



# In the Glen

Winter 2020-21 | News and Activities of the Glen Helen Association

## A New Leaf for the Old Woods

Glen Helen reopens under  
new ownership.

### Also in this issue:

A Whirlwind Tour of Glen Helen History

Nature Amid a Pandemic

A New Rehab Complex for the  
Raptor Center



# In the Glen

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

## Contributors

Editor: Nick Boutis; Contributors: Bethany Gray, Rebecca Jaramillo, Bill McCuddy, Susan Smith; 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 Office and Nature Shop

Located in the Vernet Ecological Center  
405 Corry Street, Yellow Springs, OH 45387  
Temporarily closed. Visit [glenhelen.org](http://glenhelen.org) for details.

## Trailside Museum

505 Corry Street, Yellow Springs  
Temporarily closed. Visit [glenhelen.org](http://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. 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

Ken Dahms, Emily Foubert, Scott Geisel, Bethany Gray (President), Ben Hooper, Allen Hunt, Barbara Klopp, Kim Landsbergen, Kevin Lydy, Jeremy Main (Treasurer), Betty Ross (Vice President), Dan Rudolf, Paul Sampson, Kat Walter (Secretary)

## Glen Helen Association Staff

Nick Boutis, Executive Director; Tom Clevenger, Assistant Director for Finance and Administration; Sarah Cline, Outdoor Education Center Director; Rebecca Jaramillo, Director, Raptor Center; Shannon Schenck, Outdoor Education Center Business Manager; Susan Smith, Ranger; Shahkar Strolger, Property Manager

Cover photo by Scott Stolsenberg.

## From the Director

### Preserving the Glen

Since its founding, Glen Helen has faced two great, existential threats:

The first came sixty years ago, when in quick succession, State plans were announced to route a highway through the preserve, and Village plans were announced to route a municipal sewer through the preserve. Both of those threats were diffused, thanks to the leadership of an organization newly founded to save the Glen: The Glen Helen Association.

The second great existential threat is now.

As the Coronavirus pandemic moved into Ohio in March of 2020, public access to Glen Helen was closed in response to the statewide stay-at-home order. In what would otherwise have been the peak of spring term for visiting schools, staff shuttered the Outdoor Education Center and sent naturalists home. Within weeks, owing to financial constraints, Antioch College announced that it had no plans to reopen Glen Helen. It was possible that Glen Helen would no longer serve the community. Glen Helen – which welcomes 125,000 visitors a year, serves 3,000 children a year through its Outdoor Education Center, inspires hope as it saves injured and orphaned birds of prey through the Raptor Center – might be no more.

This is a moment of both extraordinary urgency and generational opportunity for Glen Helen.

The urgency is real: Without a successful campaign to secure the future of Glen Helen, the preserve will no longer be open to the public, and its programs will no longer serve children of the region.

The Glen Helen Association has once again taken on the challenge. In September 2020, the Association finalized the purchase of Glen Helen from Antioch College. We promptly reopened the trail system, but really, most of our work is ahead of us. We will be working and communicating with everyone who loves Glen Helen (including you!) to raise the funds that will cover the purchase, allow us to restart educational programs, reestablish land stewardship efforts, and make targeted improvements to buildings and trails aimed at public safety and access.

We are motivated by the promise that we can make a difference – for the people of our community, our region, and the world, as well as for the land and the history that we steward within the preserve. Glen Helen, we all know, is a gem. It deserves to shine, and this is our opportunity to see that the preserve and its programs feel our love. 🍀



Nick Boutis, Director

## From the President

### Embracing the Present, Securing the Future

When COVID-19 shut down public access to Glen Helen, the outcry was momentous. We received anxious voicemails and social media inquiries from people all over the country... "Are you open yet?" "I miss walking in the Glen." "Are the animals being cared for?" "How can I help?" We heard from Antioch College alumni who shared stories or memories. One couple wrote to share that they courted, then married, in the Glen. One former Yellow Springs resident sent a donation with the message "Glen Helen remains my most favorite place on Earth." Through their donations, she, along with 2,000 other members and supporters, are making an investment in the Glen today that will shape the destiny of the Glen for the coming decades.

Their words and their generosity motivated our efforts over these past months. We have been working tirelessly to make sure that the Glen has a healthy future. Association board members and staff are dedicated and have a broad range of skills and credentials (learn more about us at [www.glenhelen.org/our-board](http://www.glenhelen.org/our-board)). During this pivotal year, while the Glen Helen Association was working with Antioch College to secure an ownership agreement for the Glen, our board designated a five-person committee to negotiate the details. Each of us brought history and perspective to our efforts:

My personal journey with Glen Helen started in the 1980s. In 1987, I attended the overnight Outdoor School at the Outdoor Education Center with my classmates from Ridgewood School in Springfield

Scott Geisel, who teaches at Wright State University, is a returned board member who first served in the early 2000s, and is a long-time volunteer. He too attended the Outdoor Education Center as an elementary school student.

Ben Hooper brings strong skills to our board through his work as an attorney. His local family connections run deep as well: His grandfather Bill Hooper built the Vernet Ecological Center building in 1973.

Betty Ross, our Vice President, came to the Glen as a naturalist in the 1980s, eventually moved into the role of Raptor Center Director, and held that position for nearly 30 years until her retirement.

Dan Rudolf is a computer engineer and business owner, whose home is surrounded on all sides by Glen Helen.

We have made a commitment to purchase the Glen, making payments every year for the next 10 years, with a final balloon payment due in the tenth year. With a purchase agreement secured, the Association was recognized for our efforts by the Mayor of Yellow Springs, who proclaimed September 9 to be the official date of "celebration of the re-opening and securing the future of Glen Helen." We were also recently recognized for our efforts by the Greater Dayton Partners for the Environment with a 2020 "Partner of the Year" award. We trust our investment in Glen Helen honors the generations that came before us and prepares those who will follow after us. 🌱



Bethany Gray, Glen Helen Association Board President



1987: Bethany Gray (bottom row, left) with her classmates and teacher in a Glen Helen Outdoor Education Center dormitory. (From the newsletter archives of Ridgewood School)



September 10, 2020: Members of our negotiating committee receive a proclamation from the Village of Yellow Springs in honor of the Glen Helen Association's 60th anniversary and in recognition of purchasing and re-opening Glen Helen. Pictured, L to R: Ben Hooper, Bethany Gray, Glen Helen Executive Director Nick Boutis, Yellow Springs Mayor Pam Conine, Scott Geisel, Dan Rudolf, Betty Ross. (Photo by Jordan Gray)



# A New Leaf for the Old Woods



Crossing the Yellow Springs Creek.

**A**fter nearly six months of closure, Glen Helen has reopened under a new owner, your Glen Helen Association. How did we get here? I'll start the tale with the quick recap:

"...Having in mind the scene of my early youth where many cherished hours were spent with companions, tramping through the wooded glen, in enjoyment of its natural beauty, and being desirous of establishing a memorial to my loving daughter,

*Photos by Kathleen Galarza.*

Helen Birch Bartlett, through the preservation of these woods, cliffs, springs, streams and other natural features of the glen, as a preserve for birds, fish and game, wildflowers, trees, shrubs and vines, and other forms of life, as a laboratory for botanical, zoological, archeological, geological, and other scientific studies, as an experiment station for forestry, as a park for walking and other recreational activities..."

With these words, Hugh Taylor Birch created what the world now knows as Glen Helen. The year

was 1929 – mere months before the stock market crash that signaled the start of the Great Depression. In the ninety-one years since Hugh Taylor Birch memorialized his late daughter by donating this wooded glen to Antioch College, Glen Helen staff have worked diligently to build on his vision, with support from the volunteers, donors, and advocates of the nonprofit Glen Helen Association.

Through our history, Glen Helen has played a lead role in shaping the ecological literacy of our

visitors, our community, and the region. The Glen has become the largest, and most visited private nature preserve in the Miami Valley, anchoring the most scenic, most ecologically intact area in Southwest Ohio. It is home to the first residential environmental learning facility in the Midwest, the first educational forest in Ohio, and Ohio's original facility for education and rehabilitation of birds of prey. Within the borders of this thousand-plus-



acre preserve, we shelter nearly two miles of the State and National Scenic Little Miami River and a National Natural Landmark, designated by the U.S. National Park Service.

But times change, and organizations evolve. The Coronavirus pandemic added urgency to the equation, and precipitated the opportunity for the Glen Helen Association and Antioch College to reach an agreement for a transfer of ownership: The Association would purchase the preserve from the College, so that the mission of the Glen could continue.

The Glen Helen Association begins its

period of ownership fully aware that the Glen is in a fragile state. Maintenance of trails and buildings has been significantly deferred. The most urgent of these issues will need to be addressed in order for us to restart programs and safely operate. A staff that once numbered 13, plus 14 full-time interns has been reduced to seven, plus one intern. We have not had land management staff since February. The Outdoor Education Center has not been able to offer programs since March. We will need to raise substantial funds, beyond the cost of the purchase, to ensure that we are actually able to operate.

Still, reasons for a sunny outlook abound. I'll share three reasons that give me confidence that my optimism is justified

1. The terms of the purchase are manageable. After months of amicable negotiation, the Association agreed to pay \$2.5 million for Glen Helen, including all the buildings, programs, vehicles, etc. On one hand, this is a lot of money, more than the Glen Helen Association has ever raised. On the other hand, it's a low price for a priceless resource. For a cost comparison, I think of the Yellow Springs Fire Station, which until recently was located right next to the Glen. The new fire station, a single building completed this year, cost over \$5 million – more than twice as much as the entire Glen.

2. The Glen is a treasured place. Rich in history. Ecologically diverse. A scenic gem of the Miami Valley, drawing visitors from across Ohio and beyond. The preserve is rich in scenic features, all accessible from our 15-mile network of footpaths. On even a short walk, visitors can view spectacular wildflowers, 400-year-old trees, talus slopes, ledges, cascades, valleys carved by glacial melt-water, and the beautiful, singular Yellow Spring. The size, beauty, and ecological diversity of the Glen make it a popular place for visitors to walk, hike, or gain quiet



Children climb the boulder by Trailside Museum

inspiration in nature. They are welcome here, and over 125,000 people a year come to visit.

3. Everyone who knows the Glen loves the Glen. Over the course of the long closure, the sale, and the reopening, we've been inundated with messages from folks – around the world – who wanted to share how much Glen Helen has meant to them. One after another, people have reached out to let us know that "The Glen is my absolute most favorite place on Earth" and "My soul needs the Glen" and "I have missed this place so much" and "My time in Glen Helen helped me survive the darkest patch of my life" and simply and repeatedly, "I love the Glen." I believe that the love that people feel for the Glen will make it so that we succeed, and that Glen Helen will have a future.

To cover our immediate needs the Glen Helen Association board of trustees has started a Campaign to Secure the Future of Glen Helen, with a fundraising goal

continued



The Cascades were barely a trickle on the day this family visited.



of \$3,500,000. The funds we raise will secure the purchase, the health of the preserve, and the future of our programs. Contributions will be used to keep the Glen open to visitors, address high-risk safety issues, and restart educational programs and ecological stewardship activities, in order to sustain our future:

### The Purchase

The campaign seeks to raise the remaining funds needed to finance the purchase price. For obvious reasons, this is a necessary component of the campaign.

### The Preserve

A core priority of our campaign is to rebuild a land management staff to care for the 1,125-acre preserve. One area of the preserve needing immediate attention is the former Antioch College power plant, which conveyed to the Glen Helen Association.

The former coal-fire plant sits on the edge of a spring-fed wetland and is a potential hazard to visitors, as well as the riparian resources of the preserve. We intend to demolish the plant and restore the site. Additional investments are targeted for visitor access points, trails, bridges, boardwalks, and signage.

We hope that these improvements will make a visit to the Glen safer (for both our visitors and for the fragile ecology of the preserve), and will help our staff and volunteers better connect with those who visit.



A school group crosses Birch Creek at the Stepping Stones.

### The Programs

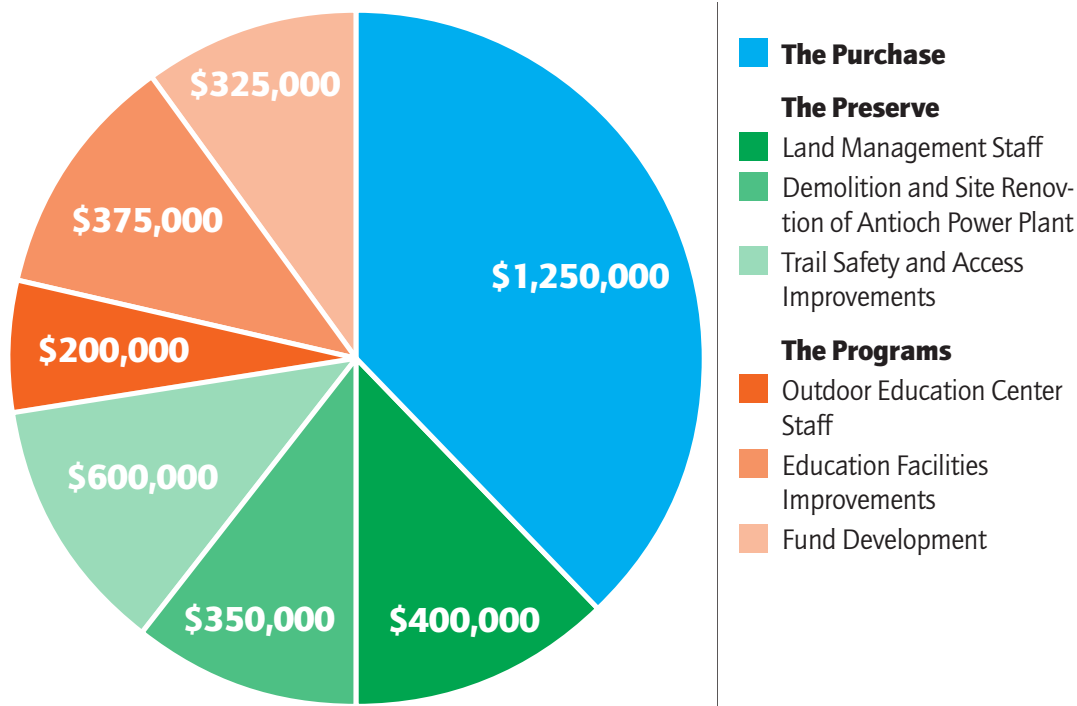
The Outdoor Education Center is our most significant operating program. We historically served 3,000 children a year through our life-shaping residential environmental learning programs and summer Ecocamps. The Glen's naturalist training program is one of the oldest of its kind. Over 1,000

alumni of the program work in parks, preserves, nature centers, universities, and other settings around the world. Resurrecting these programs so that they can once again serve the schoolchildren of our region is a top priority for the campaign, including rebuilding education staff and attending to code compliance and other urgent facility needs.

In gratitude for the generous support to Secure the Future of Glen Helen, we have developed a list of opportunities and benefit for donor recognition. If you have questions, or would like more information, I'd love to hear from you. This is a pivotal moment for Glen Helen, and your support will make our future possible. 🍁

Nick Boutis (nboutis@glenhelen.org)

### Campaign to Secure the Future of Glen Helen





# A Whirlwind Tour of Glen Helen History



Native American burial mound

Over the long stretch that the Glen Helen Association was working to purchase and reopen the preserve, I spent a lot of time thinking about the history of this place and its programs, asking myself how we arrived at this moment. There is a lot of history tied up in Glen Helen. Here is a whirlwind tour of it. — Nick Boutis

**T**he earliest evidence of humans in the Glen were the skeletons of two Neolithic people discovered in a deposit of calcium carbonate. Researchers estimate that the two had drowned in a bog, some 3,000 years ago.

The Glen was long important for native people, as documented by archaeological findings in the rock shelters along the Yellow Springs Creek, and several mounds left by the “Hopewell” people. The Hopewell constructed a burial mound near the

Yellow Spring and a six-acre semi-circular enclosure in the South Glen. A map and description of the site was featured in *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley*, the landmark first publication of the Smithsonian Institution, released in 1848.

In the 1700s, the Miami Indians used the Yellow Spring as a watering point on the route to Old Piqua, an important trading center on the Mad River near Springfield

At the conclusion of the French and Indian War in 1763, the Miami Indians, who sided with the losers, were driven out of Ohio by the Shawnee, allies of the British. An important Shawnee settlement just south of Glen Helen became a central point in pioneer history as the alleged birthplace of Chief Tecumseh, the site of the gauntlet run by frontiersman Simon Kenton and the place where the Shawnee adopted Daniel Boone.

In the early 1800s, the area around the Yellow Spring was developed as a

resort. The Bullskin Trace, a Shawnee migration route from the Ohio River to Detroit, running right by the Yellow Spring, became a state road in 1807.

In 1826, a short-lived experiment in communal living began near the Cascades. A group of Owenites, followers of British industrialist and utopian socialist Robert Owen, attempted to live together in a great log house, but disband within two years.

Repurposed as an orator’s platform, the Native American burial mound near the Yellow Spring serves as the stage for statesmen Daniel Webster and Henry Clay to speak before a great crowd in the runoff to the 1840 presidential election.

In the 1850s, the Glen became home to the “Glen Forest Water Cure,” a 19th century version of a spa, which employed a staff of physicians to cure peoples’ “bilious affections.”

The former slaves of the Conway Plantation in Virginia established a colony along the Yellow Springs Creek. Freed by the son of the plantation



The Yellow Spring, in the resort days of the early 1900s

owner, they escaped to Yellow Springs by train in 1862.

The resort era peaked in 1869, when the Neff family constructed a magnificent 246-room hotel next to the Yellow Spring. (The hotel closed just 13 years after it opened.)

In 1906, Antioch College

continued



President Simeon Fess held the first Chautauqua in Glen Helen. As many as 25,000 visitors in a single day flocked to see famous lecturers, hear musicians, and enjoy performances of Shakespeare under a big top. Fess developed political contacts as the event's emcee, eventually becoming a U. S. senator and chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Recruited in 1927 by Antioch President Arthur Morgan to join the faculty as a professor of literature, Albert Liddle camped with his family by the Birch Creek Cascades until their house was ready to move into. Albert's grandson, Mike DeWine, currently serves as the governor of Ohio.

In 1929, Glen Helen was created by Hugh Taylor Birch, who made the initial donation of land to Antioch College as a living memorial to his daughter Helen Birch Bartlett. Over the course of the following decades, the staff of Glen Helen built programs that utilized the natural beauty and ecological diversity of Glen Helen to provide meaningful



**Hugh Taylor Birch with Lucy and Arthur Morgan. The stone bears an excerpt of a poem from Birch's late daughter, Helen.**

environmental education to children, students, families, seniors, community members, and visitors from throughout the region.

Eero Saarinen, the modernist



**The Yellow Springs School Forest in full swing, 1950s.**

architect best known for designing the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, spent a year on retainer with Antioch in 1945. During this time he proposed a model for "Yellow Springs East," a sub-neighborhood of the village to be located in Glen Helen near where the Neff Hotel once stood. No action was taken on this recommendation.

Ohio's first educational forest was started in Glen Helen in 1947, with the creation of the Yellow Springs School Forest program, where high school students learn forestry while growing and selling Christmas trees.

The Yellow Spring was updated to its present form in 1949, with design by landscape architect Louise Odiorne, and construction by stonemason Carl Ricciardi.

The Glen Helen Outdoor Education Center was founded in 1956, the first residential environmental learning facility in the Midwest.

In 1960, the Glen Helen Association formed to fight a proposed highway bypass and sewer line through the Glen.

The Glen Helen Raptor Center was started in 1970 by Stephen Kress, a graduate student working at the Outdoor Education Center. Dr. Kress went on to ornithological stardom by leading the successful effort to restore populations of Atlantic Puffins and other seabirds.

In 2015, Antioch College accepted a

series of conservation easements on the Glen. These easements ensure that the preserve can never be subdivided or developed. Compliance is monitored by the Tecumseh Land Trust.

In September 2020, the Glen Helen




**The Yellow Spring, under construction.**

Association purchased Glen Helen from Antioch College. The Association and the College agreed to collaborate in the future, so that Antioch students can continue to learn from, and in, Glen Helen. 🌿

With appreciation to Scott Sanders, Antiochiana, for the bulk of the source information above.



# Nature Amid a Pandemic



Morning mist rises over Birch Creek.

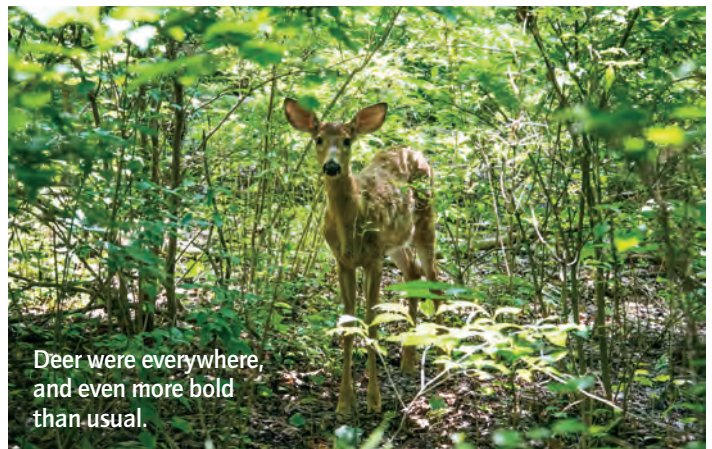
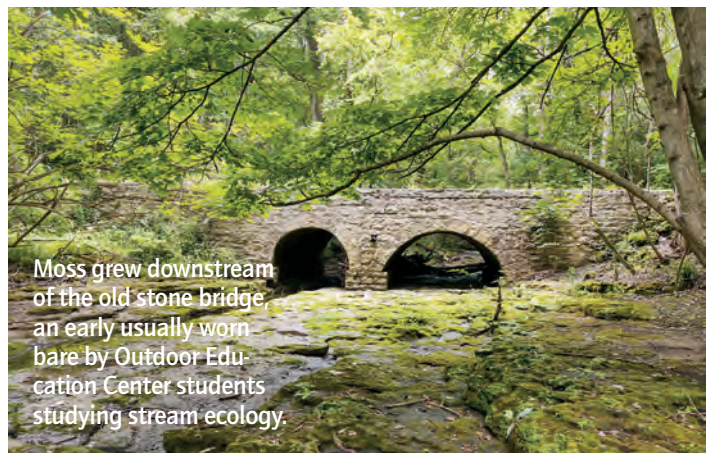
This year marked a first for the Glen. I can't understate this: 2020 was likely the first year in the history of humanity when the land now known as Glen Helen was shuttered from public access. For the nearly six months it was closed, there were only a handful of people in the preserve. Even in my role as director, I only ventured onto the trails once during the long closure – for our annual birdwatching marathon.

Among the people authorized to be in the Glen during the closure were the members of our ranger team. Here, we share some of the thoughts and images they captured. – Nick Boutis

Photos by Bill McCuddy.

## Susan Smith, Ranger

The Glen felt like a different place during the closure. The preserve was filled with sounds of birds singing, rippling water, wind blowing through the trees, and wildlife going about daily activities. It was quiet enough to hear a deer mouse scamper across the trail. However, it also felt eerily quiet, like a deserted ghost town. Summer weekends, usually swarming with visitors, felt like weekday mornings. There was an odd stillness at the usually busy Cascades and Yellow Spring. Slowly the stillness was replaced with activity. Raccoons, ducks, minks, and deer began visiting the





Cascades and Blue Hole. Frogs were abundant at the Yellow Spring. Deer strolled casually on the trails down to the creek to get a drink. Were some of these the critters I normally see at dusk when the visitors leave?

Nature was healing and regrowing and as spring turned into summer, vegetation grew thick and even covered places normally worn bare from human use. Rogue trails healed, widened trails narrowed with regrowth, wildflowers lined the edges of trails with no threat of being picked or trampled. Mushrooms even popped up in the middle of the trails. Degraded areas along the banks of the Cascades grew lush with native plants. Even the sides of the Grotto regrew vegetation in the calcium carbonate.

At the same time, I missed sharing the beauty of nature and the Glen with visitors and seeing others out enjoying and stewarding their Glen. I missed hearing stories of adventurous weeks at Ecocamp, or helping an intrigued hiker identify a wildflower or insect. The Glen felt empty without the laughter and smiles of children discovering the natural world around them. The Glen is home to



**Top to Bottom: The Glen Helen Dedication Monument hides in the center of the frame. See the image on page 13 for an earlier look at the same location.**

**Whiskers of new vegetation grew around the Yellow Spring Grotto.**

**The Blue Hole on Birch Creek in quiet splendor.**

the people as well as the wildlife. We all need areas of forest, fields, and water to thrive.

### **Bill McCuddy, Volunteer Ranger**

In my lifetime of experience with the Glen, volunteering as a Ranger these last few months before it reopened was unique. The trails were overgrown and sometimes hard to find. Nettles would sting you if you weren't careful. But if you sat still for a minute and watched, nature quickly got about her business as if you weren't there, because we hadn't been.

I was able to walk without disturbing small birds only a few feet away, the squirrels were way too busy to notice me much and the deer let me get close enough to take their picture. The Glen was lush and seemed to have taken a deep green breath. I think it missed us a bit too. 🍀



# A New Rehabilitation Complex for the Raptor Center



Top: The old enclosure with collapsed roof.

Above: Scale model design of the new enclosures.

Visit the Glen Helen Raptor Center, and you'll get up-close views of our resident 'education ambassadors,' birds who are healthy but unable to survive in the wild. But there is another side to the Raptor Center typically outside the view of the public.

Up to 200 raptors a year pass through our rehabilitation clinic each year. These are birds that have been injured, orphaned, or are sick or starving. We house them, feed them, work in partnership with veterinarians to care for them, and, when possible, release them for a second chance at life in the wild.

But, heading into 2020, the enclosures that we were using to house these avian patients had reached a point where they were becoming a hazard to the raptors held within. The enclosures were built in the 1990s for the species and intakes appropriate for that time. Yet, the Center now takes in more than twice as many birds and many of the birds we currently take in, such as Bald Eagles or Osprey, have more exacting needs than the raptors that were common 30 years ago.

No point in sugar-coating their condition now: the enclosures were in rough shape. The wood was rotting, roofs were near collapse. Unlike newer enclosures, their designs did nothing to prevent animals from digging under them. Every night we worried that raccoons or other predators might find their way inside where they could harm the rehabilitating birds.

We made plans for a major upgrade, and sought feedback from rehabilitation centers at every stage of planning process. Ultimately, we decided to replace our seven aged enclosures with a nine-unit complex with adjustable walls that would allow larger birds room to fly.

We knew that a new design could be informed by lessons learned by other

*continued*



Already, over 100 birds have come into our rehabilitation center since the new enclosures were completed!



Top: The new enclosures under construction.

Above: The finished enclosures stand out above the older ones.

rehab facilities. We sought to follow current best practices, using safer materials, and construction techniques that allow for a less stressful recovery for our patients. Unlike all of the other enclosures at the Center, we also wanted to add electricity (for lights at night), a water line (needed both for birds to drink and bathe, and for us to clean), and a camera system. We were particularly enthusiastic about this inclusion, because it would allow us to monitor the birds remotely, and allow us to share images from our rehabilitation work with the public.

A number of individuals and organizations stepped forward to provide the funds for the new enclosures, including the L&L Nippert Foundation, the Dayton Foundation, and a number of individual donors.

We queued up a builder for the project, and made plans to demolish the old enclosures and build the new ones before the annual profusion of raptor babies in early spring. The builders started the demolition just as pandemic hit. Fortunately, outdoor construction projects were allowed to proceed amid Ohio's stay-home-order: the build was completed in April 2020. Already, over 100 birds have come into our rehabilitation center since the new enclosures were completed!

The Glen Helen Raptor Center is one of the few raptor rehabilitation centers that did not close down during the COVID pandemic, and the increased capacity of our new rehabilitation complex has ensured that we've been able to meet the needs of sick and injured raptors from around the region.

The only thing that has not gone according to our initial plan is the delay in the water and camera system. Those were put on hold while the Glen Helen Association and Antioch College negotiated the purchase of Glen Helen, and we look forward to wrapping those over the next few months. We can't wait to share the finished project with you, and with the birds who will benefit from it! 🍀





**Top:** The new enclosure features a central hallway, a design much safer for the birds.

**Above:** A screech owl rehabilitating in the new enclosure.

## From the Archives



### **A story of time, land, and ownership changes, captured on film**

A group of children attending the Glen Helen Outdoor Education Center pose here for a photo. The boulder behind the children is an erratic, pushed into Ohio and rounded on its edges by the movement of ice age glaciers. Placed upright in its present location, it sports a plaque, dated 1929, which commemorates the gift of the Glen to Antioch College from Hugh Taylor Birch, in memory of his daughter Helen.

The boulder with its plaque remains in the same location today, not far from the Yellow Spring. But, what was once open land is now forest. This photo was taken in May, 1971, meaning that the posing children are now roughly sixty years old. They were born around 1960, the year that the Glen Helen Association started. And now, the Glen Helen Association has become the new owner of preserve, stepping forward so that Helen Birch Bartlett's living memorial can continue shaping the lives of those who visit.



## Announcements

### Visiting the Glen Amid COVID

After a nearly half-year closure, 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. With the continuing specter of the coronavirus pandemic, 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. Visitors will find that the Inman Trail – our most popular loop featuring the Yellow Spring, the Cascades, and the Birch Creek Valley – is designated for one-way, clockwise travel. Modified trail maps are available for download at [glenhelen.org](http://glenhelen.org).

### Summer Ecocamp Planning Underway

After a year-long closure, our Outdoor Education Center is gearing up to offer Ecocamps with a host of COVID-related updates and modification in place. 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 camps are offered for fi e- to

fifteen- ear-olds by our qualifie Naturalist staff. Ecocamp covers a wide variety of topics and offers a diversity of experiences, including day and overnight camps.

To learn more, or to register your child, visit [glenhelen.org](http://glenhelen.org). Registration opens this winter.

### Special Patio Sale Coming in December

The Glen Helen Nature Shop is a great place to stock up on holiday gifts and other merchandise, including shirts, hoodies, hats, bird feeding supplies, children's items, books, and cards. Even better, all sales directly help support our work. Since our buildings will be closed to the public for the foreseeable future, we're hosting an outdoor patio sale on the first three Saturdays in December. Stop by between 11am and 3pm, on December 5, 12, and 19, for a selection of great Nature Shop items.

### The 2021 Glen Helen Calendar Is Looking Good



The new Glen Helen calendar features 12 months of stunning photos taken by friends of the Glen – a perfect gift for your friends and family, and to grace every room in your house. The calendar sells for the modest price





of \$12, and, as with all Glen Helen merchandise, your purchase helps support our efforts on behalf of the Glen. Place your order online at our Nature Shop site: [glenhelen.org/shop](http://glenhelen.org/shop). Calendars may also be purchased at the Nature Shop patio sale, and a number of stores in Yellow Springs.

## 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](http://oplates.com). No need to wait until your regular renewal date on your birthday – you can order your plates at any time. For each driver who purchases these specialty plates, the Glen Helen Association receives \$15.

## Support the Glen 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.

## 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](mailto:tclevenger@glenhelen.org). Put “Go Green” in the subject field, and put your name in the message body.

## 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](http://glenhelen.org/volunteer).



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





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"Live in each season as it passes; breathe  
the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit,  
and resign yourself to the influence of  
the earth."

— Henry David Thoreau

Members provide direct support to Glen Helen's land, trails, and programs.  
You hike it. You love it. Support it. **[www.glenhelen.org/membership](http://www.glenhelen.org/membership)**

Photo: Tim Pollack