

Summer 2017 Programs & Events

Workshop: Make a Garden Trellis or Basket

Saturday, July 29, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Using cut bush honeysuckle, help combat this invasive plant species and repurpose it to highlight your yard or garden.

Cost: \$10, due day of workshop, but preregistration is necessary by emailing thequarryfarm@gmail.com or calling 419-384-7195.

Family Day

Saturday, August 5, 1 to 4 p.m.

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

Bring yourself, friends and family for an afternoon of fun in the gardens, woods and wetlands. See how to make a wren house from a gourd. Make a walking staff and take it with you along the trails to count butterflies, Blanchard's cricket frogs and visit residents of the farm animal sanctuary. Refreshments will be available. Admission to the event is free; tax-deductible donations are welcome.

4th Annual Quarry Farm Jam

Saturday, September 9, 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Whether you play an instrument like a virtuoso or just like to pretend, sing along or listen, spend a sweet late summer evening with music under the big red roof alongside the calls from the nature preserve. There will be cookies, too.

The Quarry Farm 2017 5K

Saturday, October 7, 10 a.m. (Virtual 5K, June 17-December 31)

As with the inaugural event in 2016, walkers and runners have the option to run onsite, starting at the Seitz Family Pavilion, or they may take part in the event virtually. The virtual race is on now and you may register and take part until December 31.

The Virtual 5k event can be completed at any location. By committing to run a 5k at your own pace. You will receive your race t-shirt by mail at the address you provide during registration.

The onsite race is happening October 7. Check-in is from 8:45 to 9:30 a.m. in the Seitz Family Pavilion, 1/8 mile north of 14321 Road 7L, Pandora. Please present ID to receive participation packet. The 5K run/walk will start at 10 a.m. (line-up at 9:50 a.m.) The race will be held rain or shine, so please dress appropriately and wear layers if necessary. There will be water along the route and refreshments at the finish line.

Register at: <http://www.active.com/pandora-oh/running/distance-running-virtual-events/the-quarry-farm-virtual-and-onsite-5k-2017>

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Putnam County Master Gardeners put finishing touches on the Pollinator Garden at Red Fox Cabin.

(continued from 'Open for Pollinators')

By another month later, the plants have survived a dry spell, escaped passing hungry deer and bunnies, and are no longer babies. A pink Prairie Phlox has even bloomed already. By this time next year, the garden should be really flourishing. Plants should have spread to fill empty spaces, providing food and cover for native pollinators during all their life stages. We are excited to have this new educational resource in the garden at The Quarry Farm.

-The Quarry Farm Gardener



Wild bee house



THE Quarry FARM
NATURE PRESERVE & CONSERVATION FARM



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Questions? 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.



Daylilies bloom at Red Fox Cabin.

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: Kayaking on the clear waters of 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

Under One Big Sky

The old quarry was crystal clear in early April, teeming first with fairy shrimp then with tadpoles and toadpoles, salamander larva, and a predaceous diving beetle nymph—a “water tiger.” Some of these aquatic creatures served as educational ambassadors at Lima’s Faurot Park Earth Day celebration, right after Ada Girl Scouts studied them to earn three Brownies and Juniors badges (Hiker, Bugs, and Animal Habitats) along the banks of Cranberry Run.

Findlay Preschool joined us for four April days, learning about plants then using them to make lasting leaf t-shirts. They met the farm animals, at least most children did until the heat of day sent the residents to cool shade.



Findlay Preschool students and their art Ts

young daughters helped load them in our carrier. The eldest skipped and told us about naming them all ‘Waddles.’ Max is flushed with rosy, proprietary happiness.

“200 Years...Same Shoes” was our fashion entry in Erie Conservation District’s “2017 Recycled Runway: A Clean Water Cause”, a fundraiser to restore Lake Erie’s Big Island Preserve on the eastside shoreline off the Cedar Point Causeway. Since everything done upstream (here) impacts downstream (Lake Erie), the Fabulous Sarah’s outfit was made from repurposed pop can tabs, plastic shopping bags, snack bags, mesh fruit bags, plastic bottles, plastic caps, plastic straws, bubble wrap, and feed bags and walked the red carpet. The judges included our entry in a four-way tie for first place, and they raised \$10,000 toward increased water quality.

Sophie made her second visit to the Bluffton Public Library. This year, we discussed habitats as



Sophie helps build a better world.

Forty-six adults and children joined us at Motter Metro Park to explore the Little Riley on April 23, by invitation from Transition Bluffton. Participants examined the six types of aquatic life found in the creek and learned about conditions that affect the water quality of area rivers and lakes.

One Saturday later in the month, three lovely turkeys joined lonely bronze Max here. A family in Michigan raised three Brown Orlopp hens with the intention of serving them on a platter. “But the girls loved them,” the dad said. Indeed, his three

young daughters helped load them in our carrier. The eldest skipped and told us about naming them all ‘Waddles.’ Max is flushed with rosy, proprietary happiness.

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Sophie made her second visit to the Bluffton Public Library. This year, we discussed habitats as

part of the summer reading program, “Build a Better World.” Patrons of all ages repurposed invasive bush honeysuckle into walking sticks and staffs while Sophie happily accepted pats during work breaks.

Sebastian the Skunk and Tyree the Cornsnake visited the Putnam County Library branches in May as part of the summer reading program. We talked with the young patrons about them and other animals they might encounter in their human habitats.



Salamander larva

Residential Spotlight Sebastian

For the first four years of his life, Sebastian lived in wire enclosure not much bigger than a milk crate. When a family decided to intervene in their brother’s untenable living situation, they discovered his cage in the basement. The animal inside was a descendent miniature skunk, probably purchased from a licensed breeder. He was severely dehydrated and underweight (under three pounds.) The family found homes for all of the other animals. Because of restrictive laws and the complexity of their care, the skunk was placed with Skunk Haven™ Skunk Rescue, Shelter, and Education, Inc. in northeast Ohio.

Although capable of living indoors with humans similar to cats or dogs, pet skunks are relatively rare, partly due to reasons already mentioned. Ohio is one of 17 states in the U.S. that allows humans to keep skunks as domestic pets. As with all animals, just because it is lawful to possess an animal in one’s home, this doesn’t mean one should. Skunks are cute, but even the cuddliest can bite. After all, we humans are at the top of the food chain and have been known to eat their kind. Skunks are also omnivorous creatures that are related to ferrets, weasels and badgers—all inquisitive, aggressive predators.

Although facilitators of The Quarry Farm Nature Preserve & Conservation Farm have had years of wildlife rehabilitation experience and rabies vector species training (skunks belong in the latter category), we had to apply to adopt Sebastian. As Captain John Smith the Virginia Opossum died last year, there was an opening for a new educational ambassador. We had to prove that we are capable of housing and caring for Sebastian and to acquire permits to keep him as an educational ambassador. We also had to find a veterinarian who could provide medical care for him. We have done all these things and Sebastian is settling into his new, spacious home.

Open for Pollinators

In the Winter 2017 newsletter, we told you about the Putnam County Master Gardener volunteers’ laying a bed for spring planting of a pollinator garden next to Red Fox Cabin. The goal was to create an educational resource for visitors and a micro-habitat to provide a boost to our stressed-out native pollinators.

All according to plan, 12 volunteers met in January and formed three groups responsible for selecting native plants, designing a layout, and planning hardscape features. The groups went to work on their assignments and by April were ready to purchase plants. (It had been decided that purchasing plants would be a quicker route to establishing a garden than starting from seed, although seeding is recommended for larger habitats.) In late April, several volunteers tramped down to Marengo, Ohio, to Natives in Harmony nursery and came back with 23 native (to this region) species, 103 plants in all.

A month later, giving the babies a bit more time to grow, an energetic crew arrived at Red Fox Cabin, ready to plant. With layout in hand, they made sure that each species went into its proper place in the design, along with a temporary sign describing it. The hardscape crew laid a slightly meandering, rock-lined path the length of the garden and placed a mason bee house atop some decaying logs. Still to come: at least one large rock, a child’s tricycle, and permanent signage to explain the plants and the elements of a pollinator habitat—and perhaps a big frog somewhere.

(continued on back page)



Dr. Anders examines Sebastian.

Thank you...

...Joan and Bill Utendorf for squash and other garden vegetables

...Daryl and Peggy Bridenbaugh for bedding straw

Monetary Donations:

Doug and Sandy Downing
Hancock-Wood Electric Co-operative “Project Roundup”
Virginia Olivas
Ottawa Study Club
The Quarry Farm Virtual 5K participants



The three Waddles

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.

- apples
- carrots
- grass hay (bales)
- peanuts
- zucchini or other whole squash
- volunteers to cut honeysuckle

Follow “The Quarry Farm” on Facebook and Instagram for ‘pop-up’ activities onsite and in the region.



Master Gardeners dig in



Sarah walks the Recycled Runway.