest, its cycles and inhabitants, are the focal point of discovery and investigation. We give students opportunities to think like a scientist by making observations, asking questions, and constructing explanations about what they discover in the Glen around them.

Actively making observations is the primary path by which our



Naturalists are introduced to Night Hike traditions.

students build a connection to and understanding of nature. Student observations elicit wonder and



Naturalists learn bird language (and more!) with Lead Naturalist Emily Foubert during this year’s BOOST.

curiosity that encourage them to ask questions, explore for more evidence, and investigate and debate their findings. Now a forest ecology lesson hike focuses on the evidence students find for decomposition in the woods and what that means for how energy moves through the world around them. Participating in these learning experiences supports students’ growth as learners, providing them unique opportunities to build critical thinking skills and to practice behaviors that can be applied more readily in any learning context.

Acting as scientists is something that Assistant Director Kelsey Mazur and I, along with the rest of our team, try to model and practice in other levels of our work as well. We seek to make science-informed decisions about the evolution of our educational programming and the pedagogies we use. We look to research on brain-based and culturally responsive teaching practices and to the growing body of research literature on best practices for the field of environmental education. Armed with better information and tools, we aim for ongoing improvement in the quality of our programming and are looking to build out our evaluation processes more substantially in the future

so that we can continue to evolve toward better learning opportunities for our student participants, naturalist interns, ourselves, and our larger Glen community.

Mindfulness

Another transition has been an adoption of the language and practices of mindfulness into our programming. Mindfulness is defined by clinical psychologists as ‘the self-regulation of attention focused on the present moment and one’s physical, mental and emotional reactions to it, with a mindset that is open and accepting’. Neurobiological research has demonstrated that mindfulness practices impact the form and function of the brain – especially the developing brain of a young person, helping build awareness about themselves and the world around them. Mindfulness practices are often considered critical elements in social-emotional learning curriculum, like the one adopted by the state of Ohio in 2019. At programs like ours students are fully immersed in a new world of ‘lived learning’, together. Students attend ‘lesson hikes’, or science lessons, with our naturalist interns, and in between these moments they learn at meals, during dorm and free time, at evening programs, etc. By sheer

amount of time spent together, residential environmental learning centers provide more opportunities for social-emotional learning than can be found in more traditional education settings. We often frame this learning for our students, and ourselves, as practicing mindfulness.

We encourage mindfulness in our close observation and appreciation of the natural world. Many students aren't used to spending significant periods of time outside and so aren't accustomed to needing to dress for comfort in this situation; a naturalist might encourage a mindful-moment outside, standing still and checking in with the body, to help students recognize the demands of the weather



Naturalists wave goodbye to a group of students after an impactful week at Outdoor School

and arrive to a hike prepared to learn comfortably. We also encourage mindful-eating as a way to tackle our wasted food challenge in a fashion that doesn't fixate on competition and shame.

Over the last few years, our team has brought a great deal of mindfulness and intention to the historically under-documented curriculum of social-emotional learning at the Glen. By taking the time to thoroughly evaluate our operations and to make small, intentional changes that deepen the learning in moments of personal responsibility and group cooperation, we continue to improve

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Ecocamp 2023



Photo: Kelsey Mazur

Since 1974, Ecocamp has provided countless opportunities for campers to experience the beauty of Glen Helen Nature Preserve up close, while creating a safe space for them to build community, connect with friends – old and new – and gain new skills as they build self-confidence.

Each Ecocamp is a week long, Monday through Friday, and is separated by theme and age groups. Day camp is for our youngest group of children, involving daily drop-off and pick-up. Extended care is available for day campers until 5:30 pm, Monday through Thursday, for an additional \$30 per week. Progressive camp is for ages 7-11 looking to get their feet wet with an overnight experience. These campers will only sleep overnight Thursday evening with a daily drop-off and pick-up Monday through Wednesday. Older kids participating in overnight camp or our Leaders-in-Training program will be dropped off Monday morning and will spend the night in the fabulous Glen until pick-up on Friday afternoon.

See the calendar insert for the schedule for Ecocamp 2023! We are very excited to introduce new campers to the wonders of the Glen as well as welcome all returners with fun, new activities. While we are offering our classically popular camps such as Dig It, NART (Nature+Art!), Raptor, and

Mud Kitchen is an Ecocamp favorite!

Nocturnal Camp, we have added a few new options to the schedule:

Wilderness Living (ages 8-15) is a combination of our previous camps, Survivor and Ancient Artifacts, where campers will discover how to survive the outdoors and apply ancestral outdoor skills.

Our young day campers have a new opportunity to use their stealth and heighten their senses while actively being **Nature Ninjas** of the Glen!

Overnight campers (ages 8-10) can participate in an **Avian Adventure**, which is a beginners adaptation of Raptor Camp since it's never too early to learn all about birds.

Available to our older campers (ages 12-14) is an exciting new adventure to search for the ever elusive Glenfoot! Themed using the structure of Dungeons & Dragons, campers will create their own storyline that will never be the same twice with **Forest Deep: The Quest for Glenfoot**.

Check glenhelen.org for updates with the potential addition of a camp during Week 3, June 26-30, for ages 13-15, for a fun overnight adventure off the beaten path. As summer approaches and registration for camps fill, kids may be placed on a waitlist for the specific camp of their choice.

the social-emotional learning outcomes our school partners seek in our programming. At the Outdoor Education Center, mindfulness in practice strengthens a sense of community, increases self-understanding and management, and provides tools for and opportunities to practice responsible decision-making, not just while students live on-site, but also when they return back to their homes and school communities.

As I look at where we are today, I see a larger staff team than we've previously had, packed with skilled, compassionate leaders and educators. I see a group of thoughtful, enthusiastic naturalist interns getting ready to welcome their first students next week. As I listen to them laugh in the next room, it feels like the effort of both guarding our traditions and the work of facilitating these transitions in the last few years is paying off. We have eighteen school partners excited to join us for onsite programming this spring; their school communities are still wrestling with the ongoing impacts of the pandemic and their students will benefit from time in the Glen more than ever before – as a result of both greater need and better programming. Our work is by no means done. We'll keep observing, changing, reflecting, and evolving. On the top of my to-do list is to continue to push our program to be more inclusive and equitable in its operations, implementing student assessment tools, and to find opportunities for deeper teacher engagement. But with this amazing team around me, I'm feeling excited by the possibilities.



– Sarah Cline, Director of the Outdoor Education Center (scline@glenhelenassociation.org)

Meet the Spring Naturalists!



L to R, back row: Anthony, Shourjya, Sadie, Payton, Ryan; front row: Walt, Eleanor, Rosabella, Rhona

Anthony

UC San Diego (CA) - Molecular & Cell Biology
Though Anthony studied the molecular side of biology in college, he grew an interest in ecology and shifted towards a career path that deals with the natural world and hopes to work with wildlife in Australia someday.

Eleanor

Wittenberg University (OH) - Environmental Science

Eleanor is eager to immerse herself with everything in nature but most of all the nocturnal life. She looks forward to leading night hikes where she can educate students all about bats!

Payton

Hocking College (OH) - Wildlife Management
There is so much happening in the forest that is easily overlooked, and these are the aspects of nature Payton finds most interesting! From opossums to the colonies of mycorrhizae fungi, he looks forward to sharing these secrets with students.

Rhona

University of Dundee (Scotland) - Environmental Science & Geography
Though traveling all the way from Scotland, Rhona is not unfamiliar with the Midwest. She is a seasoned camp counselor and brings her passion for the outdoors (and for horseback riding) to Outdoor School!

Rosabella

Antioch College (OH) - Arts & Humanities
Rosabella has a passion for the arts, and is greatly inspired by nature. They seek to use their artistic eye and

understanding of nature to improve science communication and look forward to a full season of Outdoor School to do so!

Ryan

Miami University (OH) - Biology, Geology, & Sustainability

Ryan is a scholar of many subjects and enjoys recognizing how they relate, intertwine, and are interconnected. He looks forward to leaving a lasting impact on students and meeting wonderful people along the way.

Sadie

University of Northern Iowa (IA) - Recreation, Tourism & Nonprofit Leadership

Interning at the Outdoor Education Center provides Sadie with a great opportunity to put her degree to use. She looks forward to sharing nature with students and growing as a professional in the field of outdoor recreation.

Shourjya

SUNY College of ESF (NY) - Conservation Biology & Environmental Writing

Observing a disconnect between society and nature, Shourjya seeks to mend the gap. Outdoor School will provide great opportunities to refine his communication skills, grab student interest, create connection, and share knowledge.

Walt

Coe College (IA) - Biology

Walt is excited to get to know Glen Helen and the people who visit. There are plenty of new creatures and perspectives to learn from. Walt seeks to enhance students' connection with nature and deepen their curiosity. 🌿

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 Ashley Mason at rentals@glenhelenassociation.org, or call 937-769-1902 ext1101.

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

Glen Helen Spring Program Calendar

March–May 2023



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.

March



Photo | Anna Bellisari

Sat, March 4, Full Worm Moon Hike and Seed Exchange, 8-9:30pm | Share some heirloom vegetable seeds with the attendees. Then take a hike under the full moon (moderate 1-mile hike). \$5, members free. All participants must register. Contact lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. Trailside Museum Parking Lot, 505 Corry Street.

Sat, March 18, Late winter birding, 8-10am | We'll search the north Glen for winter residents and early spring migrants on this two-mile walk. \$5, members free. All participants must register. Contact lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. Trailside Museum Parking Lot, 505 Corry Street.

Sat, March 18, 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. Repeats Saturdays: March 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20, 27.

Sat, March 25, Raptor Center Baby Shower, 11am-2pm | Have you ever wondered about the variety of bird eggs and nests? Why do some birds nest in trees while others nest on the ground? How do birds make intricate woven nests without hands? And what's up with birds laying eggs in other birds' nests? Visit the Raptor Center while we get ready for our own batch of babies that will be in need of a helping hand before returning to the wild. Learn all about eggs, nests, and the crazy things birds do in the spring. Before you leave, be sure to build your own bird nest or decorate an egg of your own creation! Free; donations or gifts from our wish list appreciated! Raptor Center, 1075 State Route 343.

April

Sat, April 1, Spring Beauty Saunter – Wildflower Walks, 1-3pm | Trillium, Hepatica and Mayapple, oh my! Join our volunteer naturalist as we explore the trails in search of emerging plants and spring flowers. Not only are they beautiful, but they can teach us something too. Find out what one small flower can tell us about the health of the land. Each week brings us something new and these beautiful blooms don't stick around long. \$5, members free. All participants must register. Contact lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. Trailside Museum Parking Lot.

Fri, April 7, Full Pink Moon Hike, 8:30-10pm | Come to the Glen and learn what spring wildflowers are blooming. Hike the Inman trail with Pan Reich (moderate 1-mile hike). \$5, members free. All participants must register. Contact lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. Trailside Museum Parking Lot.

Sat, April 8, Spring Beauty Saunter – Wildflower Walks, 1-3pm | See details on April 1 listing.

Sat, April 15, Spring Beauty Saunter – Wildflower Walks, 1-3pm | See details on April 1 listing.

Sun, April 16, Take Flight for the Birds: An Italian Wine and Tapas Event, 5-8pm | During this plated event enjoy paired wines and tasty tapas from regions of Italy. This extraordinary evening, for the benefit of the Glen Helen Raptor Center, will be designed and prepared by executive chefs from Wheat Penny, The Meadowlark, Grist, and Dorothy Lane Market. \$120/ticket are available at glenhelen.org. Tickets required and non-refundable after April 2. Wheat Penny Oven and Bar, 5151 Wayne Ave. Dayton. For more details on this exclusive event see page 9 of the magazine.

Sat, April 22, Earth Day Weekend Birding, 8-10am | During this early spring migration walk, we'll search for sandpipers in the Little Miami, Yellow-throated Warblers in the Sycamore trees, and Wood Ducks overhead. \$5, members free. All participants must register. Contact lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. Grinnell Mill, 3536 Bryan Park Rd.

Sat, April 22, Native Plant Swap, 10am-1pm | Co-sponsored by the Tecumseh Land Trust and Glen Helen. Start thinking about plants you might have to donate or swap! For more information check tecumsehlandtrust.org or www.glenhelen.org. Glen Helen parking lot, 405 Corry St.

Sat, April 22, Earth Day Scavenger Hunt around the Glen, 10am-2pm | Naturalist interns will be stationed around the Glen to share their knowledge and spread some Earth Day joy. Participants can pick up a scavenger hunt form by Trailside Museum (the top of the stairs trail). No registration needed, just drop in and have fun! Find the naturalist interns throughout the Glen where they will educate about beavers, geology, and many other exciting things about the Glen and its ecosystem.



Photo | Kathy Wittberg

End the scavenger hunt at the Vernet Ecological Center for a completion prize, and to meet some animal ambassadors! Folks of all ages are welcome (children should be accompanied by an adult). Trailside Museum, 505 Corry St.

Sun, April 23, Community-wide Earth Day Celebration, 2-5pm | Stop by to visit Glen Helen tent along with a variety of other organizations sharing eco-activities for the whole family. Rain Date, Sunday April 30. John Bryan Community Center, 100 Dayton St.

Sat, April 29, Spring Beauty Saunter – Wildflower Walks, 1-3pm | See details on April 1 listing.

May



Photo | Kelsey Nazur

Fri, May 5, Full Flower Moon, Lunar Eclipse and Pine Forest Hike, 8:30-10:30pm | Join Tom Sabin, Pan Reich and Paul Sampson for a full moon hike to the Pine Forest and nearby School Forest (5 miles moderately strenuous). Ohio's oldest educational forest. \$5, members free. All participants must register. Contact lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. Trailside Museum Parking Lot.

Sat, May 6: Make it Count for the Birds | Our annual birdwatching marathon, with free hikes scheduled throughout the day. Join us as we raise funds in support of Glen Helen land restoration activities, and discover how many bird species can be found in the Glen in one 24-hour period! You can "Make it Count for the Birds" from the comfort of your home by offering a per-species or lump-sum donation. Contact nboutis@glenhelen.org for more info.

5:30am: Dawn Chorus along the Little Miami | Greet the dawn and hear the forest awoken with song. Grinnell Mill, 3536 Bryan Park Rd.

8:30am: Woodland Bird Walk | We expect fifty species or more on this two-hour hike. Trailside Museum.

8:30am: Pine Forest Walk | Migratory songbirds, with occasional sightings of unusual finds like the colorful Pine Warbler. Horace Mann Meadow, Bryan Park Rd., just south of John Bryan St Park entrance.

12pm: Tally Rally | Birders share what they've found (and what they've missed). Trailside Museum.

12:30pm: The Homestead Walk | The sparsely visited area of the South Glen is home to a restored wetland. Meet at the far end of West Jacoby Road (access from Rt. 68).

12:30pm: South Glen Wetlands | The slope wetlands and cattail marsh of the South Glen present a wholly different habitat than that of the North Glen. Greene County Boat Launch at the end of East Jacoby Road (access from Clifton Rd.).

3:30pm: Prairie and River Walk | We'll walk through the South Glen along the Little Miami. Expect orioles, finches, swallows, and warblers. Meet at the Little Miami Bridge on Grinnell Rd.

7pm: Evening Tally Rally | Join our birders for the evening species count. Trailside Museum.

Sat, May 20, Community Garlic Mustard Pull, 10am-12pm | Join the fight against invasive plants! Help us combat Garlic Mustard in the Glen, and learn how to identify and safely remove invasive species. Community organizations, groups, businesses, and families are encouraged to participate. Please wear closed-toe shoes and work gloves. Some work gloves will be provided. Meet at the 405 Corry Street Parking Lot.



Announcements



Photo: Eric Wright

Get Ready for Spring at the Nature Shop!

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

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.



Photo: Kathryn Shaubberger

Volunteers Needed!

If you are interested in helping the Glen Helen Land Stewardship team with invasive species removal, please consider volunteering. Species such as garlic mustard, wintercreeper, honeysuckle and stiltgrass need to be eradicated at different times of the year. Volunteers will be trained to identify and use proper techniques for removal. Also, volunteer team leaders are needed. For more information, please email lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org. 🌱



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Glen Helen Ecocamp 2023 Register at glenhelen.org/ecocamp

	Day Camp Ages 5-6	Day Camp Ages 7-8	Progressive Ages 7-9	Progressive Ages 9-11	Overnight Ages 8-10	Overnight Ages 10-12	Overnight Ages 12-14	Overnight Ages 13-15	Overnight LIT Ages 16-17
Week 1 June 12-16	Forest Friends	Nature Ninjas	Fort-topia		Wilderness Living	Nature Detectives	Raptor Camp		
Week 2 June 19-23	Whimsy	Puddle Jumpers	Nature Detectives		Avian Adventures	Raptor Camp	Nocturnal		
Week 3 June 26-30	Dig It	NART		Fort-topia	Nature Detectives	Wilderness Living		Adventure TBD!	
Week 4 July 3-7	No Ecocamp This Week								
Week 4 July 10-14	Nature Ninjas	Forest Friends		Girls in the Outdoors	Fort-topia	Rock Stars		Nocturnal	
Week 5 July 17-21	Puddle Jumpers	Whimsy	NART		Girls in the Outdoors	Fort-topia	Wilderness Living		Leaders in Training (LIT)
Week 6 July 24-28	NART	Dig It	Wilderness Living		Rock Stars	Girls in the Outdoors	Nocturnal		
Week 7 Jul 31-Aug 4	Forest Friends	Nature Ninjas		Nature Detectives	Avian Adventures		Forest Deep: The Quest for Glenfoot	Wilderness Living	

The Outdoor Education Center Welcomes New Staff

Kayla Lawyer: Lead Naturalist

Originally from the Dayton area, Kayla had visited Glen Helen as a child and recalls the dreamy water and rock formations. In combination with many other outdoor experiences, she was inspired to attend Hocking College to major in Wildlife Management. Embarking on a new adventure she found herself at a salmon fishery in Alaska where she cherished the vast new wildlife around her. Over time she became ready for a new opportunity to share her love for the outdoors with others.

Thankfully for us, Kayla stumbled upon our naturalist internship and had an extraordinary time learning our Outdoor School traditions. She brought with her a broad knowledge of the outdoors, but is always eager to find wildflowers throughout the Glen.

As a Lead Naturalist, Kayla is excited to support our Naturalist Interns and watch them grow as educators. With access to knowledgeable, kind, and effective naturalists, the students can foster a new and ever-expanding connection with nature.

Emily Foubert: Lead Naturalist

Emily has traversed the country working at outdoor education centers, honing her skills for science communication and team management. She identifies most as an environmental educator, nature mentor, writer, and bird language enthusiast. She loves trail running in wild places, traveling, and building fires with her hands.

Notably, in 2018 Emily created a nature school to provide ongoing nature connection programs for individuals of all ages. Taking on the position of Lead Naturalist, she looks forward to bringing her experience to Glen Helen to help improve our student lessons, community outreach, and continue strengthening her hometown of Yellow Springs.

Emily has a lifelong dream of traveling to her ancestral homeland in Ireland, Great Britain, and Germany to learn familial traditions, including grief rituals and seasonal cycle celebrations. Her mindfulness and enthusiasm to improve human-nature connections makes Emily a great addition to the Outdoor Education Center and we look forward to sharing her infectious spirit with students and naturalists alike.

Meigan Turner: Operations Manager

After graduating from Ohio Wesleyan University, Meigan completed a year long naturalist internship at Glen Helen. It was a great opportunity full of new experiences, fun games, and personal growth. She really enjoyed sharing natural science with students and was inspired to continue her education at Bowling Green State University to receive her Master's in Biology

Following graduation she applied herself as a field technician assisting with invasive species removal, stream monitoring, and prescribed fire operations. With combined experience conducting thesis research in oak savanna habitats and assisting with burning an abundance of prairie, Meigan has become very fond of prairie ecosystems. But she is excited to return to a forest full of spring ephemerals and plenty of shade!

As Operations Manager of the Outdoor Education Center, she will be assisting with Ecocamp registration, Outdoor School services, and day-to-day administrative responsibilities. If you need any assistance with Ecocamp registration, you will likely get to chat. 🌿



Kayla Lawyer



Emily Foubert



Meigan Turner

Floofs with Sharp Feet: Baby Season at the Raptor Center



The spring is quickly on its way in and with it, the season of orphaned, injured or displaced baby birds.

It's hard to believe that our majestic hawks and dignified owls start out so darn cute and fluffy, but the time has come again to lock ourselves behind a steel wall of self-restraint, remember that they are wild, and remind you that they are too. The more contact that young birds have with people, the more vulnerable they are to the psychological phenomenon known as imprinting, which results in behaviors that prevent them from being able to survive in the wild.

There are any number of things that may separate a young bird from its parents. Trees are cut down, parents are killed by cats, storms blow nests out of the trees and sometimes young birds simply fall while learning to use their wings. Raptors are phenomenal parents. They care for their offspring with such devotion that they themselves often suffer malnutrition and feather damage from the constant demands of parenthood. Most of the

time, if you find a young bird in the wild, there is a very good chance that its parent is nearby keeping watch. They are adapted for stealth. You may not see it, but in most cases a parent is there. As a general rule, the best course of action when you find offspring of any of our native wildlife is to leave it alone and let its parents find it and care for it.

Like all rules, though, there are some exceptions. It is completely untrue that if you touch a baby bird the mother will "smell" that it has been tampered with and abandon it. Most raptors have no sense of smell and their parenting instinct is so strong that even if one of their offspring is out of the nest for several weeks the parent will take care of it as if it had never been gone. Identifying when a young bird needs your help is difficult and if you need assistance, don't hesitate to call the Raptor Center. There are times when a young bird needs help:

Is the baby bird cold, unresponsive or listless?

Young birds do not thermoregulate well. They rely on their parents to keep them warm because they become hypothermic easily. If the young bird on the ground is not responding to you, is not hissing, raising its fluffy little wings, and pretending to be big and tough to scare you away, it may be in distress and need more help than its wild parent can provide.

Is the young bird visibly injured?

If the bird has a noticeably deformed wing or leg, a limp, or is dragging a wing, that bird does need help as quickly as possible. Gently place it in a box with a rolled towel in the bottom and transport it to the Glen Helen

Raptor Center or your nearest wildlife rehabilitator that is qualified to care for raptors.

Is the bird a nestling or a fledgling?

A *nestling* is fluffy, often white or grey, and has not grown true feathers. Birds at this age should be in nests. If it is not in a nest, do you see the nest? Can you get it back to the nest? If you cannot, keep an eye on it. It is very vulnerable to predators, the most common of which is a housecat. Even if a parent is caring for it on the ground, if it stays on the ground for longer than 24 hours, it is vulnerable to suffer from exposure to the cold and predation, so it needs help.

However, a *fledgling* is a young bird in a stage of development that allows for more independence. Fledgling birds have feathers. They often still have tufts of fluff, but they have grown in juvenile feathers and are starting to hop around out of the nest. These birds are often found on the ground and usually don't need help. In fact, "helping" them can be very harmful and interrupt their natural development.

If you find a baby raptor, contact the Raptor Center at 937-767-6656 and describe your specific situation. We will help you figure out the next steps. Despite how irresistibly floofy and soft they look, don't touch them unless it is absolutely necessary. Nature is a far better parent for them than any of us can be. If it becomes obvious that they do need some human help, be careful! Soft they might look, but they have sharp knives on their cute little feet! 🦅

- Christine Avery, Assistant Director of the Raptor Center (cavery@glenhelenassociation.org)

A Crow Among the Raptors

The most recent addition to our cast of characters at the Raptor Center is a young American Crow named Corva. She was found as a nestling and by the time she was brought to a rehab center, she did not realize she was supposed to be a wild crow! Birds learn how to be wild animals



through a process called “imprinting” and can misimprint when not raised by their parents. Crows are social and complex animals, and since she did not learn from her parents Corva will never be able to live with crows in the wild. Instead, Corva will need to rely on humans to provide the socialization and enrichment that she would receive from her own kind. It takes an incredible amount of work, time and dedication to provide a healthy environment for a crow, which is not something every center can offer. Through the support of donors, we were able to add a half-time staff member to the center which gives us the ability to take on higher need birds. Therefore, when the Carolina Wildlife Center needed help finding a home for a young crow, we were ready to answer!

Why a crow when we are a raptor center? Crows are corvids, a family also containing ravens, rooks, and jays. All corvids are generalist omnivores, but crows and ravens are

unique in that they are opportunists and scavengers and will eat everything from fresh fruit to rotting meat. With their keen hearing, eyesight and sharp beaks, they are able to hunt small rodents, lizards, snakes and insects, but they don't rely on hunting as often as they forage. And while they are most commonly using their beaks to turn the soil in search of nuts, seeds and earthworms, they earned their morbid reputation for their habit of feeding on carrion. Because crows and ravens are active carrion eaters, they share a similar ecological role as vultures. They may not have hooked beaks or sharp talons for killing prey, but from an ecological standpoint they are “honorary raptors.”

The relationship between crows and vultures is well documented. Vultures and crows often roost near each other and can be found flocking or feeding together. You've probably seen them flocking on the side of the road, arguing about who will take the next turn feeding. In the South, black vultures are sometimes called “carrion crows” because of their physical resemblance to corvids. Unlike their cousin the turkey vulture, black vultures do not have strong olfactory senses. Instead of relying on a sense of smell, they rely on other birds. Here in Ohio, black vultures can often be found circling far above a flock of turkey vultures. When the turkey vultures catch the scent of dinner and fly toward it, the black vultures follow, but where turkey vultures are not present, black vultures rely on their crow compatriots. When they see a murder of crows congregating on the ground, they know it is safe to descend and eat. Together, crows and vultures are our ecological clean-up crew! 🌿

– Christine Avery, Assistant Director of the Raptor Center (cavery@glenhelenassociation.org)

Take Flight for the Birds: An Italian Wine and Tapas Event for the Raptor Center



Help us celebrate Earth Day, good food, friendship, and birds by attending our Take Flight for the Birds event on April 16th at Wheat Penny Oven and Bar, 5151 Wayne Ave. Dayton.

Experience this plated event with your friends! Enjoy paired wines and tasty tapas from regions of Italy inspired by chefs and cookbooks from around the world. This extraordinary event will be designed and prepared by executive chefs from Wheat Penny, The Meadowlark, Grist, and Dorothy Lane Market.

Drawings will be available for purchase for a chance to win wine featured at the dinner and delicious Italian imports of meats, cheeses and olives, as well as a chance to win two tickets to Whoo Cooks for You 2023 (to be held Sunday, September 10 at the Glen Helen Raptor Center). Drawings are \$25 each or 5 for \$100 and can be purchased ahead of time with your reservation order.

During the event you will have the opportunity to meet live educational ambassador birds from the Raptor Center while you learn about the ways your support helps save the lives of over 200 birds brought to the Raptor Center annually. 🌿

Space is limited. Visit glenhelen.org to purchase your tickets today before we sell out!

The (Coming?) Pilewort Plague



Note: We first published this piece in the spring of 2015. Eight years later, we take a fresh look at a growing ecological threat.

Ah, springtime, when a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of invasive plants. Glen Helen has a number of well-established invasive species, including privet and the dreaded honeysuckle. But there are many other invasives that we've only seen in small numbers. Allow these to get a toehold, and they'll take over, smothering native plants in their wake, and slashing the diversity of species that call the Glen home. This is the story of the latest threat.

Over the past few years, we've become increasingly aggressive about keeping Glen Helen from being overrun by Pilewort. Pilewort is an herbaceous flowering plant also known as Lesser Celandine or Fig Buttercup. It is bad news.

Pileworts form tubers in the soil, at the base of their stems. These break off easily, and will start growing roots and allow the colony to spread.

It grows quickly, spreads quickly, and forms dense mats in floodplain and wet forests. Very dense. Left alone, it will quickly out-compete native wildflowers. A short distance west of Glen Helen, the banks of the Mad River are so fully infested with



pileworts that nothing else grows there. Closer by, in some backyards of Yellow Springs, pilewort patches are growing fast. Some of these patches are right upstream from Glen Helen.

To top all that off, there is a short time of year where it's pretty. And, because it's pretty, some people like to plant it. Or, where it's already growing, they are disinclined to remove it.

Sorry, were you expecting an uplifting tale?

There is some good news here, in that we've identified the issue, and have been working in the Glen, and with our neighbors, to eliminate patches before they grow so large that they can't be controlled. The lesson, for us and for our neighbors, is that it is important to learn about the plants in your area, to never plant something identified as potentially invasive, and to act quickly if you discover a new invasive species in your area. 🌱

If you discover pileworts in your yard or your community, consult the information from the Alien Plant Working Group of the National Park Service, at www.invasive.org/weedcd/pdfs/wgw/lessercelandine.pdf for information on how to manage them.

What's in Bloom?

Check out the four Spring Beauty Saunter Wildflower Walks on the event calendar. Here are some wildflowers you may see.



Bloodroot
Sanguinaria Canadensis



Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Arisaema triphyllum



Spring Beauty
Claytonia virginica



Virginia Waterleaf
Hydrophyllum virginianum



Wild Geranium
Geranium maculatum

Welcome New Staff



Glen Helen recently welcomed our new Development Director, **Ashley Lackovich-Van Corp.** Here's a bit more about Ashley.

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

Although I started working for the Glen in January, I've been coming to the Glen for over ten years. Antioch University's PhD in Leadership and Change program first brought me to town, and I took a hike in the Glen on

my very first day in the village. Then I began returning to Yellow Springs in the summers so that my daughters could attend Ecocamp, which has been a formative part of their childhood. Now we live in town and venture into the Glen weekly.

What is your favorite place in the Glen?

I love the Pine Forest, especially in the snow.

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

I love all creatures. In terms of creatures in the Glen, I identify with deer the most. My mother rescues and cares for deer at a sanctuary, so I've gotten to know these gentle animals through her. That said, I'm fascinated by the beavers who built that incredible dam!

Do you have a favorite vacation or adventure?

Thanks to my previous work, I was able to travel extensively around the world, so I'm retired from big adventures. Now, my favorite trip is visiting my 90-year-old grandmother in Pittsburgh. I spend one weekend a month with her, and we create our own little adventures in her home.

What is the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is connecting with people who care about the Glen, its inhabitants, and its ability to educate children and visitors. Being with these people reaffirms my belief in humanity every day.

Tell us your tastiest meal or treat.

I love homemade Italian wine cookies. I only eat them around Christmas and they are the best treat of the year.

Do you have a motto or favorite quote?

The lyrics to the song, What a Wonderful World, are the words I use to frame my outlook on life. It helps me to stay grateful and savor each day.



The Glen also recently welcomed **Kara Pennella** as our new Office Administrator. Here's a bit more about Kara.

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

I began working at the Glen mid-December 2022. We have frequently visited the Glen since moving to the area. The

Glen began to take special significance in our lives when our son began attending kindergarten. His class took regular hikes in the Glen. The following summer he was able to attend Ecocamp for the first time and loved it. My entire family is excited that I have the opportunity to work at the Glen.

What is your favorite place in the Glen?

The Raptor Center is my favorite place in the Glen because I have such fond memories of visiting the owls with my son. At about age 3 he was completely obsessed with Henry the owl and we made frequent visits to see him.

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

I'm a dachshund person. I have had several long-haired dachshunds over the years and love the breed's big personalities. Currently, I have one long-haired dachshund named Hurricane Hanna. Due to her curiosity, we like to say she is her own natural disaster.

Do you have a favorite vacation or adventure?

My favorite vacation spot is Sandbridge Beach and the nearby Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia.

What is the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is all the great people I get to meet and work with at the Glen.

Tell us your tastiest meal or treat.

Anything with dark chocolate. Oh and tea. You will rarely see me without a mug of hot tea in hand. My current favorite tea flavor is Chocolate Mint Mocha. ☘

From the Archives



Before it became the northern part of Glen Helen, the area around the Yellow Spring was known as Neff Grounds Park. On what is now U.S. Route 68, visitors could take a train right to the front entrance. From there, they could stroll down a concrete path to a dance pavilion,

which overlooked the pond on the Yellow Springs Creek.

Ruins of the concrete path still remain, but the dance pavilion, which is visible in the rear of this image, was dismantled, and its wood was used to construct the Outdoor Education Center. 🍁