

Bush honeysuckle: Invasive wildlife junk food (and why we want to control it)

A September visit to Stone Laboratory on Lake Erie's Gibraltar Island verified the need to control the growth and spread of a transplant from the Orient. Bush honeysuckle invades even the small freshwater islands off Ohio's shores.

The purpose of the trip was to learn more about harmful algal bloom and the current state of what humans know about the how and why of the over-abundance of cyanobacteria. I came away with 10 lectures and a research vessel outing's worth of that, as well as a greater determination to help develop a plan to control bush honeysuckle on The Quarry Farm.

Why do we want to control bush honeysuckle? Yes, birds and small mammals eat the berries, but these red edibles are wildlife junk food, cardinal potato chips. There is very little nutritional value. The

goats of the farm animal sanctuary have helped get a handle on Russian and autumn olives, multiflora rose and even garlic mustard, but bush honeysuckle wreaks havoc on their digestive systems so we must keep it out of their reach.

The spreading shrub is a monoculture of sorts, growing quickly and shading out all native species as it spreads like wildfire. The 2012 derecho felled some of the preserve's tallest trees and the invasive jumped right in to fill the void. Without intervention to control bush honeysuckle, which humans introduced to North America in the first place, there will be little left to hold the soil in place and out of waterways, and there will be few nutritional foods for native wildlife.

We are in the process of securing grant and donation funding to get a major push underway. Thanks to support from



Jim Hoorman of Ohio State University Extension, Dr. Ken Krieger of Heidelberg University's National Center for Water Quality Research, Tim Brugeman of the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership, Dr. Jan Osborn of the Putnam County Educational Resource Center and Brad Brooks of Tawa Tree Service, we've got some major stamps of approval for a project that we believe can be implemented well beyond the tree lines here.

If you are able to help in any way, including pulling shoots, planting native trees, or are trained to safely use cutting tools, please give us a call at 419-384-7195 or drop a note at thequarryfarm@gmail.com.

(continued from Under One Big Sky)

The paints and papers came out under the red roof of the Seitz Family Pavilion, this time for a workshop on Drawing and Painting using natural materials. The fruits of a wild Friday evening in the kitchen resulted in a Saturday palette consisting of four different "paints" stewed from goldenrod, black walnut hulls, blueberries and strawberries, powdered paprika, topsoil and subsoil.



Wildlife station at Putnam SWCD 5th Grade Conservation Days

The Captain visited the Wildlife station at the Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District's annual 5th Grade Conservation Days in Ottawa Memorial Park. We put the program on wheels again for The Girl Scouts of Northwest Ohio's annual Big Event at Bowling Green State University.



Painting with natural materials

As we put away the pig's wading pools and tuck in the gardens for cold weather, there are still plans for winter programs, weather permitting. To receive news of programs and volunteer opportunities for October through December, send a note to thequarryfarm@gmail.com and watch for posts on Facebook and at www.thequarryfarm.org.



Viceroy butterfly

Donations 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, visit www.thequarryfarm.org, or email thequarryfarm@gmail.com. Don't forget to "like" and "share" The Quarry Farm on Facebook for updates.



14321 Road 7L
Pandora, OH 45877



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.



A Buckeye butterfly warms during an unseasonably warm October morning.

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: Chicken Joe strolls past changing maple leaves

All photographs printed in this newsletter were taken on The Quarry Farm Nature Preserve & Conservation Farm.

www.thequarryfarm.org

Printed on recycled, recyclable paper



Hilty Home residents viewed Red Fox Cabin from their hayride in September.

All Under One Big Sky

Although June started out the summer months with a wash of flooding, the floodplain was a lake for the start of July, the latter part of that month and August and September found The Quarry Farm a busy place. We even took the show on the road this summer, with Carlton the potbellied pig making his first classroom appearance of sorts at Johnny Appleseed Park District's Ottawa Metro Park.

Unfortunately, the 3rd Annual Quarry Farm Acoustic Night (now called the Quarry Farm Jam) was cancelled due to the far-reaching remnants of Hurricane Joaquin. Mark your calendar for The Quarry Farm Jam on Sept. 10, 2016. But here are a few of the highlights that lit up the summer of 2015.

From July 13 through July 16, we presented "Living Side By Side" programs at all branches of the Putnam County Library. Educational Ambassador Captain John Smith made his case for the understanding and tolerance of Virginia opossums everywhere. Attendees got to meet aquatic macroinvertebrates, including dragonflies and leeches, that tell us how healthy our local waterways are, or aren't.

The Continental Junior Gardeners made their fourth annual trip here in July. There were many new faces this year, although some came into focus as we realized they were the siblings of children who visited in the past. They gathered leaves and arranged them on white t-shirts, then sprayed diluted acrylic paints on the shirts to create one-of-a-kind designs.



Garden container creations

The Seitz Family Pavilion resembled a construction site one August morning as bags of concrete, vermiculite and vinyl patch were piled under its roof in preparation for a make-it-take-it workshop. The Gathering Basket Herb Society, with members from Putnam, Hancock, Hardin and Henry counties, made a variety of garden containers and stepping stones.

September is fast becoming the busiest month hereabouts. Fall's first month was filled with programs, onsite and on the road. For instance, we enjoyed visits from Hilty Home as they made The Quarry Farm one of their stops on a hayride conducted by Daryl and Peg Bridenbaugh.

(Turn to the back page for more)



Continental Junior Gardeners

Residential SPOTLIGHT:

Nemo

This tiny piglet was found by a blessed person named Tricia who saw her standing along a highway near Columbus. Tricia turned her car around to save her after what was likely a harrowing fall from a transport truck crowded with many piglets on their way to a short-term existence for one purpose, and one purpose only. She wasn't even weaned.

She was bloody, bruised and her tail is gone, probably from a painful slide across the road. X-rays also revealed a broken leg, already healing. Veterinarian Ron Baldrige said the break was in a growth plate, the best possible location, but she will probably suffer from arthritis.

Her name is Nemo; not for the Pixar clownfish, but from the Greek, meaning literally "nobody." Because she was nobody, no one cared.

Yet in Homer's *The Odyssey*, Odysseus escaped the Cyclops by identifying himself as "Nobody." When the Cyclops asked for help, no one would help him because he said that Nobody was causing him harm. Nemo escaped being run over on the highway because she was Nobody.

Nemo is a talker. She is still searching for her mother but is healing, and is beginning to offer her opinions on most things, especially to the potbellied pigs on the sanctuary. We look forward to introducing her as an Educational Ambassador in the coming years.



Fall 2015 Events

Star Walks by Lantern Light

Date: TBA

Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Where: Seitz Family Pavilion, 14321 Road 7L, Pandora

We've tried to go out on a limb and set dates for star walks, but the weather has a way of making its own decisions. Keep watching "The Quarry Farm" on Facebook for announcements of guided tours along the preserve trails by flashlight. We will announce a walk a day or two before a new moon if the forecast predicts a clear sky, perfect for viewing the stars. If scheduled, the walk will happen on the Saturday after the new moon.

Upcoming new moon dates are November 11, December 11 and January 9. If weather permits, meet in the Seitz Family Pavilion and follow your guides on the quarry trail into the upland forest. If we tread lightly, we'll likely hear owl hoots and great blue heron calls on the way out and back. Questions? Call 419-384-7195 or email the quarryfarm@gmail.com.

Living Side by Side

Thursday, November 19, 2015, 4 to 5 p.m.

Delphos Public Library, Delphos

Experience a photographic meeting with those wild animals that hide under the porch, fly overhead and go bump in the night, as well as a face-to-face encounter with one or more of them

Thank you...

... to Dave and Jane Hilty for sweet corn and cabbage
 ... to Phyllis Diller for the rain barrel
 ... to Sandy and Doug Downing for monetary donations, and for visiting Mister Bill
 ... to the Dooryard Garden Club for the monetary donation
 ... to the Putnam County Master Gardeners for the monetary donation
 ... to Johnny Appleseed Park District program participants for wish list items
 ... to Paula Harper for making potholders for sale to benefit programs and for volunteer time
 ... to the Continental Junior Gardeners for apples, peanuts and more
 ... to the Gathering Basket Herb Society for monetary donation
 ... to the mystery lady who pulled up outside the fence with wish list items
 ... to the Toledo Yacht Club for donating chicken and pig feed

In Memorium

...from Putnam County Publications in memory of Rex Griffith
 ...from Van Wert County Publications in memory of Rex Griffith



Mister Bill and Sandy Downing

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 (acorns, almonds, hazelnuts)
- grass hay
- One 10' x 20' outbuilding or two 8' x 10' outbuildings