

In the Glen

NEWS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE
GLEN HELEN ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2025

Glen Helen is a living memorial to Helen Birch Bartlett, a poet, composer, world traveler, and art collector. In 2025, we celebrate Helen, and recognize the 100th anniversary of her passing.



INSIDE: The Glen Helen 2023-24 Annual Report



Dear Friends of Glen Helen

Two words can aptly summarize much of our work over the past year: Equitable access.

We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to develop and maintain a relationship with nature and the environment. Yet, we were aware that our trail system was a barrier for anyone with limited mobility. And, we were aware that economic factors were impacting who we were able to reach with our programs. We have long wanted to do better, and over the past year, we've taken major strides in that direction.

We are thrilled to be able to share what this looks like, around the Glen—we're in the midst of a host of accessibility improvements throughout the preserve. At the Raptor Center, we installed a new walkway. Now anyone, regardless of mobility limitations, is able to get a close look at the hawks, owls, eagles, and vultures there.

We're improving our trail system, for the sake of visitors and habitats alike. The rustic nature of the preserve is surely one of the things that makes Glen Helen special. Yet, in many places, our trails cross streams and springs, leading to mud and erosion. In these places, we're adding bridges and boardwalks to make the Glen both healthier and more visit-able.

We're reaching out to underserved populations, to ensure that every child gets an opportunity to develop

a relationship with nature. With scholarship funds we've raised on their behalf, we're hosting a growing number of kids who had no prior experience in the outdoors. When they get their hands wet in our beaver pond, they establish a connection to their local environment that will stay with them for years to come.

We're expanding interpretive training for adults. This past year, we became the local host for the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist program—several of whom attended with scholarship assistance. Graduates of the course are already putting their new skills to use volunteering in the Glen.

Many of these accomplishments were commitments that we made as part of our Campaign to Secure the Future of Glen Helen. This \$4.25M campaign was designed to cover urgent needs, including purchasing and reopening the preserve, restarting programs shuttered during the pandemic, and attending to public safety and code compliance. With gratitude to the over 800 individuals, couples, families, businesses, agencies, and organizations who participated, the campaign drew to a successful conclusion in 2024.

Of course, this is on top of our ongoing efforts, from managing invasive species, to offering life-shaping environmental learning programs, to providing rapid response rehabilitation to injured birds of prey. We are grateful to you for helping make this work possible.

Nick Boutis
Executive Director, Glen Helen Association

Margaret Dunn, MD
President, Glen Helen Association Board of Trustees

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

Contributors
Editor: Nick Boutis; Contributors: Nick Boutis, Kat Christen, Margaret Dunn, Rebecca Jaramillo, Ashley Mason, Betty Ross, Meigan Turner, Annabel Welsh, Design: Jennifer Perry

Glen Helen Nature Preserve
Trails are open daily, sunrise to sunset. All wildlife, vegetation, and natural features are protected. For general information: 937-769-1902

Administrative Offices
405 Corry Street, Yellow Springs, OH 45387 | 937-769-1902

Vernet Ecological Center
405 Corry Street, Yellow Springs, OH 45387
Daily 10am-4pm (except holidays)

Nature Shop
Located in the Vernet Ecological Center
405 Corry Street, Yellow Springs, OH 45387
Thurs-Sun, 10am-4pm | Fri. - Sun, 10am-4pm (Jan. - March)

Trailside Museum
505 Corry Street, Yellow Springs, OH 45387
Spring hours: Wed, Sat, Sun, 1-4pm

Outdoor Education Center
Overnight environmental education center for school groups and summer Ecocamps. 1075 State Route 343, Yellow Springs, OH 45387 | 937-767-7648

Raptor Center
Raptor education and rehabilitation. Visitors are welcome to visit and see the resident birds.
Spring hours: 9am-6pm
1075 State Route 343, Yellow Springs, OH 45387
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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Grinnell Mill Bed and Breakfast
Manager: Susie Butler

www.glenhelen.org

Cover photo: Helen Birch Bartlett

— Poet • Composer • World Traveler • Art Collector —

Helen Birch Bartlett

Helen Birch Bartlett lived a life that was equal parts privilege and loss. She was born in Chicago, in 1884, at a time when the city was rapidly changing. Over her life, Chicago grew from a small city of five hundred thousand to a metropolis of over three million. Her parents, Hugh Taylor Birch and Maria Sophronia Root Birch, had three children. She was the youngest, and the only one to survive past her twenties. Her brother Carlton lived to the age of only four years old, dying before Helen was born. Her brother Hugh Jr. passed in 1907 at the age of 28; her mother passed in 1913. Her father was a successful attorney and real estate speculator.

Her friend Janet Fairbank described Helen's childhood: "Her parents were members of an intimate group of cultured people who valiantly insisted on the development of art in the crude new city they were helping to build. In her childhood, she heard great talk of creating a symphony orchestra and an art museum. She was taken assiduously to operas. In her mother's house, she met the artists of the world, the singers and the painters and the writers...Her education was a singularly enlightened one for her period. She was taught mainly by governesses, and traveled much."

Helen and her father Hugh were close. He had grown up in Yellow Springs, and developed a love of nature from many hours exploring the Glen. She shared this love of nature with him, and they were frequent travel companions. In 1914, she came to Yellow Springs with him, her first, and possibly only trip to the Glen that would come to bear her name. It is said that she loved the place and the visit deepened the love for nature that she shared with him.

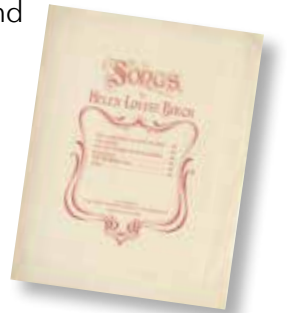
*He'll know my birds and My trees and my flowers
And in friendship or in strife He'll be a man as I
love a man And live a Good Man's life.*

From "Big Boss," written by Helen, at age 15, about her father Hugh

Helen and Hugh were frequent visitors to Florida, where Hugh had acquired hundreds of acres of land in what has grown to become metropolitan Fort Lauderdale. She was drawn to Florida, and spent many winters there.



Helen was a fixture of the Chicago music scene, and a supporter of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. She herself studied music with the German expatriate Bernhard Ziehn, a music theorist and teacher of harmony and composition in Chicago. She also composed music, writing and publishing musical settings to poems by Yeats and Matthew Arnold, among others. Several of her published songs are housed at



Chicago's Newberry Library.

After gaining success publishing songs, Helen turned to a new form of artistic expression, poetry. She was a personal friend of Harriet Monroe, then the editor of Poetry magazine, widely regarded as America's most significant poetry journal. For sake of propriety, Helen submitted poems for consideration under a pseudonym, only coming forward as the author once the journal had agreed to publish them. Her poems featured free verse, a writing style that was newly becoming popular. Often brief, frequently featured themes of joy, mortality, beauty, and nature. In 1927, her collected poems were published in *Capricious Winds*.



Little Joys

*How sweet a thing it is,
The way hundreds of little joys
Will gather and chatter and huddle
themselves,
Lovingly,
About a great sorrow!*

Capricious Winds, published by Houghton Mifflin Co, 1927

In 1919, Helen married Frederick Clay Bartlett, a painter and art patron who, like her, had come from a successful Chicago family. On land gifted by her father in Fort Lauderdale, Helen and Frederick built Bonnet House, named for the Bonnet lilies that grew in the area. Today, the house and its gardens are a museum, located across the street from Hugh Taylor Birch State Park.

Helen and Frederick were frequent, and worldly, travelers. For their honeymoon, they traveled to Japan, China, and the Philippines. They made many trips to Europe, much of which fed, and was fed by, their passion for collecting art.

Helen and Frederick had a remarkable talent for anticipating which artists and paintings would become significant. The Helen Birch Bartlett Memorial Collection, at the Art Institute of Chicago, is a testament to their vision. The collection showcases works that they acquired, painted by Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Paul Cézanne, Vincent van Gogh, and others. Their most celebrated acquisition is surely Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte, the masterpiece by Georges Seurat.



Paintings from the Helen Birch Bartlett Collection at the Art Institute of Chicago. Clockwise from upper left:

Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte by Georges Seurat

The Old Guitarist by Pablo Picasso

The Basket of Apples by Paul Cezanne



Helen passed in October 1925, from breast cancer. She was only 42 years old. Her father sought to create a living memorial so that we might know Helen's name and her legacy. With his expertise in real estate, and his knowledge of the wooded valleys on the eastern edge of Yellow Springs, he acquired the land so that Glen Helen would be forever preserved in her name.

The Cascades Branch of the Yellow Springs Creek was renamed Birch Creek, and on a glacial boulder near a great white oak by the Cascades, a plaque was placed with an excerpt of Helen's poem *Up In The Hills*.

*The earth smells old and warm and mellow, and all things lie in peace.
I too serenely lie here under the white-oak tree, and know the splendid flight of hours all blue and gay, sun-drenched and still.*

As you walk the Glen, think of Helen. Glen Helen is here, as a place to walk, learn, explore, and seek inspiration in nature because of her. 🍀

My Message

*When I go,
Carry me this message
To a few of my friends:
Tell them to forget me
Most of the time,
That I'll be far away
On some business of my own.
But on all clear windy mornings
Tell them I'll be there
In the sunlight,
Flickering around;
And sometimes,
When the water ripples soft
Against the land,
And the afternoon
Is one of those quiet bazy ones,
I'll be near by,
Making them think about me
Then.*

— Exploring The Connection Between Birds and The Fine Arts — The Beautiful World of Birds

Have you ever wondered why birds are featured so heavily in various forms of artistic expression? Poems from Emily Dickinson and Maya Angelou describe fleeting interactions between the narrator and the bird that encourage the reader to question themes such as empowerment, and self consciousness. Songs about birds incorporate just about every musical style from Bob Marley to Julie Andrews. But perhaps the most ubiquitous use of birds in art is in the visual arts.

From the earliest days of the Egyptians, bold black and white and gold birds were painted on the walls of the pharaoh's sarcophagus. Egyptians used their most expensive pigment, deep blue, to paint their god Horus, the falcon king of the gods. Moving into the Baroque time period, artists focused on the intricate patterns in the feathers of peacocks, pheasants and parrots. The rich colors found on these feathers extended beyond the painting and influenced fashion and room decor as well. In fact, feathers were so much a part of fashion for so long that the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act was developed to protect birds due to the hunting pressure put upon them from the fashion industry.



By the impressionist time period, it was the texture of feathers that inspired artists such as Bruno Liljefors, a Swedish artist of the early nineteenth century known for his wildlife art that had a particularly heavy focus on birds. Not to be left out, the great naturalists of the world were also heavily involved in the art world and their art was often collected and valued for its own merit beyond the scientific value. As realism came in and out of fashion,



Top: Ollie the Eastern screech-owl poses by his portraits
Bottom: Participants paint a Barred owl at a "Beer and Birds" program

we see the incredibly detailed works of John James Audubon, George Edwards, Roger Tory Peterson, David Sibley, Robert Bateman and Ohio's own Don Eckelberry. All of these naturalists combined a love for art and the beauty of birds to not only create valuable scientific resources but also inspire the layperson to develop a love and appreciation for the beauty and elegance of their avian subjects.

In the end, it is this appreciation for birds and nature that is the true gift. Whether through written language, musical inspiration or visual stimulation the audience connects to the birds via the emotions evoked by the artwork in a deeper way than they had previously. Emotional connection is the very core of the work we do at the Raptor Center, and why we incorporate books, photography and art into our library of program offerings. By using all the tools at our disposal, we are able to connect on a deeper level with more people and build those connections between the public and the birds we so love. In the end, it is connection that will drive action, and action that will lead to change. So pick up a pencil and let's see what beautiful connections you can make!

 Rebecca Jaramillo
rjaramillo@glenhelenassociation.org



New Raptor Programs

Check out our [calendar of events for multiple new program offerings](#) from the Raptor Center, including:

Who's hatching: Celebrate the joy of springtime and learn about raptor babies. Saturday, March 22.

Raptor Photography Program: An opportunity to capture stunning pictures of birds in a natural setting. Sunday April 13 and Sunday April 18. Only 12 tickets will be sold for each day.

Deep Dive into Drawing Raptors: A six-week series to explore the artistic world of bird anatomy. This course will equip artists with the opportunity to draw raptors from life. April 5 through May 17.

— At The Glen — Cultivating Naturalists

The seeds of last year's Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) course have taken root across the Glen providing an impressive show of volunteer support. A program of the Ohio State University held across the state, the OCVN training was coordinated and hosted for the first time at the Glen in spring of 2024. During the training, local and state-wide experts imparted naturalist knowledge and shared their deep love of the natural world with our community of trainees.

The program blends Ohio-wide information, presented through the official OCVN manual, with valuable insights from local experts and conservationists who possess intimate knowledge of the Glen and the surrounding Miami Valley. The curriculum covers ten topics such as botany, soils, aquatic life, wildlife, and forest ecology.

This unique blended approach allows participants to apply their learning directly. For instance, a session on birds might involve pre-reading a chapter in the OCVN manual followed by a guided birdwatching hike on the Glen trails, led by a local expert. Trainees would also visit the Raptor Center to learn from staff engaged in the day-to-day work of raptor care and rehabilitation. These place-based, practical experiences enhance understanding and foster a deeper appreciation for our local environment.

The impact of the program is already evident. Graduates from the 2024 course are actively engaged in supporting the Glen, contributing significantly to our mission of land stewardship and providing life-shaping environmental learning to our visitors. They have volunteered at Trailside Museum and our Nature Shop, and led engaging public programs such as beavers in the Glen hikes, eco-game nights, Golden Walkers Club, and a winter sensory hike.

All 16 slots for the Glen Helen spring 2025 OCVN course are already filled! We look to offer the program again in the future.

 Kat Christen, Deputy Director
kchristen@glenhelenassociation.org

Rent The Glen

Did you know that Glen Helen has many unique rental facilities for hosting a variety of functions such as weddings, graduation parties, reunions, celebrations of life and business retreats?




Vernet Ecological Center

With its spacious auditorium and beautiful natural stone patio, Vernet Ecological Center is the perfect space for weddings, receptions, celebrations of life, dances, and business meetings.


Camp Greene

The 200-person capacity lodge and outdoor spaces make Camp Greene the ideal private location for weddings, receptions, family reunions, business retreats, and celebrations of life.


Birch Manor

Birch Manor's historic home and surrounding lawns are a welcoming setting for weddings, receptions, and business retreats.


Outdoor Education Center Lodge

The cafeteria-style dining room, lobby area with fireplace, and outdoor areas make the Outdoor Education Center Lodge a great place for day retreats, birthday & anniversary celebrations, and family reunions.

Please visit glenhelen.org/rentals for photos and information. For rates, questions, or to schedule a tour, contact rentals@glenhelenassociation.org or 937-769-1902 x1101.



Pull Out Program Calendar >



MARCH APRIL MAY 2025 Glen Helen Program Calendar

MARCH

14 **FRI**

Full Worm Moon Hike
8-9:30pm
Join Brendan Baumann for a night hike under the full moon. Moderate one mile hike. \$5, Glen Helen members free. Registration required. Trailside Museum, 505 Corry St.

15 **SAT**

Late Winter Birding
8-10am
We'll search the north Glen for winter residents and early spring migrants on this two-mile walk. \$5 Registration required. Glen Helen members free. Trailside Museum, 505 Corry St.

22 **SAT**

Who's Hatching?
12-3pm
Come to the Raptor Center to celebrate the joy of springtime, and learn all about how birds get ready for new beginnings. How do birds build nests? What do different types of bird eggs look like? What do baby birds eat? See if you can identify our ambassador birds by their baby pictures! Drop in anytime from 12-3pm to meet live ambassadors, do crafts and learn about spring from a bird's eye view. Program is free, donations are always appreciated. Raptor Center, 1075 State Route 343.



29 **SAT**

Spring Beauty Wildflower Walk
1:30-3:30pm
Trillium, Hepatica and Mayapple, oh my! Join our volunteer naturalist, Tom Sabin, as we explore the trails in search of emerging plants and spring flowers. Registration required. \$5, Glen Helen members free. Trailside Museum, 505 Corry St.

APRIL

5 **SAT**

Venue Open House Extravaganza
2-4pm
Are you looking for a venue for your upcoming wedding, reception, or other special event? Please join us for open houses at our venues! Snacks, light refreshments, and drawings for discounted rates will be available. No RSVP required. Birch Manor: 720 Jacoby Rd. Camp Greene: 3452 Grinnell Rd. Vernet Ecological Center: 405 Corry St.

SAT

Deep Dive into Drawing Raptors
Saturday Series: April 5, 12, 26, May 3, 10, 17
12-2:30pm
Join us for a six-week series to explore the artistic world of bird anatomy. This curriculum will equip artists with the opportunity to draw raptors from life and learn the necessary skills to depict raptor anatomy into two dimensional art. We will be using charcoal and graphite and breaking birds up into pieces of anatomy and concepts then putting them back together as a whole at the end of the series. Participants will need to bring a newspaper pad, drawing pad, and set of graphite pencils (1HB, 1 2B, 1 2H). All other supplies will be provided. Age 14+. Registration for the six-part series is \$150 (\$120 for members). Registration required. Glen Helen Outdoor Education Center-Yurt, 1075 State Route 343.

12 **SAT**

Full Pink Moon and Pine Forest Hike
8:30-10pm
Join volunteer naturalist Tom Sabin, on this guided hike through the Pine Forest and the nearby School Forest, covering 3 miles of moderately strenuous terrain. As you hike through the pine-scented air, discover fascinating facts about the lunar cycle and the natural beauty of the forest. \$5, Glen Helen members free. Registration required. Trailside Museum, 505 Corry St.

12 **SAT**

Helen Birch Bartlett—Why should we remember her?
2pm
Many are familiar with the fact that Hugh Taylor Birch named Glen Helen in remembrance of his daughter Helen. In recognition of the 100th anniversary of her passing, join Glen Helen volunteer Bill Kent as he explores the background, and personal accomplishments that Helen had on the world. Free. Preregistration not required. Yellow Springs Library, 415 Xenia Ave.

13 **SUN**

Raptor Photography Program
10-11:30am
Join us in the Baldwin Pond meadow for an opportunity to capture stunning pictures of hawks, owls, and falcons in natural settings while learning about their natural history, behaviors and importance for maintaining healthy ecosystems. The raptor photography program offers a unique blend of education, adventure, and close-up experience, making it ideal for photographers of all skill levels. Whether you're looking to expand your portfolio, connect with nature, or simply enjoy a day of outdoor photography, this program promises an enriching and rewarding experience. Bring your high speed lens for a chance to capture some birds in flight as well. Tickets are \$50, (\$40 for Glen Helen members). Only 12 tickets will be sold! Park in the 1075 State Route 343 Parking Lot. Rain date: April 20.

19 **SAT**

Earth Day Weekend Birding
8-10am
During this early spring migration walk, we'll search for sandpipers in the Little Miami, Yellow-throated warblers in the Sycamore trees, and Wood Ducks overhead. \$5. Registration required. Glen Helen members free. Grinnell Mill, 3536 Bryan Park Rd.

26 **SAT**

Spring Sensory Hike
1:30-3pm
Join Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, Amy Harper, for this 1.5 mile moderate, calming hike. Experience the Glen in a new way using all your senses in this engaging guided hike. All ages welcome. Registration required & space limited. Trailside Museum, 505 Corry St.



27 **SUN**

Yellow Springs Earth Day & Community Habitat Celebration
1-4 pm
Visit the Glen Helen booth at this downtown Yellow Springs celebration! "Milkweed for Monarchs" raffie; native plants for sale; kids' activities; music & food trucks. On the lawn at West North College & Livermore Streets, Yellow Springs. Free. Registration not required. More details: www.ywildlifehabitat.com/upcoming-events

MAY

3 **SAT**

Spring Beauty Wildflower Walk
1:30-3:30pm
Join our volunteer naturalist, Tom Sabin, as we explore the trails in search of emerging plants and spring flowers. Registration required. \$5, Glen Helen members free. Trailside Museum, 505 Corry St.

10 **SAT**

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



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

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

8:30am: Pine Forest Walk | Migratory songbirds, with occasional sightings of the colorful pine warbler. MEETING SPOT: Horace Mann Meadow, Bryan Park Rd., just south of John Bryan St. Park entrance.

12pm: Tally Rally | Birders share what they've found (and what they've missed). Nosh on complimentary snacks and coffee. LOCATION: Trailside Museum.

12:30pm: The Homestead Walk | The sparsely visited area of the South Glen is home to a recently restored wetland. MEETING SPOT: The far end of West Jacoby Rd. (Access from Rt. 68)

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

3:30pm: Prairie and River Walk | We'll walk through the South Glen along the Little Miami. MEETING SPOT: The Little Miami Bridge on Grinnell Rd.

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

10 **SAT**

Full Flower Moon and Wildflower Hike
8:30-10:30 pm
Join volunteer Pan Reich on this moderate 1-mile hike under the glow of the moon. \$5, Glen Helen members free. Registration required. Trailside Museum, 505 Corry St.

17 **SAT**

Beavers in the Glen Hike
1:30-3pm
Join Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, Heather Cooper, on a 1-mile hike to visit the beaver dam and lodge. Registration required & space limited. \$5, Glen Helen members free. Trailside Museum, 505 Corry St.

18 **SUN**

Raptor Photography Program
10-11:30am
See April 13 for details. Tickets are \$50, (\$40 for Glen Helen members). Only 12 tickets will be sold! Park in the 1075 State Route 343 Parking Lot. Rain date: May 25.

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



— Glen Helen —
Announcements

**Ecocamp registration
now available**

Give your child a truly one-of-a-kind summer camp experience where they have the time of their lives, while learning about the natural world. Investigation and exploration are 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.

**Save the date for Whoo
Cooks for You 2025**

An extraordinary feast benefiting the Raptor Center will take place : Sunday, September 14, 2025. The area's best chefs prepare stunning, multi-course meals for our guests to enjoy among live raptors, a silent auction, signature art & cocktails. Ticket sales open July 1, 2025. Event sponsorship available. All sponsors receive advanced ticket purchase options. Limited tickets will be available, and the event is likely to sell out quickly! glenhelen.org/whoo-cooks-for-you



**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 or renews these specialty plates, the Glen Helen Association receives \$15.

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. Visit glenhelen.org/volunteer

Eco-Birthdays

Celebrate your child's birthday with a nature-themed party at Glen Helen!

- Live animal encounter and outdoor activity included
- For ages 4 to 12
- Two hours of private party space for up to 20 people
- Party room set up with tables, chairs, and table coverings
- 4 program themes to choose from

For inquiries and bookings, please contact rentals@glenhelenassociation.org or 937-769-1902 x1101

Sponsor a Raptor

When you sponsor one of our 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. Sponsorship levels start at just \$50 per year. Your sponsorship of \$1,000 or more will last for the birds lifetime. Visit glenhelen.org/sponsor-a-raptor for full details, include a complete list of all of our resident raptors.



Grinnell Mill Bed & Breakfast offers beautiful accommodations in an expertly restored, historic grist mill located in Glen Helen on the banks of the Little Miami River. Breakfast and Wi-Fi access are included during your stay. The mill is also available to rent for private events such as retreats, meetings, conferences, parties, etc.

For more information or availability: visit grinnellmillbandb.com. Ready to book your stay? Call Susie Butler at 937-307-5529 or find us on AirBNB.com.

— Joan Horn and Jean Sanford Replinger —
In Lasting Memory

Two of the long-time directors of the Outdoor Education Center, Joan Horn and Jean Sanford Replinger, reached the end of their days this past year. We remember them, and their prodigious contributions to Glen Helen and the field of environmental learning.

Joan Horn



A remembrance from Betty Ross, close friend and former colleague.

Joan graduated from Antioch College, stayed in Yellow Springs to raise her family, and taught at

Mills Lawn School for ten years. She then got her master's degree in Environmental Education, and landed her dream job in 1979 as Director of the Outdoor Education Center. I met her there in 1985 when I inquired about a Wright State class she was teaching that summer. Then she persuaded me to apply for the naturalist internship and I did. Not only did I begin a new career, but a wonderful friendship with Joan that continued to the end.

She was the Outdoor Education Center Director until 1997, almost 18 years. She loved the traditions of the Center with its emphasis on cooperation instead of competition, and learning to live and work together successfully. She did the session each term with the new naturalists on values, and kept the fun reminders of the "no wasted food" cheer, and the "golden dustpan award" going, but moved ahead with curriculum changes, of course. She started a program with student teachers, hosted Elderhostels for grandparents and Ecocamper grandchildren, and even designed a weekend event focused on birding activities, called Smorgasbird!

She was frugal to the extreme, with Odd Lots being her go-to store. She made all the curtains for the dorms and staff houses, cloth napkins with initials for the new naturalists, blindfolds for kid activities, and costumes for evening programs. There wasn't much she couldn't do, and if she encountered a problem, she did her best to figure out a solution. She stayed very busy, which is what she liked, but always had time for you.

She was welcoming and supportive to everyone who came to the Outdoor Education Center. She also loved hosting staff sharing times and dinners at her home. Dessert was her forte! As an eternal optimist, her glass wasn't just half full, but up to the top and overflowing. According to her there was no such thing as bad weather, just different kinds of good weather! And that sentiment extended to more than just the weather.

She formed special bonds with many of the teachers who brought their classes to the Outdoor Education Center, and even more with many of the naturalists. She sometimes traveled to join special events in their lives, or hosted them at her house for visits. Her Antioch Education Abroad trips had expanded to welcoming international students, and when several interns came from Brazil, she returned to help them start an outdoor education center there. Now that's going the extra mile!

Upon retirement, Joan expressed this accomplishment, which may be brief, but really says a whole lot:

"I believe we have produced a large number of well-informed environmental advocates and provided unforgettable experiences for both schoolchildren, adults, and naturalists."

Yes, Joan, you did, and so much more, and we truly thank you.

Jean Sanford Replinger



Jean Sanford Replinger was the first director of the Outdoor Education Center, running the program from its 1956 founding through the late 1960s. She passed away in November 2024 at the age of 96.

Writing in 2007, Jean described the process of starting the Outdoor Education Center. It was a fast-moving, organic effort, where they were barely “able to lay tracks ahead of the train.”

“So many had been involved in the planning years and efforts...and the ball started rolling with the tearing down and sorting of useful materials from the old skating rink and the old barracks from which things were brought to the site so as to prove to the potential funders that we were serious about our intent to have such a venture.”

So many people from the campus and the local and surrounding community were in on the efforts of getting an Outdoor Education Center in the Glen that it was the ‘precious collective joyous time’ you feel on those occasions when:

...you see the collective way for a dream to become a reality and there’s something for everyone to do, or

...similar to how everyone feels empowered in the way and their ability to help after a disaster, or

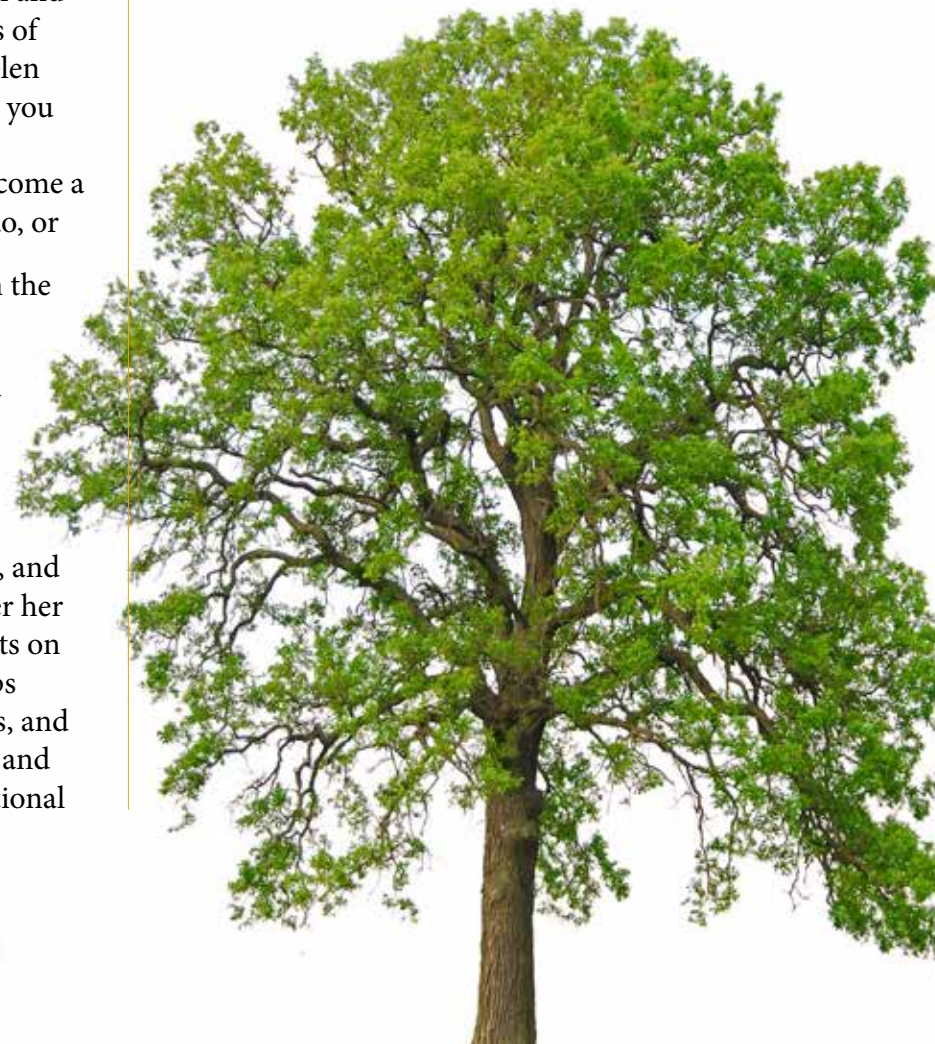
...all the bodies in the universe seem to have a part in pulling together.”

Jean’s passion for nature, for mentoring others, and for bringing people together continued on after her time at Glen Helen. She took groups of students on hiking trips in the Smoky Mountains; bike trips across the United States, the Canadian Rockies, and Europe; and spelunking expeditions to survey and map cave systems. She also created an international

exchange program for teachers, joining cultures and ideas from around the world. She championed and led the first Outward Bound experience for women. She also guided people with disabilities into the wilderness, ensuring that the wonder of the outdoors was available to everyone. As a professor at Southwest Minnesota State University, the next adventure was always just around the corner: winter camping, cross-country skiing, orienteering, whitewater canoeing.

Strong-willed, Jean was a force of curiosity—as much oak tree as hummingbird.

 Betty Ross, Retired Director, Glen Helen Raptor Center



ANNUAL REPORT



The Raptor Center

- We never turn a raptor away! This year, we took in 219 injured, orphaned, or starving birds of prey, that received specialized medical care with the goal of returning healthy birds to the wild.
- We had a busy year for Raptor Center educational programs, reaching 6,724 participants through 154 programs.
- As part of our efforts to make the Glen more visit-able for those with limited mobility, we installed a new, ADA compliant path around the enclosures for our educational ambassador birds.
- Providing training for the next generation of wildlife educators and rehabilitators is a core component of our work. Each year, we take on several interns, who while learning the operations of the Raptor Center, help make our work possible. This year’s interns included Caroline Cohen, Eva Hill, and Sydnie Matda.
- We were a regular feature on the Fox 45 Morning Show, and shared information and stories about our raptor education programs and rehabilitation efforts.
- Thanks to an ongoing partnership with the Yellow Springs Community Foundation, we hosted two students who served as Miller Fellows: Leon Morris and Everest Wass.

- We offered our signature event, *Who Cooks for You*, under a big tent in the Glen. The event made \$100,149 gross, in support of the work of the Raptor Center. We are grateful to everyone who made it a success.

The Outdoor Education Center

- To reach new audiences, and better meet community needs, we rolled out several new programs, including Tulip Treez—skill-based programs designed for homeschooled children; Winter Break Camp—for an environmental education experience between Christmas and New Year’s Day; and CSU Weekend—a college readiness camp, in partnership with nearby HBCU Central State University.
- Our naturalist internship trains passionate people to become gifted environmental educators during their time in the Glen. We hosted a five-person cohort in fall 2023, and an eight-person cohort in spring 2024. (Fall: Larkyn Alley, Mallory Campbell, Eileen Haney, Emily Imhoff, Sadie Kuchel; Spring: Eliza Browning, Alivia Fergus, Jan Hach, Maddie Innocenti, Zach Johnson, Samuel Kerr, Dana Raber, Sydney Shaw)
- We welcomed more kids than ever for an amazing week of summer Ecocamps, hosting 421 campers in 2023 and 493 in 2024.

- 2,602 schoolchildren, from 28 schools, had a life-shaping visit to the Outdoor Education Center and Glen Helen. This marked the first year we were able to host school groups in the fall semester since before the pandemic.

Around the Glen

- Trailside Museum is now reopened to the public, after a flurry of renovations made possible by major support from Center-Point Energy and the Yellow Springs Community Foundation. In addition to multiple building repairs, we installed new exhibits, including tanks with a variety of native Ohio fish and reptiles, a sound system to capture nearby bird calls, and a custom floor mural from artist Pierre Nagley.
- We celebrated the successful completion of the **Campaign to Secure the Future of Glen Helen**. Remarkably, 828 individuals, couples, families, businesses, agencies, and organizations came forward to support the campaign, allowing us to meet our goal of raising \$4,250,000 to finance the purchase of the preserve, restart programs shuttered by the COVID pandemic, reopen the preserve to the public, and attend to urgent code, safety, and accessibility issues.

- We could not do the work that we do, without the significant and tireless contributions of volunteers, in every area of the organization. Over 60 dedicated volunteers worked in land management, programs, the raptor center, the nature shop, special events, education and administrative projects. There were 3,135 volunteer hours given to the Glen, valued at \$99,690.
- The Vernet Ecological Center, Camp Greene, and Birch Manor were popular destinations for weddings, celebrations of life, meetings and retreats, and functions. We hosted 39 such events over the year.
- Social media: By the end of the year, we had 27,289 followers on facebook.com/glenhelen, and 1,490 followers on instagram.com/glenhelennature. Our most seen post, from November 2023, shared an image of the Inman Trail boardwalk at the beaver pond, and had a reach of 281,046 Facebook users.



- The Vernet Ecological Center is now home to an original fiber art work by Beth Holyoke and Kathi Seidel, entitled “Fungi Fantasy-Looking,” a creative installation exploring the varied and fascinating world of living fungi.
- Through a partnership with Canopy Strategic Partners, we learned that 40% of our visitors come from a half-hour away or less, and that 36% of our visitors travel over an hour to get to the Glen.

On the Land

We have been busy attending to the ecological health of the preserve, public safety, and accessibility. Over the year, our work included:

- Processed over 48 acres of woody invasives including bush honeysuckle, common privet, multiflora rose, autumn olive, and Asian bittersweet.
- Managed non-woody herbaceous invasives including lesser celandine (190 acres!), garlic mustard, dame’s rocket, and stiltgrass (30 acres) and cleared 118 trail obstructions
- We made improvements to the stone steps descending from Trailside Museum, and constructed new bridges on the Lower Birch Creek and Fire Road Trails. Work began on a series of bridges and boardwalks on the rugged Talus Trail, with plans to see this trail reopened by 2025.
- Removed 25 hazard trees, also a great white oak which was leaning toward the Vernet Ecological Center. We calculated its age at 250 years old!
- Thanks to a generous donation, we are now the proud owners of a new Utility Terrain Vehicle. Our land management team will be able to use this to better haul material around the Glen for our trail and habitat stewardship work.
- We’re studying the feeding habits of the beavers, through a partnership with researchers at the University of Dayton. In an ongoing commitment to work around the beavers, rather than require them to work around us, we raised the boardwalks in the location of their pond.

- Interacted with visitors regarding rules on 407 instances.
- Thanks to an ongoing partnership with the Yellow Springs Community Foundation, we hosted Emily Fried who served as a Miller Fellow.
- We began work on a multi-year project to make it easier for people with limited mobility to access Glen Helen trails, starting construction on a new parking area.

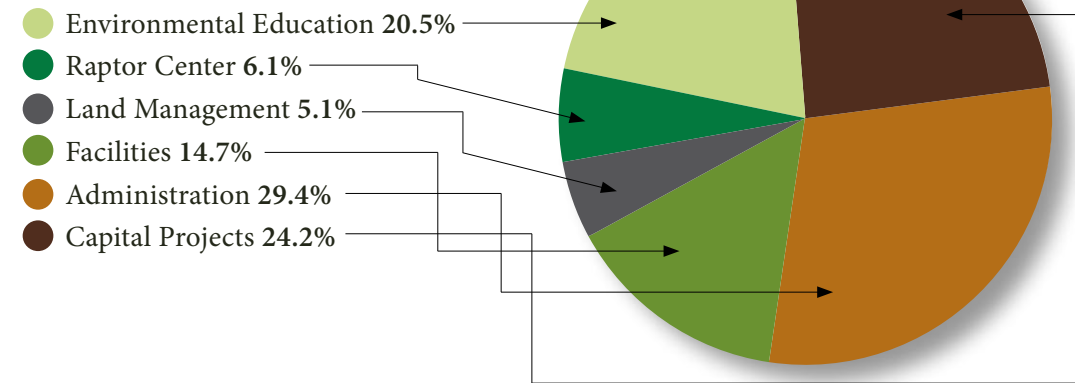
Programs and Events

Throughout the year, we offered a wide range of education programs for all ages and physical abilities. These included:

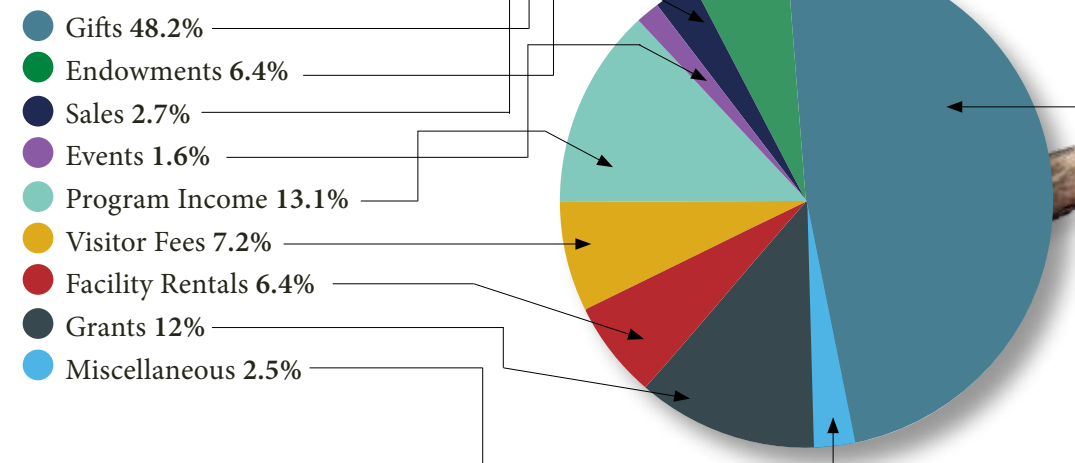
- We hosted 51 public programs, attracting 1,219 participants. These included favorites like our monthly full moon hike, bird walks, wild-flower walks, plus new events.
- We offered a monthly bird walk, coordinated the Greene County region’s participation in the Christmas Bird Count, and held Make it Count for the Birds, an annual fundraiser. This year, we found 98 species, and raised over \$14,000 for our land stewardship work.
- Glen Helen became a training site for the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist program. 16 people participated in our inaugural training over the course. Each new naturalist commits to at least 40 hours of service.
- Our Golden Walkers Club now gathers weekly. This partnership with the Yellow Springs Senior Center.
- In partnership with Central State University Extension, we hosted two mushroom cultivation work shops, taking home a log inoculated with edible fungi.

The Financials

Expenditures - \$2,533,160



Sources of Funds - \$2,564,831



In Recognition

Long term financial planning is key to maintaining Glen Helen into perpetuity. Through the Glen Helen Legacy Society, we recognize individuals who provide a planned gift to Glen Helen. Glen Helen itself is the legacy of Hugh Taylor Birch, who cared so deeply for this wooded glen that he sought to preserve it forever as a memorial to his daughter Helen. Members of the Legacy Society share this passion for ensuring a vibrant future for Glen

Helen. Through their planned gifts, the members of the Glen Helen Legacy Society ensure the preservation of our unique, beautiful, and diverse Glen, and secure the chance for future generations to also gain life-shaping experiences through their immersion in the preserve and its programs.

The Glen Helen Legacy Society

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- Anonymous (2)
- George and Toshiko Asakawa*
- Robert Baldwin, Jr.*

- Robert Baldwin, Sr.*
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- Deann Ward and Neil*
- Dawson
- Mary White
- Jill Wilson*

* deceased

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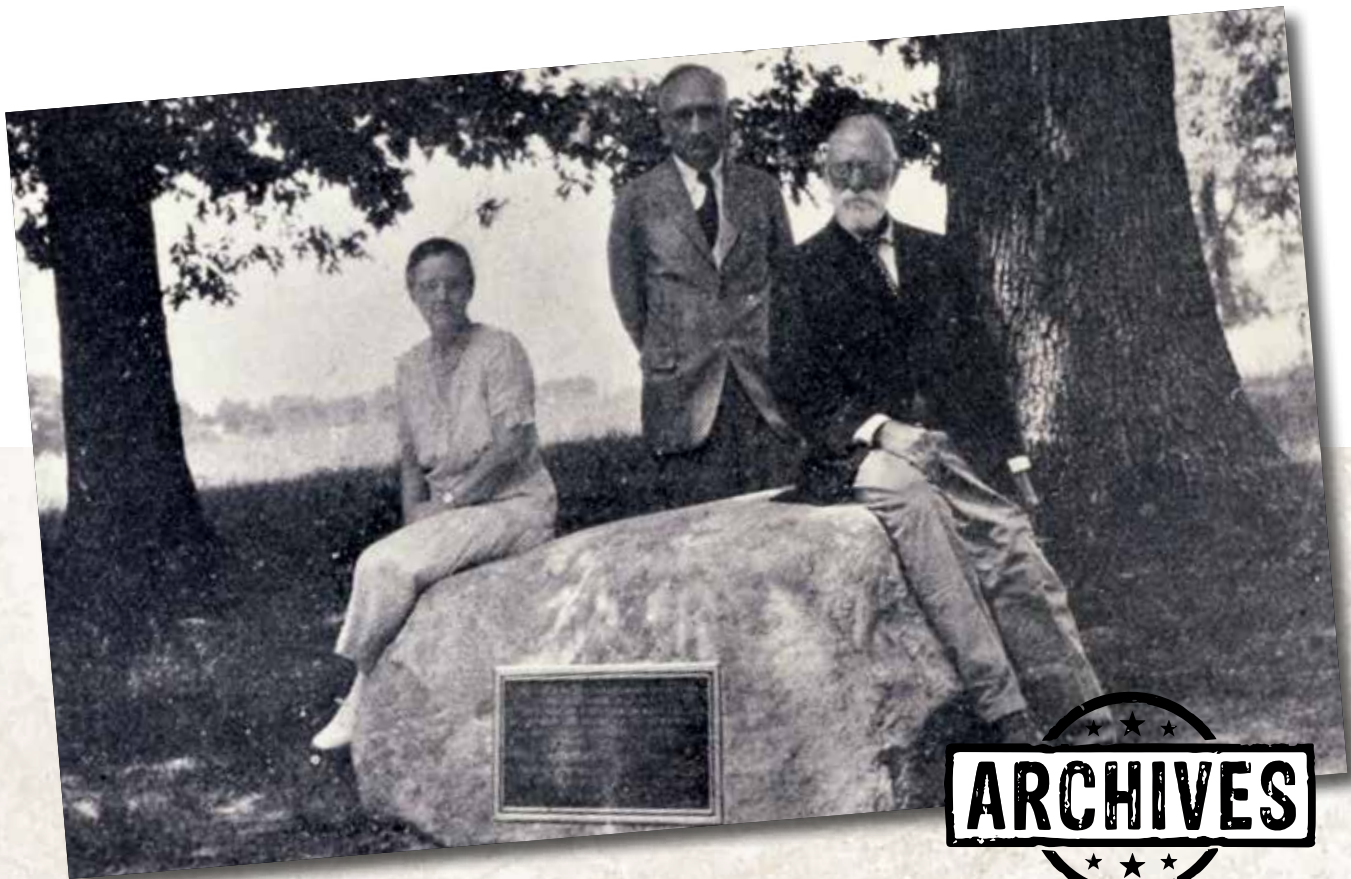
Glen Helen

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www.glenhelen.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Helen's Tree

The year was 1929. Glen Helen had just been dedicated as a living memorial to Helen Birch Bartlett. In this image from noted photographer Axel Bahnsen, Helen's father, Hugh Taylor Birch poses with Antioch College president Arthur Morgan and his wife Lucy in front of "Helen's Tree."

The great White oak tree is no longer with us, but the boulder can be found to this day along the Inman Trail near the Birch Creek Cascades. The plaque on the boulder contains an excerpt from Helen's poem *Up In The Hills*.

*The earth smells old and warm and mellow, and all things lie in peace.
I too serenely lie here under the white-oak tree, and know the splendid flight of hours all blue and gay, sun-drenched and still.*

The picture also tells the story of how much the forest has grown in the past 95 years. Other than the two large trees near the front of the frame, the land in the background appears devoid of trees. Yet, visit that spot today, and you'll be in the heart of the woods. 