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October 12, 2023

Glen Helen Friends  
Near, or Far

Dear Friends,

Two years ago, a beaver family moved to the Yellow Springs Creek in Glen Helen. They built a dam and a lodge, and rapidly expanded both, creating a pond that attracts both wildlife and amazed visitors. Call me sentimental, but I've started to think of the beavers as a metaphor for our work at Glen Helen.

Just consider...

**We're both taking a bite out of monumental projects:** Last year, we tore down the derelict Antioch coal-fired power plant, which was built on top of a spring-fed wetland. Now, a year into habitat restoration, we're astonished at how quickly plants and animals have returned. Recently, I got to watch a red fox climb the quarry wall. Beautiful!

Step by step, we're undertaking a project of comparable magnitude on our trail system. We're repairing and building bridges and boardwalks to keep trails accessible and open. One shown below, built on the Inman Trail, replaces a bridge that was starting to lean into the ravine.

Like the beavers, **we're strengthening native habitats:** The beaver pond is less than two acres, but over the past year, we've removed woody invasive species on over 40 acres in the preserve! As the honeysuckle comes out, we make it possible for native plants to thrive.

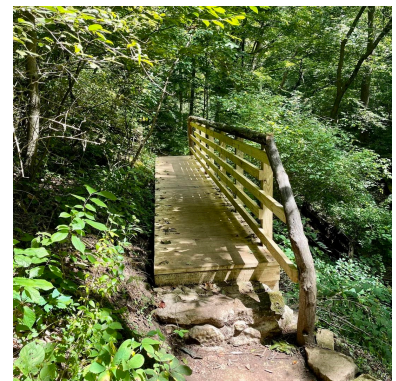
**We're both looking out for the next generation:** The beavers are building habitats to sustain their family, and we are building programs to teach children to understand, respect, and steward our environment. After closures and changes in response to COVID, we brought back our residential Outdoor



*Glen Helen beaver footage captured by University of Dayton researchers*



*A visiting student finds a crayfish while doing a stream study*



*This new bridge on the Inman Trail overlooks Birch Creek*

(over)

School and Ecocamp. We're now in the midst of the first fall term with visiting school groups since 2019.

At the Raptor Center, our new rehabilitation complex, with a recently installed camera system, has helped us improve the care we offer to injured, orphaned, and starving birds of prey. Last year, we took in 220 birds!

**In other words, we've been busy like the beavers because we've had your support.**

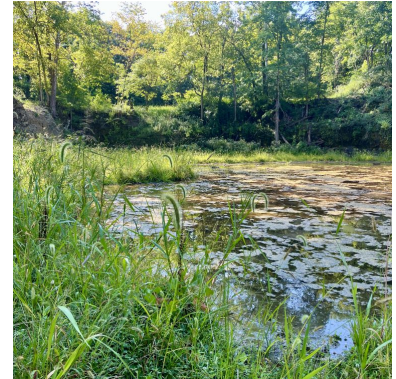
So, this is where I get to say thank you, and please: Thank you for all that you enabled us to accomplish; please help us continue our work into the future. Your contribution to the annual fund – above and beyond any membership gift – will propel all that we will do over the next year.

Can we count on your support? Your generosity will help us keep our beaver family, and all Glen Helen efforts, alive and thriving.

Sincerely,



Nick Boutis  
Executive Director, Glen Helen Association



*The new spring-fed wetland on the site of the former power plant*



*Raptor Center director Rebecca Jaramillo releases a rehabilitated peregrine falcon on a Dayton rooftop*

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## The Annual Fund for Glen Helen

### Glen Helen Friends

#### Near, or Far

Yes! I want to support Glen Helen with a contribution of:  
 \$1000  \$365  \$120  \$50  \$\_\_\_\_\_ (other)  
*Just \$1 a day!*

Please designate gift as follows:

*(If you wish, you may split your gift between categories.)*  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Area of greatest need  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Land stewardship and restoration  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Raptor rehabilitation and education  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Outdoor Education Center

Please make checks payable to: **Glen Helen Association**

Want to donate via credit card? Please visit  
[www.glenhelen.org/annualfund](http://www.glenhelen.org/annualfund)

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- Glen Helen is in my estate plans.  
 Please contact me about including Glen Helen in my estate plans.  
 My workplace offers matching gifts! I'll submit a match request.