

Caring for Nature's Kidneys

In the 1950s, Cranberry Run was dredged and straightened in a government effort to abate flooding in Allen and Putnam Counties. The result was increased flooding and extensive erosion that filled in much of the old quarry with sediment. This summer and fall, David Seitz began to engineer a system that would temper sediment loading and help the wetland do its job as a natural water treatment system and wildlife habitat. David is documenting the project via email to Board President Laura.

September 11

Moved a few rocks up out of the creek bed, and built up the quarry outlet a bit with them. Heavy work. Staggering through the shallow water carrying the rocks is not so good. I think moving them on the red cart would be OK. The creek bottom is mostly flat in that section, with a bit of sand. Saw my favorite invertebrate in the pool...a crawdad!

September 17

Was planning to stop hauling and shovel some dirt, but I found a really nice rock, biggest of the day, in the creek bed. Couldn't resist it! Took 20 minutes to get it on the cart, and 20 more minutes to get it to the quarry gap. And then couldn't

lift it. Finally got the cable puller and strap, to keep it from falling back on my feet. With pulling and pushing, got it up on top.

October 2

Moved about 2 cubic yards of dirt from the quarry to the bank, behind the rock wall. Basically just kept shoveling till the "south quarry gap" and channel were adequately supported for a small to medium flood.

Putting the culvert in is the second phase. I don't think the bank is high enough yet at the south quarry gap, but there is enough dirt there now that the priority should shift to getting the fill/drain "culvert" installed in the north quarry gap to function like a stand pipe for draining, and an inlet pipe during floods. At both times, it will be important to prevent erosion of the banks—thus a couple feet of dirt above the culvert pipe.

Phase 3: Once the pipe is installed, and buried in the bank with a foot or two of quarry dirt, I can return to the south quarry gap area, and build up the bank another foot or so and widen the bank, also. I'm hoping the pipe will help to maintain a foot or so more water in the quarry throughout the year.

October 15

Was pleased to get 15' of the culvert pipe well bedded, and

level. Covered just 10' of the pipe so far, and only a little, but it looks better. For now, the bank is 12–14" above the pipe inlet/outlet, so there should be much less erosion in the event of a small flood.

October 18

Water level was higher, but only up 2" from the little bit of rain. Was 19" from water to inlet of pipe on Monday. Today it is only 17" from the creek water to the bottom of the pipe. If the creek rises by 18" from today's level, we'll start filling the quarry! Got the pipe almost covered, leveling as I went. Could see that the water in the center of the quarry was slightly larger. I need to bring up the cable puller, chains, and recovery straps, and move a few big rocks onto the banks at the south and north quarry gaps and in between.

Last part of this job is just to raise the banks a foot or two more with dirt from the "grand canyon". The culvert pipe should help maintain a water level in the quarry and hopefully reduce some of the erosion.

November 1

The creek water was up today, but still about 12" below the pipe inlet. I looked in the pipe and it was dry. The grand canyon was full to the lip, but it didn't stop me from digging the dirt from there. Could see

that the grand canyon water was more than a foot below the level of the creek water and the water out in the center of the quarry was 2" below the grand canyon water.

When I'm finished building up the banks (Christmas?) I can set up a siphon and begin raising the water level in the quarry a bit that way. Good to siphon in creek water when the creek is carrying less silt.

November 5

I started shoveling dirt up onto the bank at the north gap. Was thinking I'd just build up to the north of the north gap, but have been thinking about the path there. To get it flat and welcoming to someone hiking around the quarry, it should be level, and at least 3' wide. I built up the bank some more with that goal in mind, higher than the rocks, and relatively flat as the south gap part.

November 9

Didn't quite get the corner filled. Ran out of daylight. Really want to get the path across the top of the bank finished, so it is a pleasant walk all the way around the quarry. Will figure out a rope for a handrail. I'd like to move a big rock onto the north side of the gaps, to support the dirt better. Have moved the easy ones, so will have to be a little more ambitious about the next rock. I will sleep well tonight.

Winter 2019–2020 Programs & Events

Meet in Seitz Family Pavilion, 1/8 mile north of 14321 Road 7L, Pandora for all of these scheduled activities.

Full Moon Hike

Saturday, January 11, 8 to 9 p.m.

The Full Moon in January is the Wolf Moon, named after howling wolves, which may stem from the Anglo-Saxon lunar calendar. Other names: Moon After Yule, Old Moon, Ice Moon, and Snow Moon. Whatever you call it, join us as we hike the nature preserve trails by moonlight (but please bring a flashlight and dress for the weather).

PREREGISTRATION is required for this event. Call 419-384-7195 or email thequarryfarm@gmail.com by Thursday, February 25 at 12 p.m. to tell us you are coming.

Annual Hat Day Hike

Sunday, January 19, 2 to 3 p.m.

National Hat Day (January 15) is not just for keeping your noggin warm. It's a chance to make a statement and to display your favorite headgear. In celebration, join us on the Sunday after for a nature hike. In addition to wearing your most amazing hat, wear warm clothes and good walking shoes.

Great Backyard Bird Count 2020

Saturday, February 15, 9 to 10:30 a.m.

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. All recorded species will be submitted to the international count as part of the largest instantaneous snapshot of global bird populations. Wear good walking shoes, warm clothes, and bring a bird guide and binoculars if you have them.



NATURE PRESERVE & CONSERVATION FARM



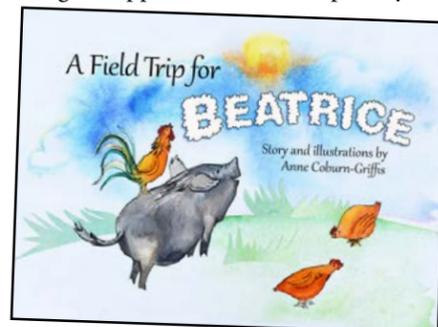
A Gift to be Read Aloud

Just in time for the holidays—*A Field Trip for Beatrice* is now available for purchase. The story of this little pot-bellied pig is the very first book in what we hope will be a library of Quarry Farm stories.

While only she knows the exact details of Beatrice's first six months of life, we do know that she outgrew the welcome at her first home. We also know that she loves a good apple and 'scritch', especially when they are delivered by visiting school children. *A Field Trip for Beatrice* is the story of one of those visits, illustrated with 3-D watercolor collages.

24 pages, heavy paperback with full-color illustrations.

Cost: \$12.00



A Field Trip for Beatrice ORDER FORM

Name _____

Mailing Address (street or PO box) _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Quantity _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____

(Make checks payable to: **The Quarry Farm**)

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Questions? Email thequarryfarm@gmail.com, visit us online at www.thequarryfarm.org or call 419-384-7195. Donations to The Quarry Farm Nature Preserve & Conservation Farm, a 501(c)3 public charity, are tax deductible.



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.



The 2019 Veterans Day winter storm caught fall off guard, turning the changing leaves into something akin to stained glass.

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: Red Fox Cabin and Gardens, November 12, 2019

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

www.thequarryfarm.org

Printed on recycled, recyclable paper



Russ Gibson shared his beautiful music on the Red Fox Cabin Porch on September 14. A buffet of vegan and vegetarian dishes was also available during the benefit concert.

Under One Big Sky

What a jam-packed late summer and fall it was. Speaking of, this year's Jam was tabled for a year to make way for a September 14 benefit concert by Russ Gibson, a story teller, songwriter, outdoor photographer and writer and long-time friend. Russ 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 performance for 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. The Quarry Farm Jam will return to the Seitz Family Pavilion on September 12, 2020.

Asher Haselman won the The Quarry Farm 4th Annual 5K on October 5. Look out, Junior High track teams everywhere—Asher's still in elementary school. Christine Hooker was the first female runner over the finish line and the first walker in was Jay Shapiro. The morning was cool, sunny and late morning rain held off long enough for cookies to be consumed and race t-shirts to be decorated.

Very young voices rang out in the Red Fox Cabin gardens later in the month as we welcomed two children's groups on their first visit to The Quarry Farm. Safe Haven Family Childcare from Lima and Kingdom Kids Preschool from Dupont Church of the Brethren listened to a story about Beatrice the Pot-bellied Pig (details on the back page of this newsletter). They hiked through the gardens, smelling drying herbs and flowers along the way. The children from Safe Haven got to see a Painted Lady butterfly. All children met some of the farm animal sanctuary animals, including Beatrice herself.



After The Quarry Farm 5K, Janet Veith personalized her t-shirt using fabric markers.



Safe Haven Family Childcare (above) and Kingdom Kids Preschool visited for the first time in October, bringing apples and carrots to share with the animals.



Resident Spotlight: Clive

When you picture how best to care for a pot-bellied pig, do you think canoe launch? Someone did last summer. They abandoned a hormonal male pot-bellied pig with a full set of tusks at a roadside park in Findlay.

Although we don't know the exact circumstances of why and how Clive came to be hanging around Liberty Landing, we can make an educated guess. After four days of working with park staff, the Hancock County Humane Society/ASPCA and two farmers to catch him, we would bet our bottom dollar that someone acquired a cute pocket piglet, thinking how adorable he was in their purse or on their lap. The mini pig grew, as they do ('mini' means 125-200 pounds instead of 500) as did his hooves, tusks and determination. When we met him, Clive was as unapproachable as a scared, aggressive, hungry, hormonal teenager can be.

Months later, Clive is neutered and tusk-less, thanks to Dr. Anders and County Animal Clinic in Coldwater. He is still finding his place in the pot-belly order here and would really like to have more of the cookies he had so many of when we were trying to coax him into the trailer along the Blanchard River (he's not getting them). Nevertheless, his happy bushy tail never stops wagging as he figures things out.

Tucking the Animals in for Winter

As I write this, we are experiencing the effects of an arctic air mass and it's only November. Wonder what it takes to tuck in between 50 and 75 mammals, birds and reptiles for a northwest Ohio winter? Besides making sure that all buildings, enclosures, goat coats and donkey thermals are cold-weather ready, we face additional challenges in preparing for winter. Here are a few:

- Sophie, Bob Barker and Alphonse are pot-bellied pigs who have suffered horrible neglect and cruelty in their lives. All three feel cold intensely. Bob and Sophie are missing great pieces from their ears and have scaly skin with patchy hair growth. They must eat a varied diet, with more caloric feed. Nemo, a gentle giant 'farm' pig, becomes food-aggressive in winter and is corralled with her best friend Carlton, another pot-belly who is more than pleasantly plump. Nemo must eat almost constantly when the temperature plunges. This means that we have to keep couch-potato Carlton distracted when Nemo gets her second and third breakfasts.
- The turkeys, geese, ducks and chickens are a variety of ages. In winter, we increase the protein content of their feed, pack their coop and other outbuildings with straw and allow them to move freely as much as possible. If it becomes too cold and wet, we gather them up in the henhouse with fresh water access. In winter, water must be carried by bucket as the outdoor faucets and hoses are shut off.
- Although Tyree the corn snake lives indoors, his quarters are kept cool in winter, just as they would be in the wild. His space must be kept moist but not wet, cool but not cold.
- Quinn the fox loves snow. She should since she came from a fur farm rescue in Minnesota. The only trouble with allowing her to enjoy racing through the white stuff is that the two former cockfighting roosters often roost temptingly above her play space. It's a dance: a strenuous, costly and sometimes heartbreaking one, but what a ride it is.



Apples or potatoes simulate fall foraging and boosts healthy calorie intake during early winter.

Thank you...

...to Daryl Bridenbaugh for straw
 ...to Kathy Doty for apples
 ...to Paula Harper for assisting with 5K timing and water breaks
 ...to Rebecca McKee for editing *A Field Trip for Beatrice*
 ...to Safe Haven Family Childcare and Kingdom Kids Preschool for bringing treats for the animals
 ...to Clara Schnee for creating jewelry for fundraising
 ...to Eagle Scout Sam Schroeder and family for building the Woodland Classroom
 ...to David Seitz for engineering a retention system for the quarry wetland, sediment barrier between it and Cranberry Run, and for clearing trails with Aili Seitz
 ...to Jerry Suter for pumpkins

Monetary Donations:

Ann Boyd
 Joyce Brown
 Megan Clinton
 Julie Dietsch
 Sandy and Doug Downing
 Putnam County Master Gardeners
 Jay Shapiro
 Holly Thomas
 Jody White



Engineer David Seitz is in the process of developing a system that will allow Cranberry Run to supply water to the quarry wetland while preventing increased siltation during flood events. See details on the back of this newsletter.

WISH LIST

- whole potatoes, apples and pumpkins for the farm animal sanctuary residents