



Mission Statement

It is our goal and mission to provide the opportunity for people of all ages to increase their understanding of the natural environment of Northwest Ohio and to interact with their fellow inhabitants in a sustainable manner.



Creek and quarry on New Year's Day

The Quarry Farm Newsletter is a quarterly publication for supporters of The Quarry Farm Nature Preserve & Conservation Farm, a nonprofit organization in Pandora, Ohio.

On the cover: New coats for the goats

www.thequarryfarm.org

Printed on recycled paper



Captain John Smith visited Pandora-Gilboa Elementary School in December, thanks to an invitation from Quarry Farm friend Jaren.

Did you know that The Quarry Farm will visit you?

One animal stayed outside in the winter snow to clean up after everyone else who snuggled inside the mitten. That's what third grade students in Mrs. Arthur's class at Pandora-Gilboa Elementary School found out this week when one class member invited Steve to read a story to his class.

Quarry Farm friend Jaren asked Steve to be his reading guest. Steve chose to read Jan Brett's *The Mitten*, a tale of woodland inhabitants who all find cold-weather shelter inside a mitten that was left alongside a trail.

If you've ever read *The Mitten*, you'll know that quite a few animals, big and small, fit inside. But the Virginia opossum didn't make the cut. We figure it's because Nature's garbage collector wandered on, cleaning up everything else that the bipedal trail walkers left behind.

This being said, Captain John Smith, The Quarry Farm educational animal ambassador for Virginia opossums everywhere, accompanied Steve on the classroom visit. The Captain's beautiful self was a hit, so much so that he was invited to visit Mrs. Henry's class across the hall. But, since Captain John hadn't had his breakfast yet, nor had he used the loo, Steve thought it best that the two of them return home.

Hat and coat season visits

Short sleeve weather invites most large school groups and organizations out to The Quarry Farm, but the trails still see plenty of foot traffic from those who bundle up. The stars are mighty pretty on cold nights.

On Nov. 8, we held our first Family Walk by Lantern Light. We heard plenty of nocturnal animals making their way around the quarry itself and two great horned owls boomed back and forth from the trees at either end of the upland meadow. If you missed this fall walk, we have another scheduled for Valentine's Day. Bring your flashlights and your sweethearts.

During the Christmas season, families who had guests for the holidays came out to visit, often bringing small children along. No one likes this sort of thing more than The Quarry Farm's resident miniature donkey Buddy, who had the opportunity to visit with some old and new friends.

If you would like to arrange a family or group visit of your own, we're happy to oblige. You can reach us at 419-384-7195, or email us at thequarryfarm@gmail.com.

Residential

SPOTLIGHT:

Humperdink

Three domestic turkeys have joined the farm animal sanctuary flock during the past few years. All have come here because they were left to fend for themselves somewhere. Luckily, they were found by people who knew they probably didn't belong in the wild, even the wilds of a suburban neighborhood.



Humperdink, a bronze turkey, is the most recent of the three to arrive here. He was found in the Toledo area, where his right foot had been injured, possibly by a neighborhood dog. Although the toes had begun to heal, they were not healing well. While this made it possible for the kind person to catch Humperdink, it meant that he wasn't able to roost at night, not to mention there being a danger of infection.

In the months since young Humperdink arrived at The Quarry Farm, his foot has healed enough that he can walk and run at a pretty decent clip. He is also able to roost. At first, he preferred roosting on parked cars, much to the dismay of car owners. Turkeys eat a lot of ruffage—enough said. The elder turkeys, Inigo and Fezzik, weren't thrilled with the new young wipper-snapper, so Humperdink kept to the cars, rather than join them on fence tops or in the turkey building.

Sadly, Fezzik was also injured in an attack before he came here, and his poor old feet got the best of him as he aged. But within a couple of weeks of Fezzik's passing, Inigo began to accept Humperdink's company. The two now roost together most nights and wait together outside the front door each morning for their breakfast.

Winter 2015 Events

The Great Backyard Bird Count

Saturday, Feb. 14
from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Valentine Walk by Lantern Light

Saturday, Feb. 14
from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Welcome Spring Family Day

Saturday, March 21 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

All events are free and meet and begin in the Seitz Pavilion, 1/8 mile north of 14321 Road 7L, Pandora.

Lace up your shoes and join us on The Quarry Farm nature preserve. Meet in the Seitz Family Pavilion, select a cookie for the journey and then follow your guides on the quarry trail. If we tread lightly, we'll likely hear owl hoots during the lantern light walk and all manner of birds who overwinter here during the bird count. On Family Day, we hope to find a salamander or two as we look for the first spring wildflowers.

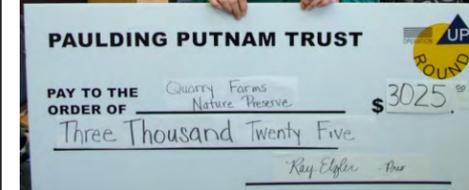
Please call 419-384-7195 or email thequarryfarm@gmail.com with any questions and with the number of people in your party. We ask that you arrive promptly for each event. Walks will conclude with warm beverages and cookies in Red Fox Cabin.



Nov. 8, 2014 Family Walk by Lantern Light

Thank You

- Dave and Jane Hilty for the donation of a wagon filled with pumpkins
- The Seiler Family for the monetary donation, apples and paper towels
- Paulding Putnam Electric Cooperative for a monetary donation
- Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative for a monetary donation
- Helen and Emerson Diller for a monetary donation
- Mary K. Mack for a monetary donation
- Janet Martin for a monetary donation
- Dooryard Garden Club for a monetary donation
- Rita Seitz for a monetary donation
- Jan and David Crawfis for a monetary donation
- Doug and Sandy Downing for a monetary donation



Board President Laura accepted grant funds from Paulding Putnam Electric Cooperative. These monies are made possible through the cooperative's Operation Round Up program.

WISH LIST

The following items are needed for visitor trail development and maintenance and educational animal ambassador rehabilitation, care and handling. Please call 419-384-7195 if you can supply anything on the list.

- unsalted tree nuts in the shell (walnuts, pecans, almonds, hazelnuts)
- apples
- assistance moving a small, donated outbuilding
- paper towels
- lams Mini Chunk dog food (green bag)

Going native

This may be the dead cold of winter, but already the earliest harbingers of spring are appearing: seed catalogs arriving in the mail, sometimes two or three a day. Until the temperature nosedived recently, it was possible to do some clearing in the garden, that job having been delayed by a late fall save-Red-Fox-Cabin project. Now though, driven indoors by the cold, I've time to dream and scheme, poring over those catalogs for ideal plantings to replace trees lost to pests and weather and to improve an unsightly stretch of the nature preserve along the roadside, where the power company cleared brush under the lines last summer.

The perennial flowers, shrubs, and grasses that are so gorgeously pictured in the catalogs evoke seductive visions of spectacular displays beside the road. Already in my garden are many ornamental grasses (mostly miscanthus varieties) and non-native perennials that I could divide and transplant this spring. However, with every passing year of gardening experience, especially since we established The Quarry Farm Nature Preserve, I become more afraid of introducing traitorous species that will spread rampantly and goosetep down the slope into the preserve on the heels of past invaders like garlic mustard, multiflora rose, and bush honeysuckle.

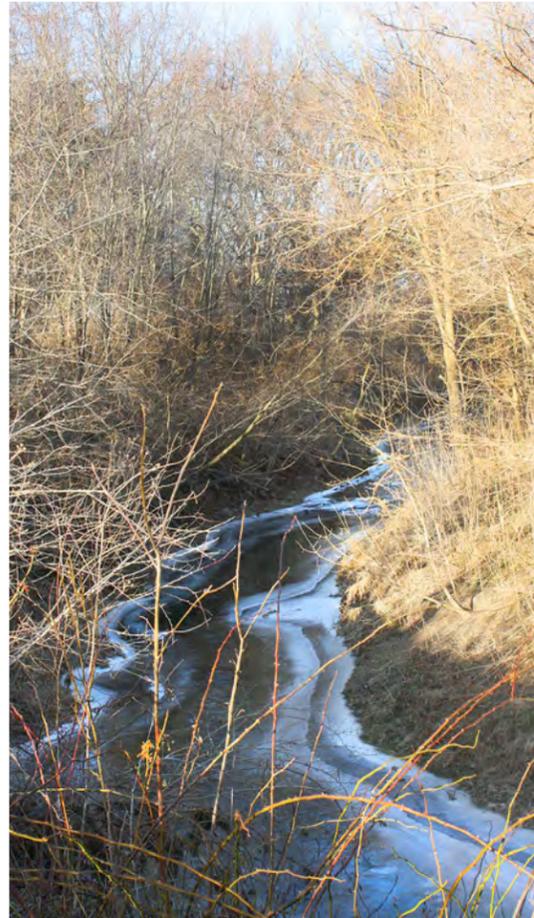
So, the catalog offerings that attract me most this winter are native plants we don't already have—wildflowers for shade and prairie grasses like Big and Little Bluestem, Prairie Dock, Indian Grass, and Bottlebrush Grass for that disrupted stretch of roadside. Many shade and sun-loving wildflowers already grow here, but in a section of woods that was farmed generations ago, some wildflowers like troutlilies, jack-in-the-pulpit, wild ginger, and trilliums need to be introduced. Selecting natives that will feel at home in Quarry Farm soil is a challenge I look forward to.

Besides grasses and flowers, the recently emptied spaces need some trees. Over the years we've planted many evergreens, only to see certain pines in particular fall victim to diseases, pests, high winds, drought, etc. An arborist friend says some pines simply aren't very hardy here. Little did we know. A native evergreen species, the one we see growing randomly (and voluntarily) along interstates and railroads and in cemeteries, is looking more and more attractive as an alternative. It is *Juniperus virginiana*, "Eastern Redcedar," from which cedar chests are made. It is not a true cedar, but rather one of 52 or 67 species (the exact number is disputed) of *Juniperus* (juniper), a genus of the cypress family (*Cupressaceae*). Juniper species are distributed throughout the Northern Hemisphere.

Our Eastern Redcedar grows tall and strong and bears beautiful frosty blue, aromatic cones disguised as berries and tiny, overlapping, scale-like leaves that look pretty in Christmas decorations. The berries have long been used in folk medicine and are widely used today as a culinary spice and flavoring in gin. (Genever, anyone?) In several Southern states, leaves and twigs are steam distilled to produce oil of juniper.

All of these good uses of Eastern Redcedar aside, I like the dense growth that will break the wind, protect the soil, and provide cover and food for wildlife. A number of Redcedars have already been transplanted to the animal sanctuary on The Quarry Farm. Come spring, I'll be scouring the countryside for more seedlings to move to that naked stretch at the edge of the preserve (well back from the power line, mind you) and to the garden. The prospect of restoring natives—Redcedars, grasses, and wildflowers—to our patch of soil will be a strong antidote to the doldrums of this winter.

— **The Gardener at The Quarry Farm**



Cranberry Run in winter

Contributions to The Quarry Farm Nature Preserve & Conservation Farm, a 501(c)3 public charity, are tax-deductible.

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Questions? Call 419-384-7195, email thequarryfarm@gmail.com or visit www.thequarryfarm.org.

