

Spring 2017 Programs & Events

Bluffton Public Library Star Walk @ The Quarry Farm

Thursday, April 27, 8 to 9:30 p.m.

("Cloud Date" April 29, same time)

Bring a flashlight and be sure to dress for the weather, including good walking boots/shoes. (Sorry, no infant strollers allowed.) Grab a cookie and chat for a bit as everyone arrives, then take a guided walk to the preserve area to gaze at the stars. Please sign up by Friday, April 21, at the Bluffton Public Library, 145 S. Main St., Bluffton, 419-358-5016 to let organizers know you are coming and to get details of potential "Cloud Date."

Recycled Runway

Friday, April 21, from 7 to 10 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.)

hosted at Ten Fifty Eight Event Center

(1058 Cleveland Road, Sandusky, Ohio)

The Quarry Farm Nature Preserve & Conservation Farm is a part of this fundraiser and fashion show that will feature clothing made out of repurposed items. Come out and cheer for our entry "200 Years of Fashion, Same Shoes" and enjoy a social hour with food and drinks, a cash bar with beer, wine and mixed drinks. Tickets are \$25 each and may be purchased online at <http://www.scarlettohair.com/recycled-runway.html>.

Transition Bluffton River Walk

Sunday, April 23, 6 p.m.

Motter Metro Park, 10740 Columbus Grove-Bluffton Road, Bluffton

Explore park trails and meet creatures that make their home in and along the Little Riley. Wear good walking shoes and should bring binoculars and magnifying lenses. Parking for Motter Metro Park is located at. The 105-acre park has a mowed grass trail and is restoring grassland habitat to the area.

Earth Day Awareness Lima

Sunday, April 30, 1 to 4 p.m. in Faurot Park, Lima

Meet The Quarry Farm's wetland creatures in the Info Tent.

Summer Library "Build a Better World" Programs

Bluffton Public Library

Thursday, June 15, at 6 p.m.

-Participants will make a walking stick

Putnam County District Library:

Thursday, June 1

-Ottawa at 6 p.m. "Providing Pollinator Habitat"

Monday, June 19

• Ottawa at 11 a.m. (136 Putnam Parkway, Ottawa)

• Kalida at 1 p.m. (301 North Third Street, Kalida)

Tuesday, June 20

• Fort Jennings at 11 a.m. (655 North Water Street, Fort Jennings)

• Pandora at 1 p.m. (118 East Main Street, Pandora)

Wednesday, June 21

• Leipsic at 11 a.m. (305 West Main Street, Leipsic)

• Ottoville at 1 p.m. (349 Wayne Street, Ottoville)

Thursday, June 22

• Columbus Grove at 11 a.m. (317 N. Main Street, Columbus Grove)

• Continental at 1 p.m. (301 South 6th Street, Continental)



Buddy appreciates pats loving and treats during "Feathers, Scales, & Furry Tails."

('Under one big sky' continued)

They walked the Cranberry Run Trail, observed fairy shrimp from the wetlands, visited with the farm animals, learned about pollinators, made bird feeders and a cat toy—all lessons in how animals need many of the same things as humans to live successfully.

The complete program listing for 2016-2017 may be viewed at <http://bit.ly/2oD1uoc>. This guide includes the badges that we facilitate.

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Questions, or would you like to register for a program? Call 419-384-7195, email thequarryfarm@gmail.com or visit us online at www.thequarryfarm.org.

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



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.



A flying squirrel blends in against tree bark above the old quarry.

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: A Blanchard's Cricket Frog suns in Cranberry Run.

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

www.thequarryfarm.org

Printed on recycled, recyclable paper



Kalida third grade students work with papercrete at The Meadows of Kalida.

Under one big sky

The mild winter meant more visitors on the trails than in past chilly, snowbound years. On February 18, we led an observation walk on Day 2 of the 19th Great Backyard Bird Count, an international identification effort coordinated by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society. The wind was high but the temperature was fairly warm. Participants found shelter from the brisk breezes in the nature preserve, as did cardinals, house sparrows, juncos, wild turkey, red-winged blackbirds, gold finches and mallards.

Our party of nine walked the floodplain trail, past the quarry, up the main path to cross the back field. We looped back through the oldest tree groves, past the oxbow. One father and son from Jenera knew their birds by sight, sound and movement, honing their birding skills by challenging each other to name birds on car rides.

We documented 26 species and two other taxa. Check out all documented species from "The Quarry Farm Nature Preserve & Conservation Farm, Putnam County, Ohio, US" at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org> including the entire number that we filed for February 17-20, 2017, and explore the worldwide count.



Father and son ID birds by their calls.



Creating a cat toy

On March 7, Laura and Kalida Elementary Teacher Laurie Erhart's third grade students demonstrated the art of creating papercrete pots. The event, held at The Meadows of Kalida, was organized by Joe Hovest and the Putnam County Master Gardeners.

The Girl Scouts of Western Ohio held a March 25 badge event they called "Feathers, Scales, & Furry Tails." Daisies worked toward the "3 Cheers for Animals! Daisy Journey" and completed the Birdbath award, while Brownies completed two requirements for the Pets badge. Twenty-three young women and their leaders and parents participated.

(continued on back page)

Residential Spotlight

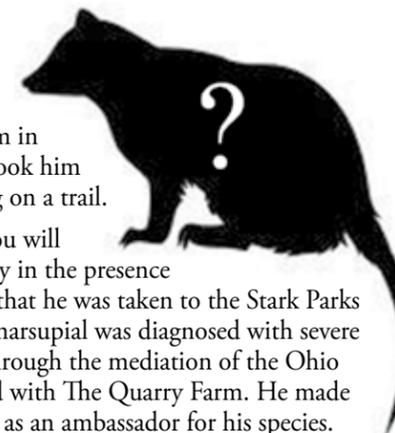
V. OPOSSUM

In January, we told you about a Virginia Opossum in need of a name. The good people at Stark Parks took him in after another good person found him dawdling on a trail.

If you have ever observed a Virginia Opossum, you will know that they do not normally dawdle, especially in the presence of a human being. This guy was so approachable that he was taken to the Stark Parks Wildlife Conservation Center in Hartville. This marsupial was diagnosed with severe head trauma, the reason for his passive nature. Through the mediation of the Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association, he was placed with The Quarry Farm. He made the trip across Northern Ohio to settle in with us as an ambassador for his species.

But he didn't settle. As he grew stronger, V. Opossum began to his growl, and do all sorts of unpleasant things. The beauty of his aggressive behavior was that this is normal for a wild V. Opossum who is doing whatever he can to make a predator leave him alone. Although he still had a bit of a head tilt, he could eat well, move quickly, and we had no doubt he would use his full set of teeth and claws if attacked.

So we did what is called a soft release. Once the Northwest Ohio nights warmed, we placed him in an exterior enclosure so he could acclimate to outdoor sounds, sights, smells, and temperatures. We fed him food, although he scavenged for grubs and other taste treats. Finally, he left the enclosure for freedom under the deck and parts unknown, in the wild, as it should be.



Help wild ones build their best nest

This time of year, clever creatures build truly spectacular nests in which to birth and raise their young. They gather grasses, fur, pine needles, tree leaves, and even discarded trash such as straws, strings and six-pack rings to construct 'found art.'

Trouble is, the woodland artists and their babies are at terrible risk of falling prey to the building materials. By now, most people are aware that six-pack rings, fishing line and other plastics should be snipped and discarded properly. But most don't realize that yarn and any string, twine and even human hair can easily become tangled around birds' legs, wings and necks and cut off circulation, causing serious injury or even death. Baby songbirds lose limbs (or worse) due to string-like materials in a nest.

If you wish to offer nesting materials in your yard, pre-made nesting material is available for purchase. You can also use the following natural alternatives.

Small Yard Debris: Pine straw, wheat straw, and tiny twigs make good bird nest building materials.

Grass Clippings: One of the most common nesting materials, grass clippings can be gathered into balls or simply left mulched into your lawn.

Animal Hair: Brushed or clipped animal fur makes a soft lining for bird nests. Here on The Quarry Farm Nature Preserve & Conservation Farm, we find nests snugly lined with donkey and goat fur, shed by the residents of the farm animal sanctuary. Just don't use any hair or fur that's been treated with flea dips or insect repellents.

Plants and Seeds: Fluffy seeds and plants, such as cattails, make good bird nesting materials. Please make sure the seeds are those of plants native to this area.

Cloth Batting: Wool or cotton batting cut into 3"- 6" strips makes good nesting material.

Feathers: Providing feathers for nesting material is a great way to recycle old down pillows. Better yet, keep backyard chickens.

Moss: Sphagnum or Spanish moss make great bird nesting material (make sure it's not been chemically treated).



Thank you...

...Daryl Bridenbaugh for the gift of straw for animal bedding

...Martha Erchenbrecher, Sarah Erchenbrecher Fryling, Paula Harper, and Joyce Seitz for assisting with our Recycled Runway entry

...Putnam County Master Gardeners for administering the Pollinator Garden Project at Red Fox Cabin

Monetary Donations:

Doug and Sandy Downing

Joan Hahn

Bill and Carole Schumacher

Rita Seitz



Bloodroot, a first wildflower of spring

WISH LIST

The following items are needed for garden and visitor trail development 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.

- a handyperson to assist with setting fence posts
- apples

Follow "The Quarry Farm" on Facebook and Instagram for 'pop-up' activities onsite and in the region.