

Red Fox Cabin on Tour

Since Red Fox Cabin was relocated from West Virginia to the garden at The Quarry Farm in 1995, it has been a stop on a variety of tours: environmental workshops for teachers, garden tours, crafters' guild tours, hayrides, and antique car rallies. On December 12, the cabin was one of four stops on a unique event for local history buffs: the Riley Creek Old-Time Christmas Tour. We were opened the cabin to the public along with the McCullough Log House (its first open house), the Bridenbaugh Schoolhouse, and Riley Creek Church, all historical structures located near a two-mile stretch of Riley Creek.

Since it's pretty obvious that Red Fox Cabin is old, we focused our preparations on the other major aspect of the tour--Christmas. In the publicity flyer we committed ourselves to decorating the cabin with natural materials found on The Quarry Farm and serving mulled cider and homemade old-fashioned molasses cookies. With the exception of a little spray paint and glitter, we stuck to the decorating theme, using pots of evergreen and dried flower stalks, a grapevine wreath with a large red burlap bow, pine cones and golden twig stars on the tree (some visitors thought they were pretzels, but that was okay), and a basket of pine cones and Osage oranges. Even Riley, the ceramic porch pig, looked festive with a fresh coat of red paint and a cozy nest of evergreen sprigs.

Incredibly, the weather on December 12 was a balmy 60+ degrees, just chilly enough for a fire in the old stone fireplace (as promised in the flyer). Unsure whether many folks would find their way to our back road location, we had newspapers and magazines at hand for whiling away the long, quiet hours. However, to our surprise and delight, visitors found us, arriving steadily throughout a busy day. The spicy hot cider was downed to the last drop, and most of the molasses cookies disappeared. We were able to share the history of Red Fox Cabin with perhaps as many as 150 interesting and gracious visitors.

One highlight was a visit from Dr. Darrell Groman, who sat on the porch and told us the tale of Capt. James Riley, whose family gave Riley Creek its name.

On the other side of the tree line that separates the garden from the fenced-in farm animal sanctuary, comings and goings were being keenly observed. Donkeys Buddy and Lucy and assorted goats, pigs, and turkeys were clustered in the corner, as close to the action as they could get. As they peered wistfully over the fence, some of the passersby slowed to say hello. And so it happened that the Riley Creek Old-Time Christmas Tour was a good day for all residents of The Quarry Farm Nature Preserve & Conservation Farm.

Scout Workshops

Are you a scout leader looking for new badge and try-it opportunities? Visit our presentations page at www.thequarryfarm.org for scouting workshop descriptions. Contact us at thequarryfarm@gmail.com to schedule with the age and number of people in your group. The spring calendar is filling quickly!



Riley Creek Old Time History Tour guests toured Red Fox Cabin.



Downy woodpecker (male)

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

Make donations online to The Quarry Farm Nature Preserve & Conservation Farm through your Paypal account.

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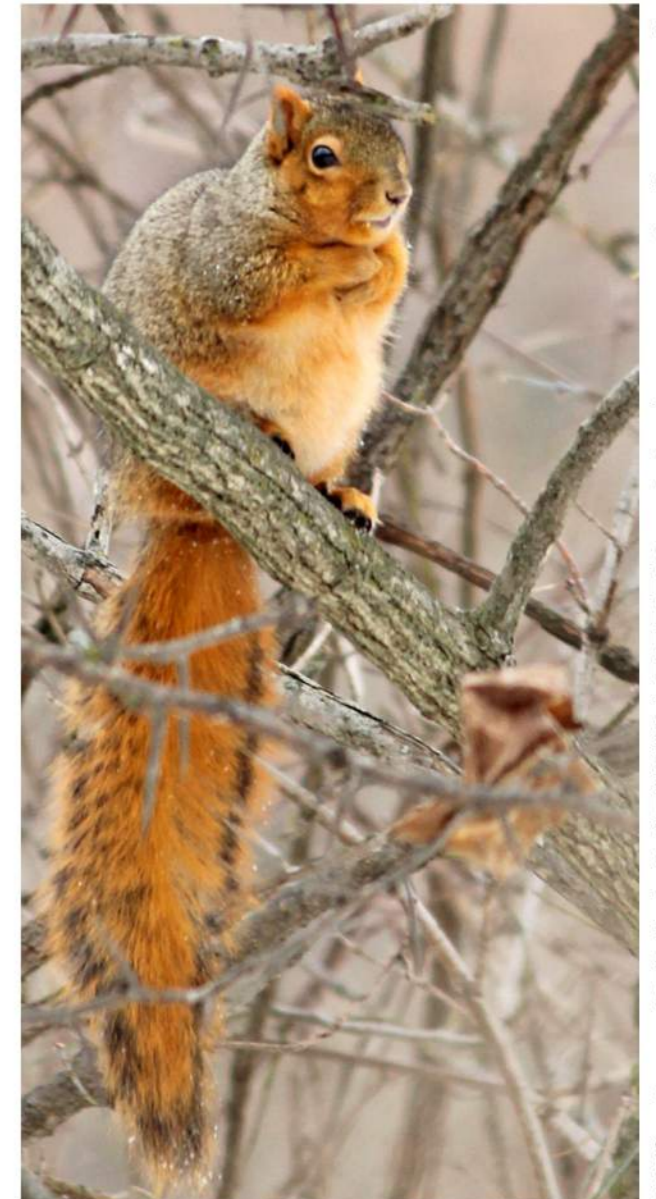
Call 419-384-7195, visit www.thequarryfarm.org, or email thequarryfarm@gmail.com. Don't forget to "like" and "share" The Quarry Farm on Facebook for updates.



14321 Road 7L
Pandora, OH 45877



NATURE PRESERVE & CONSERVATION FARM





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.



Snow on bracket

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: An Eastern fox squirrel sits above the quarry

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

www.thequarryfarm.org

Printed on recycled, recyclable paper

Under one big sky

As fall cools to winter and the wild residents of Northwest Ohio tuck in with the limited resources available to them, the pace doesn't slow here on The Quarry Farm. With fewer outdoor programs, time is devoted to planning activities for warm weather as well as maintenance projects.

Last summer, The Quarry Farm was selected by the Pollinator Partnership to take part in the U.S. Bee Buffer Project. What this means is that three acres of the ten-acre upland grassland will be devoted to installing native plant habitat. Plans were already being made to clear invasive plants such as bush honeysuckle throughout the preserve, as well as removing brush from the grassland in preparation for a controlled burn in 2016. But the buffer project approval meant we had to move quickly to prepare the land for the native wildflower seeds supplied through the partnership. Volunteers David Seitz and his daughter Aili stepped up to the plate. Since October, the two have spent weekends and holidays trimming and sawing, in all kinds of weather. Over two acres are complete to date.

To restore native plant species and habitat on the preserve, we continue to remove invasive bush honeysuckle. Although the hardwood trees have dropped their leaves and grasses, sedges and groundcovers are brown, bush honeysuckle remains green and is easy to spot for removal.



The Quarry Farm helped welcome Santa.

Offsite, we participated for the second year in the Welcome Santa Parade, held in downtown Ottawa. This year's entry featured tree and woodland creature costumes, worn by board members and volunteers. The temperatures may have dipped enough to send other green into hiding, but it wasn't cold enough to hold the mud at bay. Soft ground meant that a shelter project was put on hold. The New Year froze the soil's surface and allow us to build a two-door enclosure. Thanks to Daryl Bridenbaugh, the structure was open for business the first weekend in January.



Marsh the Nigerian dwarf goat appreciated the latest farm animal sanctuary building even before the walls were up and the roof was overhead.



David Seitz "whispers" a chain saw as his daughter Aili works across the ten-acre grassland for the Bee Buffer Project.

Residential SPOTLIGHT: Antonio

Mail order and retail poultry sales frequently don't include sexing chicks. If they do, the cost increases. Because of this, most rescue lists include at least one rooster. The Quarry Farm receives a few calls each year from farmers with roosters that have become territorial. Unfortunately, we only have room for one rooster per building as all chickens are closed behind doors at night. More than one rooster in an enclosure can result in torn combs and worse.

This year, we lost an old timer. He is missed, but once here, he was able to live in peace. Following his death, we had an opening for another rooster. Since Freckles, a bossy speckled mongrel of a rooster, must be the dominant male in his poultry world, any new guy had to be scrappy but willing to give way to the boss. He would also have to be willing to sleep in a building to avoid nocturnal predators.

Antonio, named for the kind man named Tony who found himself with two roosters in one mid-sized backyard coop, fit the bill perfectly. This handsome guy arrived with a plume of white tail feathers that were quickly lost to Freckles. He also suffered from bent toes, but these don't seem to slow him down.

Antonio seems wise to the dangers that exist after sundown, because he has taken up evening residence with Johnny the Canada goose. The little red rooster is in his nest of straw by 5:30 p.m. each night.



Winter 2016 Events

The Great Backyard Bird Count

Saturday, Feb. 13
from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Welcome Spring Family Day

Saturday, March 26
from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

For both events, meet in the Seitz Family Pavilion, 1/8 mile north of 14321 Road 7L, Pandora.

Once in the pavilion, select a cookie for the journey and follow your guides on the quarry trail. If we tread lightly, we'll hear and catch glimpses of overwintering birds during the bird count and migrating birds during Family Day. We'll 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 the number of people in your party. We ask that you arrive promptly for each event. Walks will conclude with warm beverages and cookies as well as a tour of Red Fox Cabin. These events are free (but tax-deductible donations are always welcome.)



Welcome Spring Family Day 2015

Thank you...

...to Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative for Operation Roundup funding
 ...to Paulding Putnam Electric Cooperative for Operation Roundup funding
 ...to David and Jan Crawfis for monetary donation
 ...to Frances DeVore for monetary donation
 ...to Sandy and Doug Downing for monetary donation
 ...to Linda Gorey for monetary donation
 ...to Don and Kathy Green for monetary donation
 ...to Mary K. Mack for monetary donation
 ...to Casey Walker for monetary donation
 ...to David and Aili Seitz for labor and costs associated with Bee Buffer zone preparation
 ...to Dave and Jane Hilty for squash and pumpkins
 ...to Daryl and Peggy Bridenbaugh for pumpkins and labor associated with farm animal sanctuary housing
 ...to William and Joan Utendorf for apples



Snow drifts above Cranberry Run

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 (almonds, hazelnuts, English walnuts)
- apples
- volunteers to pull bush honeysuckle seedlings along the preserve trails