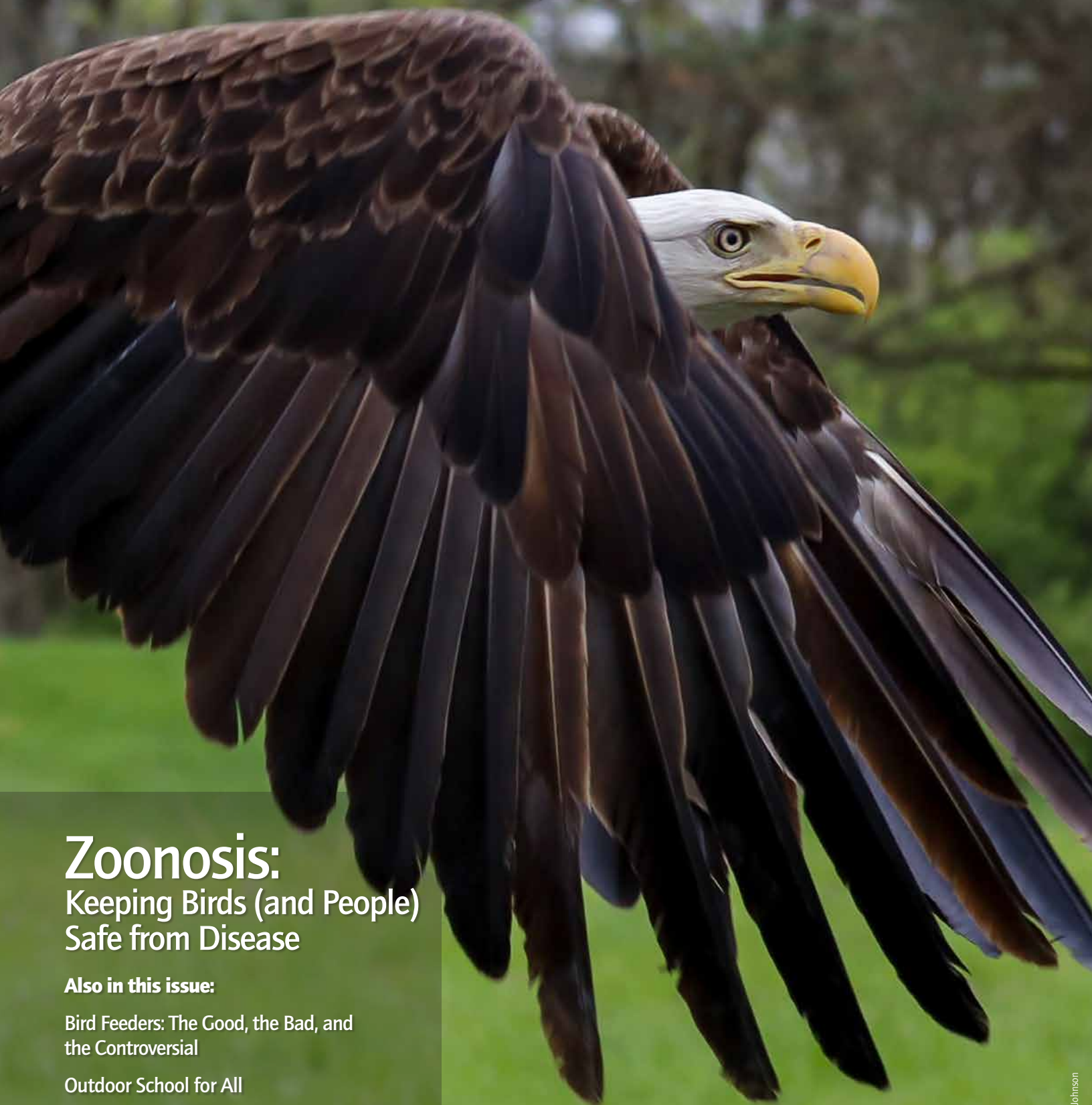


In the Glen

Summer 2022 | News and Activities of the Glen Helen Association



Zoonosis: Keeping Birds (and People) Safe from Disease

Also in this issue:

Bird Feeders: The Good, the Bad, and
the Controversial

Outdoor School for All

In the Glen

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

Contributors

Editor: Laurie Freeman; Contributors: Nick Boutis, Zach Bollheimer, Sarah Cline, Rebecca Jaramillo, Kelsey Mazur, Willi G.; 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 and Nature Shop

Located in the Vernet Ecological Center

405 Corry Street, Yellow Springs

Visit www.glenhelen.org for the opening date and hours.

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.

Summer hours: 9am-7pm

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

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On the Cover:

A Bald Eagle recovered from West Nile Virus is released for a second chance.

From the Director

While this letter may end on a hopeful note, mostly it is a cautionary tale.

Sometimes, I feel like we can sound like the proverbial broken record when it comes to communicating about invasive species. Over and over and over, we repeat ourselves about how bad invasive species are for native habitats, and how important it is to be diligent in efforts to eradicate them without a smidgen of mercy. I worry that our persistent alarms can eventually sound like background noise, not really capturing public attention to the extent that we need to, if we are actually going to make a difference in protecting the habitat that we steward.

This past April, I spent a weekend in Philadelphia visiting family. I also found some time to do a bit of birding in local parks there, including the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge which is an amazing wetlands complex in the heart of an urbanized area. At the same time that you're watching rusty blackbirds in the trees, you're also watching a freight train rumble past. Meanwhile, you're listening to ospreys whistle in flight while vehicles rumble past on I-95. There, as with every other park I went to in Philly, invasive Lesser Celandine was *everywhere* – in the woods, along the trails, right up to the water's edge. It was a creeping plague that blanketed and smothered everything else. No native wildflowers whatsoever could be found in the areas infested by this plant.

It was sobering, and frightening. We have Lesser Celandine in the Glen,



and it can be found upstream in John Bryan State Park, and in the Village of Yellow Springs. What I saw in Philly is what we can expect to see in the Glen without considerable effort now, and over time.

Similarly, last year we took a family trip to Rhode Island, and walked the famed Newport Cliff Walk, which follows the rocky coastline for several miles, conveying you past a succession of Gilded Era mansions on the landward side. Lots of beauty to be found there, but I couldn't overlook the impenetrable thicket of Japanese Knotweed that separated the trail from the millionaire's "cottages." Like Lesser Celandine, Japanese Knotweed is super invasive, super aggressive, super hard to manage once it becomes established. It also has the unpleasant attribute of growing fast and tall. In favorable habitats it can reach nine feet tall over the course of a summer!

You know where this is going: We also have this one in Glen Helen. Not much, compared to what I saw in Rhode Island, but for a lapse in vigilance, this is another species that

would smother the plants that we work so hard to protect in the Glen.

Yet, I continue to think there is reason for hope. We're monitoring for these and other invasives that haven't yet taken over. And, if we are able to keep them from getting to the steep side of their exponential growth curve, we'll be able to manage them. With Lesser Celandine, it has been heartening to see the growing awareness in the town of Yellow Springs, with more and more people able to look past the fact that it produces a bright yellow flower, and recognize that, even though it may be pretty, it's a force of destruction. That growth in understanding is what we're all about – educating people about our natural environment so that they gain the knowledge, the motivation, and the tools to make a difference. And, with education, there is *always* hope.

Ultimately, we want to make sure that everyone is able to develop a relationship with nature and the natural world. 🌱

Nick Boutis

– Nick Boutis, Director, Glen Helen Association

The Benefits of Membership

If you are receiving this magazine, there's a good chance you are a member of Glen Helen! If not or you haven't renewed your membership, it's important to remember that Glen Helen is a member and visitor supported nonprofit organization. We need your help to continue the Glen's legacy and to preserve this special place for generations to come.

As a 501(c)(3) organization, Glen Helen depends on members like you for our programs and daily operations. Since we receive no government funding for our operations, your membership allows us to maintain more than 20 miles of trails, steward the fragile ecology of Glen Helen, offer educational programs for schoolchildren and the public, and preserve the meadows, forests, pine groves, talus slopes, prairies, and streams of Glen Helen. Your membership helps to maintain Glen Helen as a jewel of the community and helps us to continue

to preserve and improve this unique 1,125 acre refuge.

Members receive free parking, a subscription to *In The Glen* magazine, 10% discount at the Nature Shop, free or discounted admission for our educational programs, and discounts at nature centers nationwide.

Besides the practical benefits, members know they are helping support the Glen's vision to steward and strengthen it for present and future generations, and safeguard the ecological, historical and geological resources.

Longtime member Bobbi Treadwell says she is a member because "Glen Helen is my frequent getaway from a busy life, a haven to just relax, breathe, wander the trails, and feel my deep connection to nature all around. Its beauty transforms my spirit" 🌱

For more information or to join online go to glenhelen.org/membership.

Why Do People Volunteer at Glen Helen?

- » To support the mission of Glen Helen and help make a difference.
- » To meet new people and develop lasting relationships.
- » To increase happiness and better mental health.
- » To learn new skills and increase brain function and self-esteem.
- » To stand out on job applications and further career.
- » To decrease stress and accrue health benefits.

We depend on volunteers to carry out the programs, events, and initiatives that help preserve the regional treasure that is Glen Helen. From fundraising to mailings to trail maintenance, volunteer at the Glen,



and not only will you participate in our important efforts, but you'll also have fun while you do it. Whether you are a short-term volunteer with a service requirement, or seek a longer-term position in the Glen Helen community, we may have an opportunity for you. 🌱

Please contact the Glen Helen Outreach Manager, Laurie Freeman at lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org or go to glenhelen.org/volunteer.

Zoonosis: Keeping Birds (and

An apple a day may keep the doctor away for us, but what about wildlife? Over the past two years, zoonotic diseases moved from something only zoo keepers think about, to dictating our every move while trying to control and overcome Covid. According to the Center for Disease Control, zoonotic diseases are defined as bacteria, parasites, fungi or viruses that spread between animals and people. This spread may be through direct contact from touching animals, bites or scratches, or indirect contact through infected surfaces, or vectors such as mosquitoes or ticks. To minimize our risk of catching diseases from animals, or impacting wild populations with our own germs, it is vital that we understand how humans and wildlife interact.

Did you know: Dragonflies are one of the best natural mosquito predators around? Dragonfly larvae feed on mosquito larvae, eliminating the pest before it even has a chance to bite you!

through New York City and quickly moved westward across the country.

At the Raptor Center, we have seen the impact of West Nile Virus primarily in Great Horned Owls and Red-Tailed Hawks and presents with balance issues, head tremors, and other non-injury based neurological symptoms. In the past 10 years, West Nile Virus has been the suspected cause of intake for approximately 5% of the birds we have treated at the Raptor Center. However due to the expensive and not very accurate test for the virus, many birds were likely affected by the disease without being counted.

While much older in origin, avian influenza has only been problematic in the United

Before this most recent SARS-CoV-2 outbreak, West Nile Virus and avian influenza were two well-known zoonotic diseases that affected wildlife and people in Ohio. West Nile virus causes encephalitis, or swelling in the brain, when it infects its host. Originally described in Uganda in the late 1930s, it came into the United States in 1999



This young bird has an eye infection and neurological weakness attributed to the "mystery disease" that ran through birds in 2021.

States since 2014. Every few years, a highly pathogenic strain of avian influenza (AI) moves along migratory flyways and causes severe disease and loss in commercial poultry flocks and certain wild birds. Waterfowl are major carriers of the disease, but seem to be asymptomatic most of the time. Unfortunately, birds that hunt these, such as Red-Tailed Hawks, Great Horned Owls and Bald Eagles, as well as scavenging birds and birds found near waterways, are highly affected by this typically deadly virus. In its current form, avian influenza rarely infects people, though certain strains seem to be more responsible for human illness than others.

This year a highly pathogenic avian influenza has been detected in Ohio's poultry and wild bird populations, and testing is

People) Safe from Disease

underway to determine if avian influenza is responsible for recent Bald Eagle mortalities across the state. At the Raptor Center, we plan to remain open to rehabilitation intakes through this year's avian influenza, and are ready with quarantine areas and procedures to minimize the risk of spread to other rehabilitating patients and to the educational ambassadors housed at the Center.

So with this knowledge, what do we do now? I am reminded of the classic Spider Man quote that I have watched with my kids dozens of times. In the scene, Uncle Ben turns to Peter Parker (soon to become Spider Man) and says that "with great power, comes great responsibility." At the end of all of my educational programs, I inform the audience that inside of them lives a superhero ready to turn the knowledge they gained from the program into action to protect their piece of the planet. Now I challenge the readers of this article to do the same and one way to do so is examining how the diseases are transmitted.

Since the arrival of West Nile Virus in New York, there has been an increased focus on mosquito control since mosquitos are the most common vector and responsible for transmitting the virus to both wildlife and

humans. Mosquitoes breed in stagnant or slow moving water, therefore ensuring proper drainage and not leaving areas that could collect water is a highly effective way of controlling mosquito populations. Though not true for all species, most mosquitoes tend to fly around three miles or less from where they are hatched during their lifetime. This makes local mosquito control through policing stagnant water an effective method to reduce mosquito borne diseases.

Avian influenza is not

transmitted through a vector, but directly from one infected individual to another through droplets or airborne particles. Fecal material can keep the avian influenza alive for 21 days or more. Reducing the pathways of transmission is key in stemming the spread of this disease. In poultry, limiting overcrowding



Waterfowl are often asymptomatic carriers of avian influenza capable of spreading the virus to other birds.

and allowing for increased air circulation is key to reducing the threat of an outbreak. Since waterfowl are often asymptomatic carriers, discouraging the overpopulation of geese and ducks through improper feeding and artificial habitats could reduce the amount of carriers present. In fact, any time that people create conditions that encourages concentrations of birds – see our bird feeder article – it is important that we also do our part to protect the health of those birds by keeping their spaces clean. Even a simple car wash after being in an area with a high population of geese and ducks can play an important role in limiting the movement of avian influenza.

And as with all things, promoting healthy diverse ecosystems full of natural insect control and appropriate carrying capacities of native wildlife is the very best way that we can help Mother Nature defend herself, and us, from the zoonotic diseases of today and the future. 🍀

– Rebecca Jaramillo, Raptor Center Director
(rjaramillo@glenhelen.org)

Did you know: Ohio has native insect eating plants! The Bladderwort is an aquatic wetland plant with a specialized one-way valve that traps small insects. Northern Pitcher Plants are found in bogs and fens in Ohio and use sticky sap to trap flying insects that wander too close.



Sarah Cline accepting her award from the Environmental Education Council of Ohio.

Outdoor Education Director Wins Prestigious Award

Congratulations to Glen Helen's Outdoor Education Director Sarah Cline who won the Christy Dixon Award from the Environmental Education Council of Ohio. The award is presented annually to a young professional who has contributed significantly to environmental education in Ohio. Sarah's nominators called her a "force of nature," "the best," a "powerhouse of a woman," and remarked that "she has made us better and will continue to make us better."

The Environmental Education Council of Ohio is the

Glen Helen staff and naturalists attending the recent conference at Hueston Woods State Park with the Environmental Council of Ohio.



state organization for environmental education professionals, and this honor is an important recognition of Sarah's talents. The award began in 1997, and was named to continue the legacy of Christy Dixon, a gifted environmental educator.

The Glen Helen Outdoor Education Center Naturalist Teacher Interns and Directors were in attendance at the conference where Sarah was given the award. With sessions on early-childhood programming, equity in education, storytelling, community science, snails, and more, the staff was able to learn quite a lot and are eager to implement what they learned. 🌿

Meet Our Cheerful Greeter!

The first person many Glen Helen visitors meet when they drive to Glen Helen is our parking lot attendant Bill. He has been our greeter for almost six years, and is out there at the entrance in rain, wind, snow and blistering hot weather. Bill welcomes our members, and gives out detailed information to the first-time visitors. He doesn't just collect the parking fee; he explains to visitors that their fees ensure that everyone does their part to take care of the Glen. That because we are privately owned, we don't receive tax dollars in support of our operations.



Bill explains our trail system and points of interest to new visitors.

Depending on the day, Bill will advise what trails may be muddy, more crowded, and of course, where the "Yellow Spring" is located. The location of the Yellow Spring is the most popular question, followed by: "Where is the waterfall?, and, Where is the Raptor Center?" He also encourages folks to have strong footwear, wear sunscreen and stay hydrated! Bill's energy is non-stop and needs to be, because about 200 cars come through on a busy day. He has seen the 300-plus car days occasionally and keeps his constant smile.

Visitors from many states want to explore the Glen! Bill has recently seen license plates as far flung as North Carolina, Texas, Connecticut, Indiana, and West Virginia.

Bill enjoys working outdoors and likes the proximity of the Glen to his home. He has a vibrant creative side and enjoys pottery, sculpting, drawing and printmaking. We are fortunate to have such a positive and friendly frontline staff member. 🌿

Glen Helen Rental Spaces

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.



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. 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. 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.



Look for New Rental Spaces Coming This Fall!

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

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

Glen Helen Summer Program Calendar

June–August 2022



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

June



Photo | Scott Stolsenberg

Sat, June 4, National Trails Day Hike, 10am-12:30pm | The Buckeye Trail, Ohio's 1,400-mile grand loop, runs through Glen Helen. In recognition of National Trails Day, join us as we walk the Glen Helen section of the Buckeye Trail. Plan for a four-mile walk, including return on the bike path. **Free. Trailside Museum: 505 Corry St.**

Sat, June 4, 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: June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, August 6, 13, 20, 27.**

Sat, June 11. Little Miami River Clean up | Glen Helen is partnering with the Little Miami Watershed Network to take part in the annual do-it-yourself clean-up of our local National Scenic River. **Register at LMWN.org.**

Sat, June 11, Guardians of the Glen, 1-3pm | Join our ranger to assist with graffiti removal, litter collection, and trail repairs. Great service opportunity. **See June 4 for more.**

Sun, June 12, Summer Birding, 8-10am | We'll search the north Glen for breeding birds on this two-mile walk. **\$5, members free. All participants must register. Contact lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. Trailside.**

Tue, June 14, Pine Forest Full Moon Hike, 8:30-10:30pm | Experience the beauty of the Glen under a full moon! Join Tom Sabin for a three-mile hike to the Pine Forest and nearby School Forest. Ohio's oldest educational forest (Moderately strenuous hike). **\$5, members free. All participants must register. Contact lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. Trailside Museum.**

Sat, June 18, Guardians of the Glen, 1-3pm | Join our ranger to assist with graffiti removal,

litter collection, and trail repairs. Great service opportunity. **See June 4 for more.**

Thu, June 23, Raptor Center Screech Owl Release, 7:30pm | Every year the Raptor Center takes in young screech owls that were displaced from their nests and raises them onsite. Help us celebrate their rehab "graduation" and watch as they take flight on their road to freedom. A short owl program will begin promptly at 7:30pm and the release will follow. Bring a folding chair or blanket to sit on. Program will proceed in light rain. Heavy rain or wind will necessitate a cancellation. **Program will be held at Camp Greene: 3452 Grinnell Rd, Yellow Springs.**

Sat, June 25, Pride Hike, 8:30 & 11am | Celebrate YS Pride weekend with a moderate one-mile hike on the Inman Trail led by a naturalist. Learn about the natural features including Pompey's Pillar, The Cascades, Hopewell Indian Mound and the actual Yellow Spring. **This hike is open to all and free. To sign up for either one of these hikes go to glenhelen.org/pride2022**

Sat, June 25, Guardians of the Glen, 1-3pm | Join our ranger to assist with graffiti removal, litter collection, and trail repairs. Great service opportunity. **See June 4 for more.**



Photo | David S. Williams

July

Sat, July 2, Guardians of the Glen, 1-3pm | Join our ranger to assist with graffiti removal, litter collection, and trail repairs. Great service opportunity. **See June 4 for more.**

Sat, July 9, 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.**

Wed, July 13, Buck Full Moon Hike 9-10:30pm | Join Naturalist Paul Sampson as we explore the Inman Trail (Moderate one-mile hike). **\$5, members free. All participants must register. Contact lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. Trailside Museum.**

Sat, July 16, Guardians of the Glen, 1-3pm | Join our ranger to assist with graffiti removal, litter collection, and trail repairs. Great service opportunity. **See June 4 for more.**

Tue, July 19, Beer and Birds, 6-9pm | Yellow Springs Brewery is partnering with the Raptor Center for a fun paint-filled fundraiser. We will provide paint, brushes, canvas, instruction, and *live bird* models! Yellow Springs Brewery will provide beer, and the new Yellow Springs Barrel Room location! **Tickets are \$75, (\$65 for members) and covers all materials and one delicious YSB beer. Registration through yellowspringsbrewery.com/events/. Email lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code before purchasing tickets. Event location: 1475 Xenia Ave. Yellow Springs. Program is geared for beginner to moderate skill levels. Suggested age 13 yrs.+**

Sat, July 23, Guardians of the Glen, 1-3pm | Join our ranger to assist with graffiti removal, litter collection, and trail repairs. Great service opportunity. **See June 4 for more.**

Sun, July 24, Summer Birding, 8-10am | We'll search the area around the Little Miami River for breeding birds on this one-mile walk. **3536 Bryan Park Road, Yellow Springs. \$5, members free. All participants must register. Contact lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. Grinnell Mill.**

Sat, July 30, Guardians of the Glen, 1-3pm | Join our ranger to assist with graffiti removal, litter collection, and trail repairs. Great service opportunity. **See June 4 for more.**

August



Photo | Win Bent

Sat, August 6, Guardians of the Glen, 1-3pm | Join our ranger to assist with graffiti removal, litter collection, and trail repairs. Great service opportunity. **See June 4 for more information.**

Fri, August 12, Tomato Swap and Sturgeon Full Moon Hike 9-10:30pm | Bring your favorite tomato variety to share and compare! Afterwards we will journey into the Glen for a moonlit walk on the Inman Trail (moderate one-mile hike). **\$5, members free. All participants must register. Contact lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. Trailside Museum.**

Sat, August 13, Guardians of the Glen, 1-3pm | Join our ranger to assist with graffiti removal, litter collection, and trail repairs. Great service opportunity. **See June 4 for more information.**

Sat, August 20, Early Fall Migration Birding, 8-10am | We'll search the north Glen for southward migrants on this two-mile walk. **\$5, members free. All participants must register. Contact lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. Trailside.**

Sat, August 20, Guardians of the Glen, 1-3pm | Join our ranger to assist with graffiti removal, litter collection, and trail repairs. Great service opportunity. **See June 4 for more information.**

Sun, August 21, Raptor Center Photography Program, 8:30-10am | Take advantage of this unique opportunity to photograph Ohio Native raptors at the Raptor Center. Educational ambassador raptors will be held on glove or placed on perches for the opportunity to photograph them in all their splendor. This event is appropriate for beginners or advanced photographers alike. Program will proceed in light rain. Heavy rain or wind will necessitate a cancellation. **Due to the up-close nature of the pro-**

gram, no non-ticketed observers will be permitted. \$25 per ticket (\$20 for members). 15 ticket maximum. All participants must register. Contact lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. Raptor Center: 1075 State Route 343, Yellow Springs.

Sat, August 27, Guardians of the Glen, 1-3pm | Join our ranger to assist with graffiti removal, litter collection, and trail repairs. Great service opportunity. **See June 4 for more information.**

Glen Color Scavenger Hunt

As you walk through the Glen with the family, look for as many of these colors as you can find! You can also use selected paint chips from your local hardware store, or the colors below. Be sure to look closely at things you might have missed – like roots, insects, rocks, or the sunlight reflecting off the stream! You'll be surprised at the spectrum of colors you can find! Don't forget to look but don't pick!

Announcements

Order a Glen Helen License Plate Today!

The Glen Helen license plate is a way to show the world that you love the



Glen. Plus, as a bonus, you get to drive with a beautiful Charley Harper sapsucker affixed to your bumper. Any Ohio car owner

can acquire the tag, either from your local Bureau of Motor Vehicles office, or by visiting oplates.com. No need to wait until your regular renewal date on your birthday – you can order your plates at any time. For each driver who purchases these specialty plates, the Glen Helen Association receives \$15.

Support the Glen – Shop at amazon.com

Participating is very simple. All you have to do is go to “smile.amazon.com,” any time you’d like to make an Amazon.com purchase. When you are



prompted to select your charity, select “Glen Helen Association.” Everything else about your Amazon shopping experience stays the same – the shopping cart, wish lists, shipping options and prices. You shop. Amazon donates 0.5% of your purchase to us.

Donate to the Raptor Center Wishlist

The daily work of caring for live hawks and owls requires a continuous supply of items for feeding and cleaning. Any time we’re able to

receive donations of these items, it means that more of our operating funds can go directly to our rehabilitation and education work. See our current wish list by clicking the Raptor Center tab at glenhelen.org.



Photo: Kaathryn Shauger

Our Canopy, Our Logo

Do you recognize the image in our logo? It’s the outline of the leaf of the *Liriodendron tulipifera* tree, commonly known as Tuliptree or Tulip Poplar. Though it is not closely related to tulips or poplars, its physical resemblance to them has definitely helped the name stick! With its distinctly lobed leaves and large tulip-shaped flowers present in late spring, it is actually in the magnolia family, *Magnoliaceae*.

This native tree can be found from Southern Ontario to Florida, and from the Atlantic Ocean west to Illinois and Arkansas. Locally, they can be found in scattered pockets across the Glen. Known to grow to heights of up to 120 feet, they were keystone species of the old growth tree canopies that once covered Ohio and the Eastern US, and will be key to future forest regeneration. Although a generally common tree in our region, older mature specimens are not, since they were and continue to be one of the most popular hardwood species to harvest for commercial timbering operations. This is due to the fact that they are the straightest growing tree of the Eastern Deciduous Forest.

The original version of the logo was designed by Read Viemeister, who also designed the Vernet Ecological Center and Trailside Museum. More recently, it was updated by Bob Bingenheimer, who also designs this magazine and other Glen materials. 🍃



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

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

My First Impression of the Glen Helen Nature Preserve



Hello, my name is Willi. I am a student from Germany, volunteering at Glen Helen. I will be here for three months to help remove honeysuckle, repair stuff and doing a lot of other things. I want to tell you about my first solo hike at Glen Helen and my first impression of the place.

It was a sunny and kind of warm Thursday. I just decided to do a

walk from the education center down to the pine forest. It was a very nice peaceful walk and I enjoyed it a lot. The sun was shining through the trees which didn't have leaves yet, so I could feel the sun on my skin, and it was very bright. I saw some butterflies, which made me very happy.

The only green everywhere was the honeysuckle growing from the ground. I first thought "oh, what a nice green plant," but now I know that honeysuckle is not very good for the environment here in Glen Helen. The air felt very fresh and I totally enjoyed it. When I got to the pine forest everything got a little bit darker and colder. But I liked it... It gave me a kind of mystery but wonderful vibe.

My favorite part was the way back to the parking lot from the pine forest. The sound of the birds gave me a real summer feeling. On the right and left I saw small waterfalls and rivers. I totally love to see how the water floats around and finds its way down. Next incredible thing was the rock formations down the cliff; they are really stunning...

Back at the parking lot I felt very good. I totally enjoyed my first hike, and I will definitely do a lot more when I'm here :) 🍀

Field Notes

A Land Stewardship Update from Land Manager, Zach Bollheimer

I am excited to use this new article series to provide our members and readers with a window into the land stewardship work occurring in the Glen. As I write this, the Dutchman's Breeches and Virginia Bluebells are in full bloom. Yesterday, they were covered in a layer of snow, unexpected for mid-April, but the invasive Amur Honeysuckles have leafed out already and our trails are getting busier as the weather warms up. It must be spring!

Over the last several months, our Land Stewardship staff and volunteers have been busy! Here are few things we have been working on:

1. We have been preparing for the repair, replacement, and construction of bridges and boardwalks across Glen Helen, with funding allocated within the Clean Ohio Grant that we received earlier this year, in collaboration with the Tecumseh Land Trust. Our volunteers have been assisting with replacing surface treads on several of our trail structures, as well as working to improve trail drainage to ensure safe passage across our trail system.

2. Though we have plenty to keep us busy on the trail, our work conducted off-trail is also extremely important. Invasive species management, which occurs year-round in the Glen, is our most often-conducted field work. Over the last few months, several acres of honeysuckle and Autumn Olive have been removed from the slopes above Yellow Springs Creek, downhill from the intersection of Corry Street and Grinnell Road. To see our progress, hike south along the Talus Trail from the Corry Street parking area. It will be exciting to see what species will be found this year in an area that has, for many years, been under a full honeysuckle canopy.

3. Our current invasive work is focused on Lesser Celandine, and Garlic Mustard management and began in May. Both species were featured in the previous edition of *In the Glen*. Going into the summer, we will be shifting management to plants like Reed Canary Grass and Poison Hemlock, which have management tactics best suited for summer months. 🍀

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

Bird Feeders: The Good, the Bad, and the Controversial



Who doesn't love an early Sunday morning sipping hot tea (or coffee in my case) and watching the birds flit in and out of your bird feeding station? The bright red feathers of the male Northern Cardinal at the sunflower feeder may be the first to catch your eye, but then you notice the more subtle but equally beautiful female American Goldfinch delicately pulling *nyjer* (thistle) from the tube feeder.

Feeding wild birds has been a practice that was first noted 3500 years ago in a Hindu text. This text mentions that feeding wild birds is one way to mitigate the accumulation of negative karma and should be done daily. Since then, just about every culture across the world has found joy in feeding and watching wild birds. Perhaps due to the migratory nature of birds, bird watching was a way of keeping track of time and seasonal change.

Whatever the reason, bird feeding and bird watching have remained popular, and according to some surveys is the second most popular hobby in the United States. So where is the controversy? In order to understand why some wildlife organizations are now recommending a shift away from bird feeding stations, we have to look at potential problems that these feeding stations may create.

Most people would agree that feeding wild bears is generally a poor choice for the long term survival of the bear, and possibly the human. But for some reason, feeding wild birds is a commonly accepted practice. Certainly attacks on humans by wild

Planting native plants to encourage natural foraging behavior is a safer way to encourage birds feeding in your backyard.



seed-eating finches is not a major concern, but through bird feeders we may be adversely impacting the birds that come to partake of our generosity.

Feeding stations create an unnatural congregation of songbirds that would otherwise be less likely to come into contact with one another. Think of bird feeders as the crowded restaurant that many of us avoided over the last few Covid years. Since ornithologists have yet to come up with a way to get chickadees to don protective masks, bird feeders become a major spreading ground for avian diseases. For example, conjunctivitis is spreading through House Finch populations, and many scientists think bird feeders are a major culprit of the spread.

In addition to disease transmission, bird feeders may set up dangerous patterns of congregation that can be exploited by predators such as hawks and domestic cats. Even the placement of your bird feeder could increase the risk of window collisions, though large buildings in downtown areas are far more guilty of window strike mortalities.

But wait, before you toss all your bird feeders onto the fire, there are benefits! Bird feeders, especially during winter months, can be literal lifesavers for birds that are faced with unpredictable weather patterns

caused by global climate change. Additionally, bird feeders may help to compensate for the loss of native habitats that would be the birds' natural source for protein rich seeds and insects. These protein rich diets are especially important during nesting season. While restoration of these native areas would be the best answer, bird feeders may be a temporary or supplemental piece of the puzzle.

So what now? The Fish and Wildlife Service suggests planting native seed and berry producing plants as a part of your bird-friendly backyard habitat. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ohiodnr.gov) has many native plant lists broken down by habitat type. Take this along with you on your next trip to the nursery to pick out a few new plants, and the birds in your backyard will be sure to thank you. Attend one of the many wildflower walks all spring and summer long in the Glen to learn about these native beauties as well. In addition to native planting, bird feeders can be a safe and enjoyable feature to your backyard oasis as long as you abide by a few guidelines.

As with any wildlife/human interaction, it is our duty to minimize the negative impacts we have on wildlife, while maximizing the opportunity to connect with nature in a way that promotes conservation and understanding. Read up on the "Tips for safe bird feeding" from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (at right), then grab your binoculars and enjoy the kaleidoscope of feathers! 🍀

– Rebecca Jaramillo, Raptor Center Director
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Tips for Safe Bird Feeding

- » Reduce disease risk by cleaning your feeder at least once every two weeks, according to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Newer models come apart easily for cleaning in the dishwasher. Older ones can be cleaned by pouring a weak bleach solution through them or soaking them in hot soapy water followed by a thorough rinse. (Hummingbird feeders should be cleaned every 3–5 days.)
- » Sweep up old, moldy and discarded seed under your feeders. This will help reduce disease risk as well as discourage rodents, raccoons and predators.
- » Keep an eye on the birds at your feeder. If any look sickly, remove your feeder until those birds disperse.
- » If cats visit your yard, rethink having a feeder. Cats kill more than 2.5 billion birds a year in the United States and Canada – one of the largest of anthropogenic (human activity-related) causes of bird death.
- » Move your feeder to within three feet of reflective windows or cover those windows with decals or screening. Research shows that windows 15 to 30 feet from a feeder pose the greatest hazard to birds.
- » Consider seasonal feeding. Provide supplemental food during the winter and early spring only, then encourage the birds to switch to natural foraging for the remainder of the year.
- » Feed a high-quality seed. Research the best food for the birds in your area and avoid cheap fillers like millet that increase the risk without providing any benefit to the birds.
- » Go where the birds are instead of having the birds come to you. Take a walk through the Glen, or any national wildlife refuge! 🍀

Source information from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Outdoor School for All

Will Ohio be the next state to champion Outdoor School for all its children?



Earlier this year, the Washington state legislature passed the Outdoor Learning Grant Program, which aims to ensure that all children in the state have access to residential environmental learning like we offer here in Glen Helen. Far from “legalese,” the new law provides a wonderfully articulate explanation of why residential environmental learning programs are vitally important for schoolchildren:

“The legislature finds that time outdoors helps children thrive physically, emotionally, and academically, yet over the past few generations, childhood has moved indoors. On average, today’s kids spend up to 44 hours per week in front of a screen, and less than 10 minutes a day doing activities outdoors. For too many kids, access to the outdoors is determined by race, income, ability, and zip code. All children deserve equitable access to outdoor spaces where they can learn, play, and grow, but current access to outdoor educational opportunities is inequitable.

From stress reduction to improved focus and engagement, and better academic performance, outdoor-based learning helps kids thrive. Research shows participants in outdoor educational activities have higher graduation rates, improved behavior in school and relationships with peers, higher academic achievement, critical thinking skills, direct experience of scientific concepts in the field, leadership and collaboration skills, and a deeper engagement with learning, place, and community. Outdoor educational programs also offer new opportunities for work-integrated learning

in science, natural resources, education, land management, agriculture, outdoor recreation, and other employment sectors. Outdoor-based learning activities can also be a key element in the larger system of regular outdoor instructional time and outdoor experiences that includes STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields, after-school programs, summer camps, 4-H, scouting, and related programs which can spark a lifelong appreciation for the natural world.

The legislature further finds that accessibility is a major obstacle to universal outdoor education. Most sites lack accommodation for children with disabilities and support staff for children who need social and emotional support. In addition, some youth may experience cultural barriers to outdoor learning experiences.

The adopted legislation established a statewide grant program, with \$10 million in initial funding, to develop and support educational experiences for students. They intend to develop hands-on learning experiences that are three to five days in duration and up to four nights, with a preference for overnight stays. They envision that these outdoor learning opportunities will benefit fifth and sixth grade students, with related opportunities for high school students to volunteer as counselors. Curricula will have a focus on environmental education aligned with the Washington learning standards and the development of social and emotional learning skills. They further sought to prioritize communities historically underserved by science education.

The legislation passed with nearly unanimous support – 92 in favor, and 5 against in the state house; 44 in favor, and 3 against in the senate — and was promptly signed by Washington Governor Jay Inslee. Said the Governor, who himself participated in an outdoor school program as a child, “I appreciate the legislature’s support for expanding outdoor school in Washington state. This is an important opportunity for our kids to experience quality instructional time outdoors, and it may even inspire them to pursue exciting careers in earth science and land management, which will help prepare our state for the challenges of climate change.”

So, what does all this mean for Ohio schoolchildren? We have long known that the experience of a trip to Glen Helen is life shaping for the students who get to participate. Some of these children will indeed, as Governor Inslee noted, go on to careers in natural sciences. But perhaps even more importantly, all of these children learn that we are part of our environment, and that our environment can support and nurture us if we do the same for it. They also gain a better understanding of themselves, their peers, and their community. The social and emotional learning that takes place over a few short days in Glen Helen makes a lasting impact on the children we serve.

While outdoor school programs are always extraordinarily valuable to children, we are in a moment where that need is magnified. The pandemic has been especially hard on schoolchildren, many of whom have spent significant time learning in isolation on computers. Even those who have been able to have face-to-face classes have lost opportunities for peer interaction and experiential learning. They are starved for the kind of experience Glen Helen offers: Outdoors. Cooperative. Hands-on. Outdoor school programs have long been important for kindling curiosity, safe awareness, and ecological understanding. As we start to emerge from the long shadow of the pandemic, programs like Glen Helen’s will be an ever more vital resource for helping children recover from the developmental disruption that COVID has wrought.

We are also aware that the vast majority of Ohio schoolchildren do not get the opportunity to come to Glen Helen or other residential programs around the state, because most schools do not allocate the time and money for these programs. Even among the schools that do participate, families frequently opt out because of finances, concerns about accessibility, or fear of the outdoors. If and when the state of Ohio is able to pass comparable legislation, these life-shaping programs would become the norm, rather than a profound experience for only a lucky few. Can we be the next state to take this step for our children? 🌱

Nick Boutis (nboutis@glenhelen.org)

The Outdoor Education Center by the Numbers



Science in action! Students get hands-on experience testing stream health and working together as a team!

This spring brought our own outdoor school, the Outdoor Education Center, back in full swing with a whole lot going on! Here are a few numbers:

16 partner schools worked with from 8 school districts in 6 Ohio counties

980 students (grades K-11) with hands-on environmental science learning

52 contact days for Outdoor Education Center staff and interns with students between March and May

73 Teachers and parent chaperones accompanied youth for their onsite experience

8 Naturalist Teacher Interns lived on site from February–May

1000 hours of environmental education professional development offered for Glen Helen interns

530 Lifesavers eaten during night hikes

2100 chocolate chip cookies baked

25 renditions of the Yellow Springs Song

10 consecutive weeks of Glen Foot sightings around the Outdoor Education Center campus

4 Box Turtle Ambassador Animals have eaten over 10 pounds of turtle salad

6 weeks of Ecocamp starting in July. Go to glenhelen.org/ecocamp for information. Limited space available. 🌱



Even rain doesn't dampen the enthusiasm of naturalists!



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From the Archives



This is the one remaining structure from the Glen's days as a resort. The Neff Carriage House is seen here in its glory – probably around 1850-1870.

Can you imagine what it would have been like to travel from Cincinnati to Yellow Springs a hundred and fifty years ago? The

trip via horse-drawn stagecoach would have taken several days.

You would have followed the Little Miami River Valley for most of that distance. The going would have been slow, and bumpy, and probably wet. Eventually, your horse would have pulled your stagecoach up the hill to the Yellow Spring,

where the carriage house awaited.

Your horses would stay on the lower level, and billiards and dancing awaited you on the upper level. From here, it was a short walk to your lodging, a tavern, and the spring. 🍁