

## 21st Century Bridge

*The Cranberry Run footbridge, built by Gerald Coburn and Kevin Siefker at the turn of the century and re-engineered by David Seitz, survived longer than any other bridge. This spring, we discovered that the northern-most weight-bearing pole was rotten, Dave went into action with assistance from his daughter Aili. He documented the new bridge-building project via email to Board President Laura. It's a fascinating read that we share here.*

### Tuesday, April 16

Some pictures of the bridge, from this afternoon. A good one of the actual break in the north side pole. You can see it drooping below the 2 x 6s, which are holding it together. I'm starting to like the idea of moving the bridge to the south, to the more narrow part of the channel.

### Wednesday, May 8

This afternoon I rode up to the QF to see the poles, and tie them off a bit, so they wouldn't head for Toledo or similar. Both are partly in and partly out of the water. They are beauties: 35 ft. long. One is just 50 meters south of the old bridge. The other is clear down toward the bend. Maybe 150 meters south of the old bridge. Put on my boots, and waded around a bunch. I put strings across the creek, and measured widths, and heights, looking for the best spot. Another point: Since the bridge is now a regular "raft," I don't see any sense in burying the poles into the bank. They float up and down these days, often enough. We'll want chains on the new bridge, like the old. Instead, I'd like to put the poles up on railroad ties. One on each bank would result in the pole top being over a foot taller than the bank. Could put several railroad ties on each bank, for better stability, and to minimize sinking and stress on the banks.

### Thursday, May 9

I was worried about the thunderstorms flooding the creek, and losing (the poles). As it turned out, the rain we had was necessary for me to move them to the bridge site. I worked pretty hard with the pry bar on the close one. About an hour to move it 50 meters or so. The creek was too shallow at the rapids. But for the far one, even after the rain and the creek rose 4 inches or so, it still took 2 hours of back work to get it to the bridge site. And just getting it from the bank into the creek was a challenge. Pry bar and blocks were enough, but barely.

The cable puller held together till the end, but was getting iffy on the last pole. With the puller and the recovery straps, it is slow work, but possible.



Two new poles were needed for the new bridge and Providence brought them downstream. "The close one was 35 ft, and the far away one was 39 ft, and much heavier," said David. "What luck! Keep an eye out for more, and don't let any get away!"

### Tuesday, May 14

Was able to get the first two railroad ties in place, with the poles on top. Will try to get two more ties installed, later in the week. They are heavier than I expected. The one on the west end was about 240 #, and larger than the others. They will keep the poles up off the ground, and stabilize the bridge. Higher the better.

### Tuesday, May 21

Worked till dark forced us to stop. The idea was to take off every other board, and transfer them over to the new bridge. That way there would be access to the quarry at all times. Unfortunately, it took us several hours to get the poles "rolled" to the proper position before we started. They both had a sag as received, particularly the north pole. We were able to get the sag rolled 180 degrees up, before the first planks were fastened, so the sag is now an "arch." But it got dark and we had to stop with about 5 planks short on the new bridge. There are planks all the way over the water, but not enough for a walk across. The current plan is to come up and continue the plank installation tomorrow, weather permitting.

Removing the runner and the screws from the old bridge was indeed a challenge. I brought every kind and size of screw driver I had, and needed them. Some screws were over 4 inches long, and there were multiple types on most of the planks. On the new bridge, I am using new 3 inch zinc coated construction screws, with a torx 25 driver. Two per side. And drilling the pilot holes before screwing them in. Less stress on the poles, and they can be removed when necessary. For a bit of stability while

working on the bridge, Aili hung up a yellow stretch of anchor rope at shoulder height above the planks, to give something to hold on to.

### Thursday, May 23

Well, we finally got packed and rolling by sunset again. Home just after 10 p.m. Without Aili the planks wouldn't be done yet. Aili picked through them, and with the 10 new 2 x 6s and "re-purposing" the recently added 2 x 10s that were part of the ramps, felt pretty good about them. And with the spacing, and being flat, it seems quite stable to me. I'll give them a good inspection, after they've been in service some months, and are dried out. They were staying wet all the time on the old bridge.

The last job of the day was to remove the west side anchor chain from the old bridge, and do a temporary anchor job on the west end of the new bridge. I didn't move the east side chain off the old bridge yet. Will do that one later too when I move the "good" south pole to the proposed ravine bridge site. Also need to anchor the railroad ties. Don't want them floating away either.

### Wednesday, May 29

We had a pleasant day putting up the side ropes, and holders. Re-used the yellow twist anchor rope that we left for the temporary safety rope. It is only half inch diameter, but pretty strong. Totally synthetic, so only worried about UV light wearing it out.

Have chains on both ends now, so should be OK if there is a mega flood. Should go up and back down without taking off for Toledo. Chains are around the poles, and anchored on the railroad ties as well, so we don't lose them. I'll make some small changes once I take all the chain off the old bridge. Feel pretty good about it now.

**Editor's Note: So do we, David.**

#### Board of Directors:

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

## Summer 2019 Programs & Events

### Spring Family Day

**Saturday, June 15, 1 to 4 p.m.**

Bring yourself, friends and family for an afternoon of fun in the gardens, woods and wetlands. Make a walking staff and take it with you along the trails to count butterflies and Blanchard's cricket frogs and visit residents of the farm animal sanctuary. Admission is free and no registration is required. Tax-deductible donations are welcome.

### Create a Concrete Garden Thing

**Thursday, July 18, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

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

Make a concrete bowl or decor using natural materials to form your creation. Participants are welcome to bring a sack lunch to eat in the Seitz Family Pavilion. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED by emailing your response to [thequarryfarm@gmail.com](mailto:thequarryfarm@gmail.com) by Monday, July 15 at 5 PM. Materials fee: \$12.00 per person. RAIN DATE: July 25.**

### Russ Gibson in Concert

**Saturday, September 14, 6 to 7:30 p.m.**

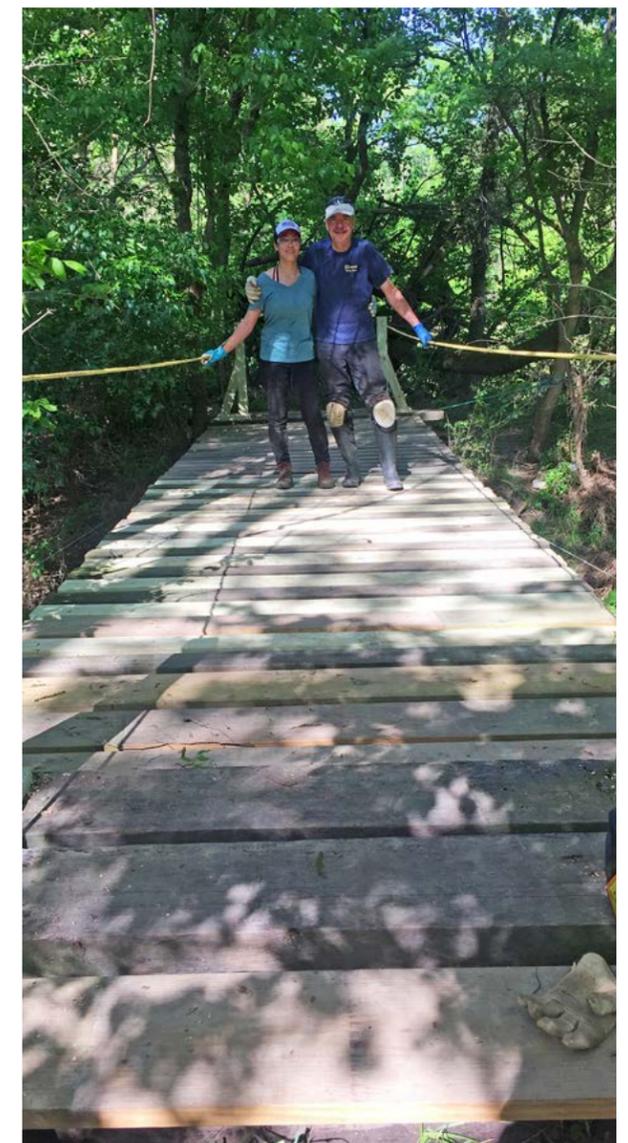
Seitz Family Pavilion, 1/8 mile north of 14321 Road 7L, Pandora

Russ Gibson is a veteran performer of festivals, fairs, corporate events, parks and the Bluebird Café in Nashville. He is a story teller, songwriter, outdoor photographer and a published outdoor writer. His songs strike a common chord in listeners of all ages and are appropriate for audiences of all ages.

Russ is a native of Cleveland but for the past 30 years has called Delaware, Ohio, his home. He is retired from 12 years with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and is also a 25 year veteran of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, having worked with Ohio's State Parks, the Divisions of Natural Areas and Preserves, Recycling and Mineral Resources Management. He has committed his life to improving the environment in which we live, serving as a state park ranger, preserve manager, and statewide program administrator. In addition to his visit with The Quarry Farm, Russ has performed at several state parks, Red, White and Boom, the Columbus Music in the Air series, the Columbus Arts Festival and other venues.

While enjoying Gibson's guitar and vocals perform a range of genres, sample a vegetarian and vegan feast prepared by our own Steven Coburn-Griffis. **This event is not ticketed, but tax-deductible donations are welcome. You may donate securely at [www.thequarryfarm.org](http://www.thequarryfarm.org) or with cash or check the day of the concert.**

**For more information about these programs, or to view a complete list of our available presentation topics, visit [www.thequarryfarm.org](http://www.thequarryfarm.org). Questions? Call 419-420-4784.**





## 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.



Why did the turtle cross the road? To lay its eggs, just like this gorgeous lady snapping turtle. Be careful as you travel this season and let them live.

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:** David and Aili Seitz survey the new Cranberry Run footbridge.

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

[www.thequarryfarm.org](http://www.thequarryfarm.org)

Printed on recycled, recyclable paper

## Under one big sky

Much of The Quarry Farm nature preserve was a lake this spring season. Before April showers changed from gentle mist to a series of gully washers, Girl Scout Service Unit 221 from Ada and Kenton spent the better part of April 13 cutting bush honeysuckle. They needed 70 potential hiking staffs to carry home. They tackled the ridge and bottom on the east edge of the stone quarry wetland, lopping their way through one of the densest growths of this confounded invasive woody plant. As well as making way for shagbark hickory and swamp white oak seedlings, they helped us release a woodduck drake who had flown down the Red Fox Cabin chimney.

The following Friday was rainy and windy—just the perfect sort of day for Sophie the Potbelly to go for a car ride. She didn't think much of the idea; she never does until she is in the back seat and the car is rolling. Sophie, Tyree the Cornsnake and Gerald the Rooster were invited to attend Spring Break Day Camp at the Girl Scout Camp in Lima. Once there, I parked outside Rose Marie Duffy Lodge, leaving the car door open while I carried Tyree and Gerald into the conference room. I heard laughter behind me and turned to see Sophie marching up the Lodge steps, ready to greet her newest fans and to accept accolades as only stars of her caliber receive. She hoovered up the spoils of a snack break while I shared why we do what we do here with those that share this Back 50

The floodplain wetlands worked as they should, absorbing runoff and nutrients. The wetlands were so extensive that the Vernal Pool Workshop was rescheduled and eventually was cancelled as the bottomland was one very large, deep vernal pool.

We applied and were accepted to exhibit at the 2019 Ohio Tourism Day. On May 8 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., we shared the Ohio Statehouse lawn with living history villages, restaurants, theaters, park and outdoor adventure services. Visitors to our booth made 50 hiking staffs and viewed tad- and toadpoles, dragonfly nymphs and photos of our events, programs and natural residents. They guessed the number of amphibians on display for a chance to win a colossal pollinator gift basket designed by TQF Board Member Paula Harper.



Derek was the first person to make a hiking staff out of bush honeysuckle during Ohio Tourism Day. He was also the lucky winner of the pollinator gift basket.



Girl Scout Service Unit 221 from Ada and Kenton tackled invasive bush honeysuckle on April 13.



Sophie was a gentle ambassador for her kind at the Girl Scout Spring Break Day Camp. She also cleaned up all the crumbs from snack time in the Lodge. Thanks to Katlin Shuherk for sharing her photo. See more on our website.

An approaching storm swept the birds under cover for the May 19 wildflower/bird walk. Because of flooding and cool temps, we were a week or so away from late spring wildflower blooms. After the rain passed and everyone went home to dry out, we saw Carolina wrens, a bluebird, goldfinches, a flock of cedar waxwings, various sparrows, a catbird, cardinals and an indigo bunting right around Red Fox Cabin.

## Resident Spotlight: Arthur

**“Cockfighting is a centuries-old blood sport in which two or more specially bred birds, known as gamecocks, are placed in an enclosed pit to fight, for the primary purposes of gambling and entertainment. A typical cockfight can last anywhere from several minutes to more than half an hour and usually results in the death of one or both birds. The blades or “gaffs” (which resemble 3-inch-long, curved ice picks) tied to the birds’ legs are so sharp and dangerous that cockfighters themselves have been killed when accidentally slashed by their own birds. Firearms and other weapons are common at cockfights, mainly because of the large amounts of gambling cash present. Reports of cockfighting-related homicide are not uncommon. In addition, law enforcement officials have documented a strong connection between cockfighting and the distribution of illegal drugs. Drug enforcement agents often learn about animal fighting operations as a result of narcotics investigations.”**

*-Information from The Humane Society of the United States 2019*

It is argued that cock-fighting is a centuries-old tradition in various countries, including the United States. But to quote the Humane Society again, “old” does not necessarily mean right or even acceptable.” Nor are the birds pitted in fighting rings inherently vicious fighters. Birds will fight over food, territory, or mates, to establish dominance within a group. This is commonly known as “the pecking order” and isn't a phenomenon unknown to other species (including humans.) Fighting birds are bred for maximum aggression; some are given steroids or other drugs to make them more aggressive.

A few months ago, a facilitator from the Rooster Sanctuary at Danzig's Roost trekked from Colorado to rehome over 200 cockfighting ring victims. All were placed in registered 501(c)3 facilities. All were found during a substantial drug raid in a large midwestern city. The birds were at various stages of their blood-sport careers. Some had had their combs removed to make them more stream-lined fighters. Others were lacking their heel spurs as these were cut off so that gaffs could be attached. The four that arrived in our farm animal sanctuary were young, fully combed and spurred. They were frostbitten and frightened. Danzig's Roost's Jewel had given us directions on how to recondition the birds, making them less prone to attack each other. We, like most people, had assumed that they would be aggressive towards humans. Jewel told us that, while the birds “are like heat-seeking missiles with each other” they are bred to be docile—even gentle—with humans. The birds are literally killed for their kindness.

Months on, Arthur is the dominant rooster at our front door. Although he still sports the blackened spots of frostbite, he is a glorious survivor with a magnificent comb, long legs and mane of russet feathers. His crow wakes us each morning at the front door, and he flies into Steven's arms for his breakfast. He is loud and proud, but not so cocky that he challenges Red, the patriarch of the residential flock. Red was here first.

**NOTE: If you suspect that cockfighting is going on in your neighborhood, alert your local law enforcement agency.** In 2016, Ohio Senate Bill 331 declared cockfighting a felony in this state; specifically, the passed law is “to prohibit and establish an increased penalty for knowingly engaging in activities associated with cockfighting, bearbaiting, or pitting an animal against another.” Prior to this action, a first offense of cockfighting was a misdemeanor in Ohio.

**Are you a high school senior or college student and want to be The Quarry Farm's summer or fall intern to help remove invasive plants? Send us an email with your interest at [thequarryfarm@gmail.com](mailto:thequarryfarm@gmail.com) or call 419-420-4784.**



## Thank you...

...to Chad Carroll for leading the Wildflowers & Feathered Wings Walk

...to Mike and Martha Erchenbrecher for the wood pallet

...to Girl Scout Service Unit 221 for removing bush honeysuckle from the preserve

...to the Putnam County Master Gardeners for spring prep in their pollinator garden

...to David and Aili Seitz for engineering and constructing the new Cranberry Run footbridge (see details on back page)

### Monetary Donations:

Julie Dietsch

Sandy and Doug Downing

Network for Good funds in honor of Paula Harper's Birthday

Judith Lehman



Artists Terry Bauerle and Holiday Herman painted portraits of Nemo (above) and a red-winged blackbird with a hidden chicken (below), respectively. Both works will be on display during Spring Family Day on June 15.

