



Into a Long Winter's Night

Several evenings ago in the deepening dusk, I took a walk southward along the road that separates The Quarry Farm garden from miles of empty fields. Hidden in the shadows, Red Fox Cabin, still decked out in red bows and evergreen, stood quiet again after greeting more than 70 visitors during the 4th Riley Creek Old-Time Christmas Tour. In clear patches of lawn near the road, rabbit tracks zigged and zagged in a dusting of snow. A little farther on, a large bed that used to grow vegetables lay sleeping under a blanket of straw and cardboard. If that blanket works this winter as intended to smother grass and ground ivy, the bed will be free in the spring for more native plants, zinnias, and sunflowers to supplement the pollinator plants already in the Master Gardeners' habitat garden and elsewhere.

As I walked on, the shape of a deer materialized in the gloom ahead. It had paused in its trek across the open fields to size up the odd creature moving its way. Upon my "Hello there," it startled and vanished instantly into the shelter of The Quarry Farm. Reaching the tree line that separates the garden from the animal sanctuary, I heard a deer cough deep in the brush. The same deer perhaps or another not wishing to be disturbed in its bed for the night? Or a restless buck looking for a fight?

With that last image in my mind I turned to head back home, suddenly overwhelmed with gratitude for this place where my family and I can offer food, safety and shelter to wild animals, habitat to endangered plant and animal species, a loving forever home to displaced and abused domestic animals, a peaceful retreat for our species, and opportunities to interact with Nature and learn.

—The Gardener at The Quarry Farm



Bonnie Brooks donned monarch wings to walk with our trees in Ottawa's Welcome Santa parade on November 25.

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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.



Give a Gift to Support TQF, Get a Unique Work of Art

Back by popular demand: gorgeous Quarry Farm mugs created by artist Brandon Knott of It's Knott Pottery, fresh from the kiln and ready for purchase. The mugs are \$20 each and are glazed in a variety of colors. Each include a sculpted "cookie" on the front. If you've ever attended an event here, you'll know we have the best cookies.

Complete the order form to the right and send, with cash or check, to: The Quarry Farm Nature Preserve & Conservation Farm, 14321 Road 7L, Pandora, OH 45877.

Name _____

Mailing Address (street or PO box) _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Phone Number: _____

How many mugs? _____

What color combination do you prefer? (3 available: blue & green; earthtones; purple & green) _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please include \$5.00 for shipping per mug. Free local delivery is available.





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.



Tyree meets a friend on an October Sunday.

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: "The Ingalls Girls" visited Red Fox Cabin during the Riley Creek Old-Time Christmas Tour.

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

www.thequarryfarm.org

Printed on recycled, recyclable paper



The 5th Annual Quarry Farm 5K followed a new route that featured the rolling Riley Creek.

Under one big sky

Rain put a damper on September 8, but the 3rd Annual Quarry Farm Jam did happen on September 22. Musicians and listeners were invited to spend a sweet late summer evening with music alongside the calls from the nature preserve. Watch videos from the evening on The Quarry Farm's Instagram page and Dave Frick's video on YouTube (Quarry Farm Jam September 22, 2018).

The Quarry Farm 5K went off without a hitch for the fifth year. Rain held off and sun shone on October 6 as runners and walkers followed a new course that highlighted Riley Creek vistas and historic sites. Thanks to everyone who helped organize, time and lead the way.

Tyree the Red Ratsnake/Cornsnake was a big Quarry Farm educational ambassador this fall: first at Sauder Village during the September 8 "Monarchs & More" event. A few days later, Daryl and Peg Bridenbaugh led the annual hayrides for Hilty Home residents. The weather was beautiful on both evenings, so warm that most of the animals wandered out to greet them, even Tyree.

The "Give Thanks Woodland Walk" was enjoyed by an enthusiastic group of all ages. We may have caught a glimpse of a Northern Shrike in the back grassland. Maybe we'll see this vole-caching bird during the February 19 Great Backyard Bird Count.

Missing Mister Bill

With great sadness, we report the death of Mister Bill the Giant Goat. In the Fall Newsletter, we talked about a diagnosis of megaesophagus and aspiration pneumonia. He was doing well, eating from elevated food dishes and water receptacles. Quite suddenly, he wasn't. He visited with the Hilty Home residents on September 14. The following morning, he couldn't stand without assistance. Mister Bill died a few days later, with all the farm animal sanctuary residents gathered around him. Thank you to Sandy and Doug Downing for sharing his big life with us.



The trees on the preserve kept the path warm enough that this little hiker didn't believe in shoes.



Very young Carlton converses with Mister Bill.



Mosaic and Chablis survey their new home above Cranberry Run.

Resident Spotlight: Mosaic & Chablis

All visitors to the farm animal sanctuary hear anecdotes from our interactions with all the four-leggers and winged ones. One of the things that we mention on a tour is that everyone has a job. The goats and donkeys trim and free the pasture and paddocks of invasive plant species. The pigs eat root-ravishing grubs and quack grass. The chickens, geese, turkeys and Brownie the Duck devour biting insects. The guineas sound the alarm. We discovered this summer that we needed a perimeter patrol to protect the sentinel.

The Hard Rock Llama Company came to the rescue with two aging llamas. The Ada llama business owners were looking for a retirement home for the females. When Mosaic and Chablis arrived, Buddy the Donkey was so excited that he kicked up his heels, hee-ed and haw-ed until curly Mosaic and statuesque Chablis were on his side of the fence.

Winter 2018–2019 Programs & Events

Annual Hat Day Hike

Sunday, January 13, 2 to 3 p.m.

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

More body heat is lost from your head than other parts of the body. National Hat Day (January 15) is not to just keep your noggin warm. It's a chance to make a statement and to display your favorite headgear. In celebration, style a hat and join us on the Sunday before for a nature hike. Prizes will be awarded for Most Colorful Hat and Most Unusual Hat. Cookies and hot chocolate will follow.

2019 Great Backyard Bird Count

Saturday, February 16, 8 to 9:30 a.m.

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

Each February, the National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology coordinate the Great Backyard Bird Count. Bring your binoculars as we walk and 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 snapshot of global bird populations.

Preregister for Winter Programs and Events by calling 419-384-7195 or by emailing thequarryfarm@gmail.com. For more information about these programs, or to view a complete list of our available presentation topics, visit www.thequarryfarm.org.

Thank you...

...to Kathy Doty for apples

...to Master Gardener Volunteers Tim Macke and Joe Hovest for gated entrance to the pollinator habitat garden

...to the Hard Rock Llama Company for delivering watchdog llamas

...to Hoen's Orchard for apples and squash

...to Mike Erchenbrecher for picnic tables and hickory seedlings

...to Bonnie Brooks for walking with us in Ottawa's Welcome Santa Parade

...to Mystery Donor for straw

...to all who made music at the 3rd Annual Quarry Farm Jam

Monetary Donations:

Tim and Martha Seitz

Randall Basinger

Sandy and Doug Downing

Sue Kreidler Frey

Laura Gretzinger

Paula Harper

Putnam Co. Master Gardener Volunteers

Laura Quirk

Laura Zitzelberger



Wendy Chappell-Dick joined in the 3rd Annual Music Jam in September.

WISH LIST

- whole potatoes
- a college intern to work on Spring Bush Honeysuckle removal