

(continued from inside left)

Hilty Home residents stopped by on September 14 and 15 as part of their annual hayride, courtesy of Daryl and Peggy Bridenbaugh. As on most evenings, they were joined at the farm animal sanctuary gate by local families who enjoy warm evening walks and visits with Buddy the donkey and Nemo the pig.

On October 1 at 10 a.m., the first Quarry Farm 5K began here on Roads 7L and M7. The sun shown in blue sky and a mature bald eagle crossed the historic Road M6 bridge just as the runners and walkers started out.

David Fryling crossed the finish line first with a time of 23:59.



A newly-made papercrete bowl



Bluffton Public Library patrons hike the ridge trail.

April Dorman, first woman through, clocked in at 27:34. Ted's Market provided water and Gatorade. Granola bars, bananas and clementines were available, courtesy of Kohls Market. As the first male and female finishers, David and April took home \$50 gift certificates from Dick's Sporting Goods and \$15 gift certificates from RoadID.

The Second Annual Quarry Farm 5K is scheduled for October 7, 2017...same time, same place.

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 share The Quarry Farm on Facebook for updates.



Fall fungus is amongus

Mutinus elegans, a very distinctive species of mushroom commonly known as dog stinkhorn, is showing up this fall in shady, damp mulch and compost piles. Unlike typical mushrooms, which depend on wind to distribute their spores, the stinkhorn uses insects, which swarm to the sticky, stinky brown slime that forms on the top of the fungus.



Giant puffballs (*Calvatia gigantea*) are found on fields, field edges and occasionally under hardwoods usually in late spring or fall. These are considered edible, but clearly identify any fungus before eating as there are many look-alikes.



What could be more appropriate for October than dead man's fingers (*Xylaria polymorpha*)? Found at the base of dead or decayed organic matter, this fungus 'digests' the rotten material.



Composting with a smother mulch are one way the Red Fox Cabin gardens are put to bed for winter.



NATURE PRESERVE & CONSERVATION FARM



THE Quarry FARM
NATURE PRESERVE & CONSERVATION FARM
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.



Putnam County 5th graders met a wheel bug at this year's SWCD Conservation Tour. The Quarry Farm led the Wildlife station at Ottawa's Memorial Park.

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: Glandorf Cub Scouts explore Cranberry Run.

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

www.thequarryfarm.org

All Under One Big Sky

This was a breathtaking Quarry Farm summer, packed with programs, events and educational outreach. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of various levels fulfilled badge requirements onsite, the goats now frolic on their own volunteer-built playground, the Bluffton Public Library organized a hike on the trails and we represented Wildlife at the Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District's 5th Grade Conservation Tour for the second year. Here are a few more Summer 2016 highlights:

Putnam County Master Gardener Brenda Fawcett led a make-and-take in the Seitz Family Pavilion on July 18. Participants created planters out of papercrete (a sort of papier mache combination of Portland cement and paper strips.) July 19 saw the return of the Hardin County Herb Society.

On a very sad note, Marshmallow the Nigerian dwarf goat died this season. Marshmallow, a favorite friend to all field trip visitors, had suffered from urinary track blockage most of his life, a condition common to wethers. On July 20, we found him once more, his belly distended. We drove him to the Ohio State Veterinary facility in Marysville for the last time. He was buried here, with the other goats and the two donkeys standing quietly beside the grave.

On July 23, "the hottest day of the year" according to local weather forecasters, Charlene Finch and the 2016 Continental Jr. Gardeners made the group's annual trek from the northwest corner of Putnam County.

On August 20, we dug through the kitchen cupboard, the garden and its edges to pool a palette of natural pigments with which to paint still lifes and landscapes. The Saturday class included individuals from here in Putnam County to a Tennessean.



Gus Heringhaus took a turn at the mic during the 2016 Jam.

hours for a good gathering of music lovers and those in the peaceable kingdom next door. The Fifth Annual Jam is set for September 9, 2017.

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The Quarry Farm 5K was smooth sailing under a blue fall sky.



Mister Bill checks out the playground.

That same month, the Gathering Basket Herb Society designed artistic containers of papercrete embellished with glass stones and pebbles.

The Fourth Annual Quarry Farm Jam, held September 10, included guitars of various scale, a ukulele, autoharps, fiddles, harmonicas, a mandolin and incredible vocals. Musicians Doug, Mike, Ralph, Gus, Dondi, Lynn, Bob, David, Michelle and Erin (plus her roadie/soundman dad Bruce and musician mom Beth) played almost three

Residential SPOTLIGHT:

Jacques

There's no two ways about it: the new goose in the farm animal sanctuary is kind of a jerk.

But Jacques is learning to mind his manners, thanks to the gentle influence of Johnny, our elder statesgoose who has lived with us for seven years—longer than any other resident.

When Jacques the Canada goose joined us this summer, he came under the condition that he be capable of playing well with others. As a gosling at Nature's Nursery Center for Wildlife Rehabilitation & Conservation Education, Jacques interacted with people after his wing was amputated at the elbow due to an injury. As he grew, Jacques was introduced to other waterfowl and was eventually housed in the Center's waterfowl enclosure with many other ducks and geese.

And Jacques didn't like this...not one bit. The other birds bullied him. Because he grew bigger, he decided to bully back. Jacques didn't reserve his attitude for other birds, either, but began to behave aggressively toward caregivers.

But we've seen some incredible behavior changes here on The Quarry Farm: Bob the painfully-shy, barking pot-bellied pig now craves belly rubs, for instance. So, we took Jacques on. In one summer's time, Jacques has gone from chasing anyone who enters across the grass to watching visitors from a distance. He has learned that not everyone is out to get him. He will preen his feathers when told how lovely he is. It's necessary to remind him frequently that he is not the boss, but we're getting there.



Fall 2016 Events

Cold Moon Star Walk

Saturday, December 10, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Seitz Family Pavilion, 1/8 mile north of 14321 Road 7L, Pandora

The moon travels once around Earth every 27.3 days. It also takes about 27 days for the moon to rotate on its axis. At new moon, the moon is between Earth and the sun, so that the side of the moon facing toward us receives no direct sunlight. When the moon has moved 180 degrees, its disk is as close as it can be to being fully illuminated by the sun, so this is called full moon. The moon will be full on December 13, but we'll gather in the Seitz Family Pavilion the Saturday before to view the frosty December Cold Moon.

Save the Date: 2017 Great Backyard Bird Count

Saturday, February 18, 2017, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Seitz Family Pavilion, 1/8 mile north of 14321 Road 7L, Pandora

Bird populations are always shifting and changing. Each February, the National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology team up to coordinate the Great Backyard Bird Count. Join us as we walk the trails to document the many species of birds that shelter in the preserve, as well as those that stop by on their annual migration. All recorded species will be submitted to the international count as part of the largest instantaneous snapshot of global bird populations.

How to Register for events on The Quarry Farm

Preregister by calling 419-384-7195 or by emailing thequarryfarm@gmail.com.

Thank you...

... to Sandy and Doug Downing for monetary donations
 ... to the Putnam County Master Gardeners for the monetary donation
 ... to Erin Fitch, Paula Harper, Phyllis Seitz, Mason, Kaleb, and Cole for digging in on race day
 ... to Ted's Market for providing water and Gatorade for The Quarry Farm 5K
 ...to Kohls Market for providing fruit and granola bars for The Quarry Farm 5K
 ...to Dick's Sporting Goods and RoadID for donating The Quarry Farm 5K prizes
 ...to Bert Coburn for the monetary donation
 ...to the Jam 2016 musicians
 ...to Mike and Martha Erchenbrecher for the monetary donation
 ...to Paula Harper for the monetary donation
 ...to Kevin Siefker and Leo Schroeder for restarting power to the pavilion and cabin



A Lucy yawn

WISH LIST

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

- unsalted tree nuts in the shell (acorns, almonds, hazelnuts)
- donations toward honeysuckle project
- apples
- garden harvest overflow (whole pumpkins, zucchini, squash)
- volunteers with green thumbs