

# In the Glen

Summer 2019 | News and Activities of the Glen Helen Ecology Institute, Antioch College

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# In the Glen

is published for Glen Helen  
Association members and other friends of the  
Glen Helen Ecology Institute.

## Contributors

Editor: Nick Boutis; Contributors: Rebecca Jaramillo, Karen Mitchell, Ben Silliman; 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

## Glen Helen Ecology Institute Administrative Offices

Located in the Vernet Ecological Center  
405 Corry Street, Yellow Springs, OH 45387  
Mon-Fri, 9:30-4:30; 937-769-1902

## Trailside Museum

505 Corry Street, Yellow Springs

## 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. Summer hours: 9am-7pm.  
1075 State Route 343, Yellow Springs  
937-767-7648

## Glen Helen Nature Shop

405 Corry Street, Yellow Springs  
Open daily: 10-4. 937-769-1902 x108

## Facility rentals

Contact Elegant Fare: 513-552-1340, x101

## Antioch College Mission

The mission of Antioch College is to provide a rigorous liberal arts education on the belief that scholarship and life experience are strengthened when linked, that diversity in all its manifestations is a fundamental component of excellence in education, and that authentic social and community engagement is vital for those who strive to win victories for humanity.

## Ecology Institute Mission

We steward and strengthen Glen Helen for present and future generations, safeguard the ecological, historical, and geological resources within its bounds, and utilize the preserve to provide life-shaping environmental learning to our students and visitors.

## Glen Helen Association Board of Trustees

Emily Foubert, Scott Geisel, Bethany Gray, Dan Halm, Allen Hunt, Barbara Klopp, Kim Landsbergen, Ron Lewis, Kevin Lydy, Robbie Marion, John Riggins, Betty Ross, Dan Rudolf, Paul Sampson, John Stireman, Mary White, Jo Wilson

## Glen Helen Ecology Institute Staff

Michael Blackwell, Outdoor Education Center Director; Nick Boutis, Executive Director; Kristen Bruns, Food Service Manager; Tom Clevenger, Assistant Director of Finance and Administration; Sarah Cline, Outdoor Education Center Assistant Director; Rebecca Jaramillo, Director, Raptor Center; Daniel Pedrotti, Housekeeper; Shannon Schenck, Outdoor Education Center Business Manager; Ben Silliman, Director of Land Management; Ann Marie Simonson, Project Manager; Susan Smith, Ranger; Shahkar Strolger, Property Manager

Cover photo: Ralph Ramey, c. 1990

## From the Director

### Remembering Ralph Ramey

In this issue, we celebrate and bid farewell to Ralph Ramey. Ralph was director of Glen Helen from 1973 to 1990, and he passed away April 29, at the age of 90. Nearly thirty years after he retired, his legacy endures in the Glen.



Ralph navigated Glen Helen through an extraordinarily challenging period. He arrived the same year as the infamous student strike at Antioch College, a tumultuous episode that impacted the college for years to follow. He recognized that the supporters, volunteers, and advocates of the Glen Helen Association were key to ensuring that Glen Helen programs survived. Under his leadership, the Glen Helen Association incorporated as a 501(c)(3) organization, and grew to encompass over a thousand members. He was the first director to serve as the Executive Director of the Association. He also started the first Glen Helen endowment at the Yellow Springs Community Foundation.

Ralph championed getting people out in Glen Helen to hike, and organized frequent Volksmarches, where groups would spend the day racking up miles. His love of hiking and his knowledge of state natural areas were the ingredients that allowed him to write *50 Hikes in Ohio*, published during his final year at the Glen. One of the fifty hikes Ralph included in the book is a three-mile jaunt through the north Glen. I've added this hike to our summer schedule of public programs, and am looking forward to leading this walk on July 14, using his words as our trail guide.

One of his forward-thinking decisions was to change the land management objective for the South Glen. When Ralph arrived here – much of the South Glen was leased for agriculture, and heavily trod by cattle. He sunsetted the grazing leases, and set about rewilding the area. Working with the Boy Scouts, he expanded the trail system in the South Glen, creating, until floodwaters took the bridges, a ten-mile loop trail. Where the farm fields were, he developed grassland habitats with the idea of creating a butterfly preserve. It is still

possible there to see American Woodcock, Yellow-breasted Chat, and other birds of open meadows.

Ralph learned of a covered bridge that was going to be eliminated by the impounding of Caesar Creek Reservoir, and made arrangements to have it transported to Glen Helen. He had hoped to replace the Jacoby Road covered bridge, which had been burned by vandals in 1970, but, because the bridge wasn't long enough to span the river, placed it over the Yellow Springs Creek off Grinnell Rd.

He was an avid photographer, who was passionate about the details of his work. He once told me about one of his early visits to Glen Helen, in April 1972, and described taking a picture of the Birch Creek Cascades, recalling – nearly forty years later – that he used “6 X 6 cm Ektachrome slides on a Baby Rolleiflex.”

Ralph began the practice of Glen Helen excursions. Recognizing that many of the people who were passionate about the Glen also appreciated seeing new places with a skilled naturalist, he led trips to Africa, Costa Rica, Galapagos Islands, and other destinations. It has been years since we scheduled an excursion of any significance, but inspired by Ralph, we are wading back in, and will host a 5-day birding trip to Coastal North Carolina this July.

Perhaps one of Ralph's most potent legacies is that he helped create the current landscape of Ohio conservation organizations. He recognized that Glen Helen had an opportunity to make a difference on efforts relating to land use planning, natural area protection, and environmental education. Through his leadership, he helped protect Cedar Bog, which like Glen Helen was threatened by a highway project. He was an early leader of the Environmental Education Council of Ohio, the Association of Nature Center Administrators, and the Ohio Prairie Association, among multiple others. We were fortunate to have him here for seventeen years of his long and rich life. 🌱



Nick Boutis, Director

## Top 10 Ways to Help the Glen! (How Many Have You Done Today?)

**1. Adopt a bird.** For just \$100 a year, you can help us feed and care for the hawks, falcons, owls, and vultures of our Raptor Center.

**2. Consider a planned gift to Glen Helen.** No single act can do more to help us sustain our efforts.

**3. Come to Ecocamp.** A week in Glen Helen helps shape the lives of the kids who experience it.

**4. Join the Glen Helen Association.** Support from members allows us to maintain the preserve and all of our programs.

**5. Rent the Glen.** Think of the Glen for your next party, meeting, or memorial. The Vernet Ecological Center, the Outdoor Education Center, or Birch Manor might be the spot you're looking for.

**6. Visit the Nature Shop.** Marvel at the displays of books, toys, cards, and clothing. Proceeds go directly to the Glen.

**7. Volunteer.** Whatever your interests, there is a volunteer project perfectly suited for you.

**8. Explore** some of our 20 miles of trails and track your sightings on [www.inaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org), to document the biodiversity of the preserve.

**9. Specify Glen Helen Association** through the Dorothy Lane Market Good Neighbor Program and the Kroger Rewards Program.

**10. Fulfill Our Wishes.** We maintain a wish list for new and gently used items. Visit [glenhelen.org](http://glenhelen.org) for the current list of needed items. 🌱

# Ralph Ramey: Icon for an

Ralph Ramey, who served as director of Glen Helen from 1973 to 1990, returned to Glen Helen to speak in October 2007. He shared his thoughts and perspectives on the arc of his experiences here, and how Glen Helen not only influenced his life, it also shaped the way that we think about, and relate to, our environment. Ralph reached the end of his life in May 2019, at the age of 90. His remarks appear below.

" I first visited Glen Helen in April of 1960 when the Ohio Academy of Science held its annual meeting at Antioch. At the time I was a pharmaceutical representative spending my days in doctor's offices, pharmacies and hospitals. I had earned a degree in wildlife conservation from OSU ten years earlier and had maintained a membership in the Academy and each year tried to attend the annual conference at least on the day that the Conservation Section



The Cascades of Birch Creek on a rare day when it has frozen solid.



Ralph Ramey, speaking in the auditorium.

met. From that meeting, I have slides of Ken Hunt at the Yellow Springs telling how, fifteen years earlier, it had been built constructed following Louise Odiome's design and Carlos Ricciardi's hard labor. I also have the classic Glen Helen picture, Birch Creek looking upstream at the Cascades.

In spring of 1972, as an adjunct instructor at OSU, I taught two courses in the School of Natural Resources, and visited Trailside Museum as a part of a field trip with my students. I had only recently been elected as chairman of the Ohio Chapter of the Nature Conservancy and Ken Hunt was on the Board of TNC. I had no idea that a year later Jean and I would

be preparing to move to Yellow Springs to become the Director of the Glen. Suffice to say, therein began the best years of our lives, living and working in this loving community and beautiful place.

I could reminisce for hours about our seventeen years at the Glen but I shan't. What I will relate is a few anecdotes about the place that we grew to be such a part of.

Former Antioch College President Jim Dixon once told me that he considered the Glen to be held by Antioch in private trust for the public. A place of natural beauty, it attracts nature lovers and outdoor recreation enthusiasts of all sorts to its tree-lined trails. With a babbling brook at

its core, it provided the soothing sound of falling water, and with the main trails in a gorge below the level of the town, the ever-growing noises of civilizations were screened out. It was used by the college as an outdoor lab for courses in natural sciences and by students as a retreat from the pressures of dorms and classroom. Villagers and folks from miles away were drawn to its wildflower-lined trails and bird-laden woods. Since the fifties, it had become a place where hundreds of children from surrounding school districts were first introduced to the world of nature. It was, and is, a place that works its way into your soul. A place that draws you back. A place that never leaves your memory.

For many it gave definition to their life's work. I meet folks wherever I travel that spill out their stories of how their life-long interest in all things natural began with an experience at Glen Helen. It's a very special place to a great many people scattered all over the planet. Last week at the national conference of the Natural Areas Association more than one conversation started with, "you probably don't remember me, but I was at the Outdoor Education Center in..." or "I was your Trailside manager in..." or "I got interested in

birds through Jim Howell's morning bird walks in the Glen..." or "I got interested in nature which led to my life's work when my 5th grade class spent a week at the Outdoor Education Center." This happens not only at meetings but also at nature centers that I visit or places of all sorts where I give slide talks. And it is likely the case with some of you, even if what you came away with was not a professional pursuit but a life of caring about the environment. And how people over the last seventy-five years have left Yellow Springs and/or Antioch determined to establish a place just like Glen Helen at the college or community where they establish a career and/or home?

Down through the years, many conservation, preservation and advocacy groups of significance have been spawned or wet-nursed by Glen Helen. Some that come to mind

are the Riding Centre Association, the Cedar Bog Association, the Ohio Prairie Association, the Natural Areas Association, the North Country Trail Association, the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association, and the American Volkssport Association. Glen folks have been advocates for natural area protection, rails-to-trails, greenways, environmental education, conservation easements, regional planning, bikeway development, trail development, stream preservation and restoration, historic preservation, canal preservation, and more.

Let me speak a bit about threats to the Glen. They have been present from day one. As chief of the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves I learned that as guardian of public natural areas, it was necessary to be constantly vigilant. Someone somewhere was always after your land to use for



The South Glen barn, which burned over a decade ago.

what they thought was a better purpose. It might be a firehouse, a playground, a sewer line, a highway, a leaf dump, a school, or dozens of other equally worthy purposes. That was also true at Glen Helen. In the late fifties, the fight to prevent a US 68 bypass through Glen Helen brought together opponents into what was to become the Glen Helen Association. Their clout somehow convinced the powers-that-be in Columbus to de-journalize that project. Only months later, the village fathers began talking about sewer line through the heart of the Glen. Once again, the power of the people including the Glen Helen Association, alumni around the world, and local citizens like Serge Vernet fought until an alternate solution was found. Threats come from within and without. The stories of

pot plantations, deer blinds, dog runs, gardens, wood piles, trash disposal and semi-permanent campsites around the edge of the Glen could fill a book.

Another self-imposed problem was the development of the farm in the south Glen which Ken felt would help pay for the operation of the northern part of the Glen. Somewhere in the files there is correspondence between Dr. Hunt and Louis Bromfield expressing the desire to make the south Glen into an operating farm like Malabar Farm. Trouble is, the Glen did not have the book royalties and movie residuals of Bromfield. The legacy I inherited from that effort was a grazing contract paying less per year than the taxes we paid and 125 cattle where the contract called for 50. Oh



Ralph's photo studio in what is now the Nature Shop.

continued

yes, and the cattle waded in the Little Miami River, often leaving their manure in the river... at a time just after Arthur Morgan had been one of the original incorporators of Little Miami, Inc., the pioneer save-the-river organization in Ohio. Didn't make sense.

Also, we know a great deal more about the effects of fragmented habitat than



**Cattle in the South Glen.**

we did when Ken became the first director of the Glen and established the farming program. Fracturing the southern part of the Glen into fields and small pieces of woodlot slowed the return to the neo-tropical birds that surely must have nested there at one time. Had the field along the river and elsewhere been planted with assorted native tree species, the Glen might be a nesting area for many species of warblers, vireos, and thrushes that generally will not nest within 100 meters of the edge of a woods. I reforested several of the upper meadows along the border fence, and the inability to get around to mowing others has helped, but wouldn't it be wonderful to have started reforestation in 1930?

Ken Hunt made a valiant effort to protect the Glen from its neighbors by starting the Country Common, a years-ahead-of-its-time open space program. He also got an application off to the National Park Service requesting 250 acres in the north Glen be named a National Natural Landmark when that Federal program got under way in the mid-sixties. The Park Service approved it, providing protection from Federal funds being spent on any project that would harm that area of the Glen.

Let me talk a moment about my encounters with Arthur Morgan.

When I was with State Parks in 1967 or 1968, a neatly hand-printed letter arrived from Arthur Morgan and made its way to my desk. He wrote to complain that the State had just spent thousands of dollars rebuilding the two footbridges across the Little Miami in John Bryan State Park but that they had failed to repair the small footbridges a few yards further down the path from



**Ralph at work in his office.**

each bridge. I made a trip to the park. He was, of course, right. The footbridges were replaced within weeks. I have since read of the famous Sunday morning breakfast hikes Morgan took with breakfast makings in his pack during the years when he was college president. He is said to have left home at 5:30 or 6:00 in the morning and stopped along the way to build a fire and cook his meal. I dearly hope that I can still walk that wonderful hepatica-lined trail in the spring of my ninetieth year.

The next visit I remember was in 1974 when he wanted to show me the yellow ladies slippers blooming behind his house. At that meeting, he told me that he remembered a plant called climbing fern grow-

ing in Kentucky from his days with TVA and that he had always wanted some in the Glen. He asked if I knew where to get it. Later that fall, I was hiking in Kentucky's Red River Gorge and I came across some. I brought some home, and planted it downstream from the pine forest, personally hoping that it would not take hold. I did report back to him that I duly added climbing fern to the flora of the Glen. Of course, it's an acid soil plant that is normally found growing on the slopes below sandstone cliffs, so I was pretty certain that it would not become an invasive plant in the Glen. I am not one to move plants to where they are not known to have originally grown.

At that time, I had no idea that Morgan had no qualms about doing just that. After Morgan's death, when Margot Ensign was curating Morgan's papers, she brought me a copy of a letter he had sent to friends and colleagues around the country telling of the acquisition of the Glen and asking them to send wildflower seeds and plants. I have no indication of what the response was, if any, but I've seen pictures of the old fields to the east of



**The relocated covered bridge over the Yellow Springs Creek.**

Yellow Springs Creek with nothing but pasture and an occasional red cedar. I can believe that the present vegetation may be a result of more than just wildflowers and hardwoods growing from what was in the seed bank.

I have always enjoyed sharing my love of nature with others and over the years, I led many walks in the Glen. Some focused on the flora or fauna, others on the historical aspects, some on the time of day or year like “full moon” walks or winter solstice walks. I also liked to share the joy of discovering special natural settings around Ohio and the Midwest. That led to trips

known as Ecotourism. The trips earned money for the Glen and opened the eyes of the participants to the wide, wild, world. We traveled to Alaska, Costa Rica, Kenya, Tanzania, Botswana and the wintering roosts of the monarch butterflies in Mexico. Wonderful trips that provided memories of people and places that will never fade.

What have I been doing since I left the Glen? From here I moved to the position of Director of the Miami County Park District where I expected to remain until I retired. But, after a year there, I was asked by the Director of Natural Resources to join ODNR as

I also served nine years on the Ohio Historical Society board of trustees.

Along the way, I wrote a new edition of *Fifty Hikes in Ohio*, a book originally written during my last year at the Glen. I also wrote *Walks and Rambles in Southwestern Ohio* and *Fifty More Hikes in Ohio*. A year ago, my publisher asked me if I would prepare a new edition of *Fifty Hikes in Ohio*, and, after explaining that I was approaching 78 and now had braces on both legs, I agreed to take the project on. During July and August, I camped seven weeks and solo walked twenty-seven trails, including Glen Helen, with camera and micro-cassette recorder in hand. Then I spent all September writing as many as 12 hours a day. The third edition of *Fifty Hikes in Ohio* reached me the first week of April, and it has been selling well ever since.

Am I ready to revise *Fifty More Hikes in Ohio* next summer? I’m non-committal on that. But I am still above the sod, not moving as fast as I once did, exploring Ohio alone on foot as often as I can, still camping under Ohio skies, and still playing with the TBDBITL Alumni Band, but only on the sit-down gigs.

It’s great to see all of you this evening and to know that the Glen is in good hands and that there are still lots of folks like you who care dearly about that precious 1000-acre natural area.” 🌿

## The Glen through Ralph’s Lens

An avid photographer, here are some of the iconic images of the Glen Ralph Ramey took in his early years at Glen Helen:



The Grotto of the Yellow Spring – note the vegetation.



The Drive to the Outdoor Education Center – note the lack of honeysuckle.



The Pine Forest in its prime.



The Little Blue Hole on Birch Creek.

to Illinois to see Greater Prairie Chickens and to the Texas Coastal bend to see Whooping Cranes. In 1983, we brought a Smithsonian traveling Exhibit about the Galapagos Islands to the Glen and it occurred to me that perhaps we could put together a trip to that magic locale. For next six years, we did a trip once or twice a year. We were on the leading edge of the now huge business now

Chief of Natural Areas and Preserves, a job that I could not turn down. One that took me home to Columbus and closer to OSU and my beloved Buckeyes and The Best Damned Band In The Land Alumni Band. In 1994, I retired from ODNR but didn’t stop my involvement in worthy organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, the Cedar Bog Association and the Ohio Prairie Association.



# White-Tailed Deer and the Balance of Nature

Beautiful, majestic, and dangerously overabundant, white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) have been an integral component of Ohio and the Eastern Deciduous Forest since the end of the Ice Age. For much of that time, their population was healthy and stable – Ohio's forests provided plentiful food and cover, and large predators such as the wolf and cougar kept the deer numbers in check. Indigenous tribes hunted deer for food, tools, and trade, but it was not until widespread European settlement began in the late 1700s that the deer population began to dramatically change. Unrestricted hunting in the 1800s, along with a human population increase caused the deer population to plummet. By the early 1900s they were nearly extirpated from Ohio. Through a restocking effort, and the creation and enforcement of wildlife laws, their population climbed over the 1900s. In 1937, deer were found in just 28 Ohio counties; by 1956, they had expanded to occupy all Ohio counties. Statewide, their current fall population is approximately 725,000.

**T**oday, white-tailed deer have a strong influence on the Glen Helen ecosystem. These grazers can eat over 7 pounds of foliage a day! As such, their presence on the landscape influences the distribution and abundance of herbaceous and woody plant species. Also, deer can rapidly reproduce, and in their role as 'keystone' herbivores, are able to restructure entire ecological communities. They are changing what plant species will be in Glen Helen in the future, and negatively impacting the biodiversity of the preserve.

Before European settlement, dry upland areas in Glen Helen were dominated by oaks and hickories. This is evidenced by relic 300-year-old white oaks which can still be found in the tree canopy between the Yellow Spring and the Birch Creek Cascades. However, it is hard not to notice the replacements for these trees are not oaks or hickories. Baby white oaks are very desirable to deer, so you may see that lots of our young trees are forked or have multiple stems from being browsed, but you will rarely find a 2-year-old white oak.

Newly sprouted baby oak leaves are bright pink when they first



A white oak with its newly emerged leaves. Note the forked growth characteristic due to deer browsing. This oak is being watched and protected by Glen Helen staff.

emerge in the spring. This gives us the opportunity to find them, and when we do, we put up a cage to protect them from deer browse. You may have seen these cages in the north Glen. We currently have over 80 oaks caged, and we hope that some of these saplings will live as long as their parents. We have to be quick with the cages though! Last spring I found a baby oak, cherry, and maple all within a few feet of each other. I placed a makeshift marker of honeysuckle so that I could return to the location with fence and post materials. But when I returned, I

» Map showing location of deer during the March 2018 population study. Note that each deer icon could represent anywhere from 1 to 9 individual deer.



Cages protecting baby white oaks. Without protection from deer, we stand to lose white oaks from Glen Helen as mature oaks die off, and saplings are unable to grow.

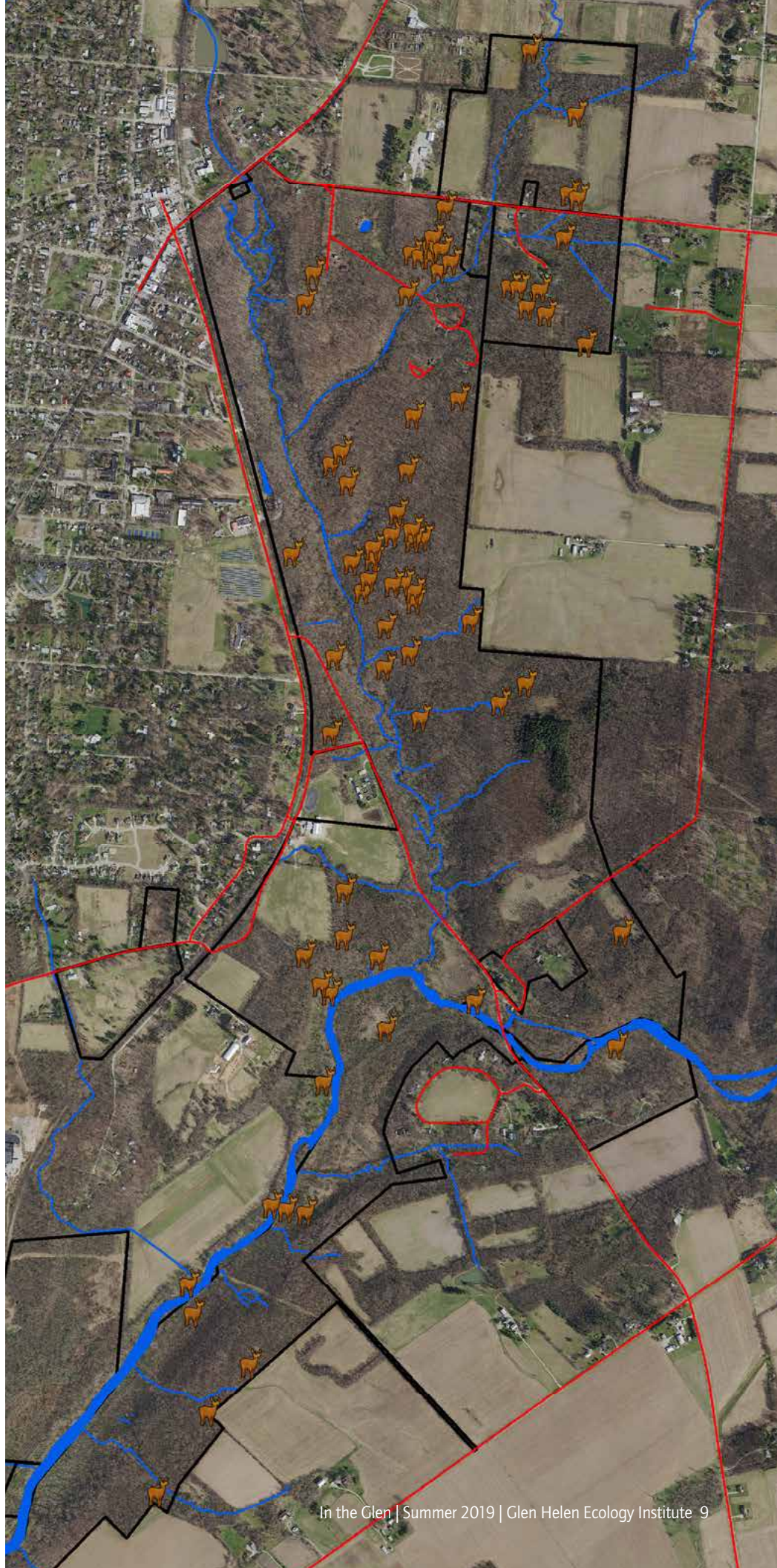
found only the cherry and maple; the oak had been eaten by a deer. This differential palatability is shifting the tree community of Glen Helen – within our lifetime. Through this deer-enforced selection, our forest is changing toward a maple-dominated canopy. An unnatural shift like this creates a less resilient ecosystem through a reduction of biodiversity.

Before European settlement of Ohio, it's estimated that white-tailed deer had population density of about eight per square mile. Considering that Glen Helen is approximately 1.7 square miles, the preserve might have supported around 14 deer. Recent studies have shown that at a population density of 10 per square mile, deer suppress herbaceous plants. At 16 per square mile, they suppress woody plant regeneration.

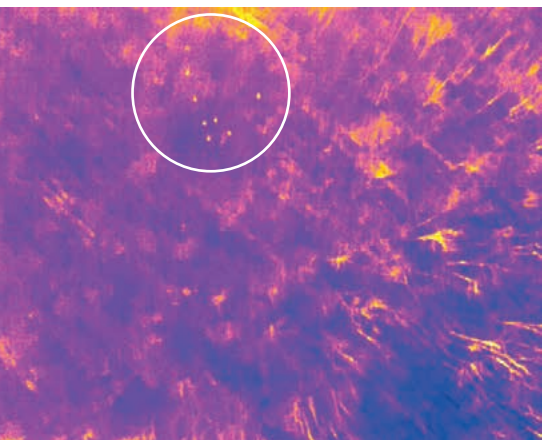
But how many deer do we have now? Until recently, we had no idea, but were confident that the preserve held more than the pre-settlement estimates. How many have you seen on a short walk in the Glen? Or along Corry Street?

In March 2018 we set out to get a population estimate of the deer in Glen Helen. We used a fixed wing unmanned aerial aircraft

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equipped with an infrared thermal camera to provide a “snapshot” of the population of a given day. We started flying on a frosty morning with hopes that we would have lots of contrast between the cold ground and the warm deer. The day-long survey accounted for 194 deer within



A raw thermal image showing eight deer in the north glen – each seen as a light spot.

the bounds of Glen Helen Nature Preserve.

This actually turns out to be a very conservative estimate, because tree cover and the topography of the Glen made it more difficult to identify deer compared to in an open field. Plus, an equipment malfunction cut our flight short by about 100 acres. Also, we surveyed the south Glen later in the day, when the temperature had warmed and the deer were harder to spot with thermal imaging. If we extrapolate the number of deer counted in the north across the entire property, we may actually have closer to 400 white-tails in the preserve.

Even with the low-end estimate, we can see that the population level is way, way out of equilibrium, with

194 deer compared to the 14 that may have been present on this landscape during pre-settlement conditions. How can the land support so many? In short, it can't. In most cases, it appears that the deer are healthy (although that may be changing too). However, plants suffer to support this population. More deer equals fewer plants, more and more deer equals fewer and fewer plants. Fewer and less diverse plants, in turn, mean a drop in diversity and abundance of pollinators, of birds – and in the overall health of the ecosystem. I often wonder what amazing scenes of wildflowers and regenerating trees we would have if we had just half the deer population we have now. And, when we think about the health of our forest, we need to remember that young trees are as important as the big ones – they will carry the forest into the next generations.

As managers charged with the stewardship and protection of this natural space it is tough to watch the health and future of the Glen be eaten right in front of our eyes. We are not the only ones who are being touched by the damaging nature of our overpopulated White-tailed deer. In 2018, Ohio drivers had a 1 in 134 chance of having a deer collision, and the national average of cost per claim was over \$4,300. Gardeners and landscapers in urban and rural areas know too well the trials and tribulations deer can cause their prized plants.

What to do about overpopulated deer in Glen Helen is one prong of a suit of problems stewards face when



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trying to safeguard the land and set the slate for the ecosystem to find a balance. Other considerations — which all play and interact with each other — are invasive species occupying ecological niches and reducing biodiversity, the lack of a natural fire regime, the lack of top predators, and humans creating disturbance through the creation of rogue trails. Balance and equilibrium are words I like to use when speaking about ecosystems and natural processes, as I have tried to illustrate with this article, a major component of our shared ecosystem is way out of balance. 🌱

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Ben Silliman ([bsilliman@glenhelen.org](mailto:bsilliman@glenhelen.org))

# Animal Ambassadors:

## The True Heroes of Raptor Education

**E**ducation is one of the two pillars of the Raptor Center's mission, and the thirty non-releasable raptors that call the Raptor Center home, are the true stars of the show. In 2018, we conducted 361 scheduled programs both at the Raptor Center, as well as throughout the greater Dayton area. During these educational programs, participants do so much more than learn about the natural history of particular species. Through the interaction with live native raptors, people are able to develop a life-long connection to their native ecosystems and the animals these ecosystems support.

Every bird that comes into the Raptor Center for rehabilitation is treated and cared for with the goal of a successful rehabilitation and release back into their wild habitat. While the Center is able to release a large percentage of

continued »



Nova, a Northern Saw-whet Owl, one of the many birds in need of adoption support.

## 2018 Numbers at a Glance.

Fifteen species were admitted. 188 birds in total

Species	Received	Released	Transferred	Pending	Euthanized	Died	DOA
Bald Eagle	3				1	1	1
Barn Owl	1				1		
Barred Owl	4	2		1	1		
Black Vulture	5	2		1	1	1	
Broad-winged Hawk	2				2		
Cooper's Hawk	26	11			6	8	1
Great Horned Owl	34	15			10	9	
American Kestrel	3	1	1			1	
Common Nighthawk	1		1				
Peregrine Falcon	6	4			2		
Red-shouldered Hawk	18	4		1	4	9	
Red-tailed Hawk	46	10		6	17	11	2
Screech Owl	23	9	1	2	6	5	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1					1	
Turkey Vulture	15	4		2	9		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>4</b>



A red-shouldered hawk ready to move to an outdoor rehabilitation enclosure was one of the many patients in 2018.

the birds under care, a smaller portion of birds are able to live long and healthy lives, but unable to perform all of the tasks necessary for success in the wild. Of these non-releasable birds, an even smaller portion are deemed suitable for joining the ranks of educational ambassadors. In order to be selected, the bird must be free from pain from its initial injury, young enough to adapt to life in captivity near humans, and possess sufficient physical capabilities to self-feed and maneuver in their enclosure. Though educational ambassadors are never domesticated nor turned into pets, they are surrounded by humans daily and learn that humans should not be a major source of stress or anxiety. Each ambassador retains its own personality and comfort levels, and as their handlers, we select the ambassador to the program carefully to ensure the bird's comfort.

The use of animal ambassadors in environmental education has been well studied and determined to be a benefit both to the learner, as well as enhance communication skills of the handler (As an example, see Fuhrman & Rubenstein; Journal of Agricultural Education) At the Raptor Center, we are fortunate enough to care for and work with nearly thirty raptors in our educational team, and every one of them has the unique ability to inspire and create life-long memories in the public and their handlers alike. 🌿

Rebecca Jaramillo (rjaramillo@glenhelen.org)

## New Raptor Adoption Levels

We depend on visitor donations, raptor adoptions and program fees to continue our important work. We are not financially supported by state or federal funds. When you adopt one of our resident raptors, you not only help us provide ongoing care for our educational ambassadors, but you also help provide specialized care needed by sick, injured or orphaned birds undergoing care in our rehabilitation facility.

Here are the new levels:

### **\$50 | Rehab Hero**

Sponsor a bird currently in the rehab center. Provide lifesaving medication and food to play a vital role in the recovery of a bird currently undergoing treatment in the center. You will receive an email with a description and picture of a bird benefiting from your generosity.

### **\$100 | Bird Buddy**

This is the entry adoption level good for one year and will provide food, housing, and medical care for one member of our educational ambassador raptor team. Receive an adoption certificate including a photo of your chosen bird in the mail and see your name listed on the bird's enclosure.

### **\$300 | Feathered Friend**

In addition to the \$100 level items, receive email photos and updates about your chosen bird four times during the yearlong adoption.

### **\$500 | Winged Warrior**

In addition to the \$100 and \$300 levels items, you and up to eight friends will receive a private tour of the Raptor Center and visit with your adopted bird.

### **\$1000 | Lifetime Adoption**

This adoption will last for the lifetime of your chosen bird and included all above adoption levels as well as a metal plaque placed on the bird's enclosure indicating your lifetime support.

### **\$1500 | Raptor Rescuer**

In addition to a Lifetime Adoption, you and up to eight friends will be invited to participate in a private raptor release. Time and location of the release will depend on the availability and needs of the raptors currently in rehabilitation.

### **\$5000, \$10,000, \$20,000 |**

#### **Name a Bird**

A unique way to honor a friend or loved one, with this opportunity to name one of education ambassadors! (Cost varies depending on expected size & lifespan of the bird.) In addition, you and up to eight friends will be invited to participate in a private raptor release. Time and location of the release will depend on the availability and needs of the raptors currently in rehabilitation.

### **\$10,000 | Shelter from the Storm**

An opportunity for naming rights to one of our Ten permanent resident enclosures. In addition, you and up to eight friends will be invited to participate in a private raptor release. Time and location of the release will depend on the availability and needs of the raptors currently in rehabilitation. 🌿

**Adopt a Raptor, for yourself or as a unique gift for someone special!**

## Reflections

### The Eyes of Glen Helen

I watch the flowers fade and bloom  
As the Year's Wheel turns.  
I look over the young saplings  
As they stretch taller  
Toward the Sun; closer each year.  
They build my forest.  
I keep a watchful eye on  
Many visitors  
That seek solace or comfort  
At my Yellow Spring.  
I see children at my Glen  
Learning to protect  
And preserve our sacred home.  
All these things I see  
Mean more than the world to me.  
The eyes of the Glen  
See what Nature means to me.  
May everyone see  
The sights that Glen Helen sees.

By Karen Mitchel 🍁



Karen Mitchel, Outdoor Education Center Naturalist Intern, 2018-19

## From the Archives



### The Print Shop, Circa 1980

Do you recognize this space?

It is now the Glen Helen Nature Shop. But, in the early years of the Vernet Ecological Center (AKA Glen Helen Building) it was where the bulk of Glen Helen publications were printed. And, the person tasked with the printing was then-director of Glen Helen, Ralph Ramey. Wearing a coverall to protect his business attire, Ralph printed newsletters and flyers in between his other responsibilities. Often, as in this photograph, he would work at night, after visitors and volunteers were gone for the day.

Any ideas what the ostrich feathers (seen at the rear of the image) were for?

## Announcements



### Glen Helen Excursions Return – This Time to the Outer Banks

After many years of keeping our programs geographically constrained, we're heading out on a farther flung foray. Glen Helen director Nick Boutis will lead a group on a birding trip to the coastal plain of North Carolina, including a day at sea in the Atlantic Gulf Stream. Departing July 24 and returning July 28.

See the Glen Helen calendar of events for more details, or set your browser to [glenhelen.org](http://glenhelen.org)



### Another Great Summer of Ecocamp Starts Soon!

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 is the focus as campers hike the trails of Glen Helen and discover the wildness and joy of nature. A variety of camps are offered for five- to fifteen-year-olds by our qualified 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).

### Seeking Great Raptor Images for Our 2019 Wall Calendar!

In commemoration of the 50th birthday of the Glen Helen Raptor Center, in 2019, we will feature an all-raptor calendar. We invite both experienced

and amateur photographers to send us images of Glen Helen's educational or rehabilitational raptors, for a chance to be featured. We hope to capture the diversity of birds found at the Raptor Center, in all seasons of the year.

The deadline for submission is July 31st, 2019. Submission forms are available at [glenhelen.org](http://glenhelen.org). Proceeds from the calendar sales support the Glen.

### "Who Cooks for You?" Returns September 8

When the barred owl sounds its call, "Who Cooks For You," Glen Helen answers. Celebrated chefs who believe in good food and good relationships with local growers, will cook for you at the annual benefit dinner for the Raptor Center. Enjoy a bountiful multi-course meal, great music, a silent auction, and close encounters with our raptors.

Proceeds support the education and rehabilitation work of the Raptor Center. Tickets become available July 1 at [glenhelen.org](http://glenhelen.org). Participation is limited, and we expect to sell out again this year, so make your plans now! Individual tickets: \$175; or purchase a table for \$1650.

#### Chefs and Restaurants for 2019

**James Beard Nominated Chef Elizabeth Wiley:** The Meadowlark Restaurant

**Executive Chef Carrie Walters:** Dorothy Lane Market

**Chef-Owner:** Elizabeth Valenti: Wheat Penny Oven and Bar

**Chef-Owner Dana Downs:** Roost Modern Italian

**Chef-Owner Doug McGregor:** Seasons Bistro and Grille

**Chef-Owner Jenn DiSanto:** Fresco Catering

**Chef Roland Eliason:** The Winds Cafe

**Chef Casey Van Voorhis:** Grist



## 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, Glen Helen 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.

## 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, contact [asimonson@glenhelen.org](mailto:asimonson@glenhelen.org).

## Check Our Wish List

We are regularly in need of new or gently used items for educational programs and staff houses. We currently need:

- ✦ Clothes for cold kids, including: winter gloves, hats
- ✦ Eco-friendly cleaning supplies, vacuum cleaner, Shop Vac, Swiffer dusters, rubber gloves
- ✦ First aid supplies, vet wrap, Pedialyte, non-stick bandage pads
- ✦ Garden supplies, including rakes, leather work gloves
- ✦ Household supplies, new/lightly used pillowcases, sheets, & towels,
- ✦ Kitchen supplies, 5-gallon food grade buckets, food grade plastic tubs, water bottles
- ✦ Project supplies, new/lightly used costumes (child & adult sizes), a squirrel pelt
- ✦ School supplies, any and all!

Please contact [tclevenger@glenhelen.org](mailto:tclevenger@glenhelen.org) before donating, to discuss your item(s) and arrange a time for pick up or drop off.




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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

405 Corry Street  
Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387-1895  
Phone 937.769.1902  
Fax 937.769.1910  
[www.glenhelen.org](http://www.glenhelen.org)

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Permit #260



"Keep close to Nature's heart... and break  
clear away, once in awhile, and climb  
a mountain or spend a week in the  
woods. Wash your spirit clean.

– John Muir

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)**