

How Clear the Waters Run

I think it will always thrill me to overhear someone asking someone else if they have ever been to The Quarry Farm, for people to talk about the animals, birds, gardens and the clarity of the stream. Not everyone will turn over their yard to goats, roosters, and geriatric pigs, but gardens—the riotous kind filled with a variety of native flowering plants—and trees can make birds and clear water more common. This region's native grasses and trees have long, branching root systems that hold the soil like a strong net. Have you ever pulled English Ivy? This non-native is tenacious and fast-growing but you can remove a large patch with one pull, so shallow-rooted and interwoven is this European transplant. In contrast, ever tried to pull a Common Milkweed in its entirety? Best of luck.

Old Man Sycamore in the north floodplain of the nature preserve has a hollow base that provides shelter to who knows how many creatures each night and during winter's

worst. As shallow-rooted landscapes topple across Northwest Ohio, he and the 300-year oaks withstand wicked flood currents and down-bursts. As the floodwaters recede, the forbs at his feet grasp run-off silt and soil. Within 36 hours, Cranberry Run is clear again.

You hear a lot about native plants these days. Big-box stores as well as local nurseries stock a variety of plants labeled as native. Keep in mind that native doesn't always mean native to here. Also, ask your green-grower what kind of substrate your plants are potted in. Mass-marketed plants are often potted for long shelf lives, their roots sandwiched in neonicotinoid-laced soils that wreak havoc on bees and other beneficial insects.

Remember that part about riotous gardens? Variety is the spice of life. Some native plants can be invasive without other native plants to keep them in check. The Quarry Farm Gardener finds it necessary to parcel out starts of Coneflower every now any then, as well as Menarda (Bee Balm). Much



An Orchard Oriole sings above Cranberry Run. (Photo by Deb Weston)

is made of the benefits of keeping Common Milkweed for the Monarch butterflies. Without Ironweed, Coneflower, Asters, and Common Hackberry trees to watch over them all, who will feed and shelter Comma, Question Mark, swallowtails, and the Hackberry Emperor butterflies? And without Jewelweed and its orange orchid-like flowers nodding on the riverbanks and floodplains, how will I ever be rid of this confounded poison ivy rash?



The flower of a Button Bush



Menarda covered in dew



A Jewelweed blossom

(Under One Big Sky *continued from inside cover*)

The Putnam County Master Gardeners established Summer Thursdays as their time to maintain their adopted pollinator garden. The native plants that they placed in the beds have grown tall over the past couple of years. We hope to see a variety of bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects feeding and sheltering among them from the hot summer.

June storms cancelled a two-day visit from the Lima City Schools Summer Camp, but we are counting on them (and better weather) in 2022. Despite storms, we have been able to engage readers with the 2021 Quarry Farm Fridays with the Bluffton Public Library. Each Friday since June 11, with a July 2 holiday break, Facebook users have joined us for video feeds at 10 a.m. on Fridays. They have met Jimmy Toskr the Eastern Fox Squirrel, Gerald the Rooster and Nemo the Big Sweet Pig. Quarry Farm Fridays continue through July 30. Follow us and the Bluffton Public Library to keep up.

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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.

Summer 2021 Programs & Events

Create a Floor Cloth for Your 'Cabin'

Saturday, July 31, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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

Make a 24" x 48" canvas floor cloth using stencils. 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 by Monday, July 19 at 12 PM. Materials fee: \$12.00 per person.**

Kids Fest Ottawa

Saturday, August 14, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Memorial Park, Ottawa, Ohio

Our booth at the Village of Ottawa's first Kids Fest will offer children of all ages the chance to make hiking staffs and to meet some of Northwest Ohio's most vulnerable aquatic inhabitants.

Summer Family Day

Saturday, August 21, 1 to 4 p.m.

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

We will have stations set up where individual families or visiting groups can learn about birds, insects, herbs, pioneer and Native American skills, and the residents of the farm animal sanctuary. Admission is free and no registration is required. Tax-deductible donations are welcome.

7th Annual Quarry Farm Jam

Saturday, September 11, 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, just like to pretend or sing along or listen, spend a sweet late summer evening with music under the big red roof alongside calls from the nature preserve. Bring your own chair. Refreshments will be available, including homemade cookies.

The Quarry Farm 2021 5K

Saturday, October 2, 10 a.m. (check-in opens 8:45 a.m.)

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

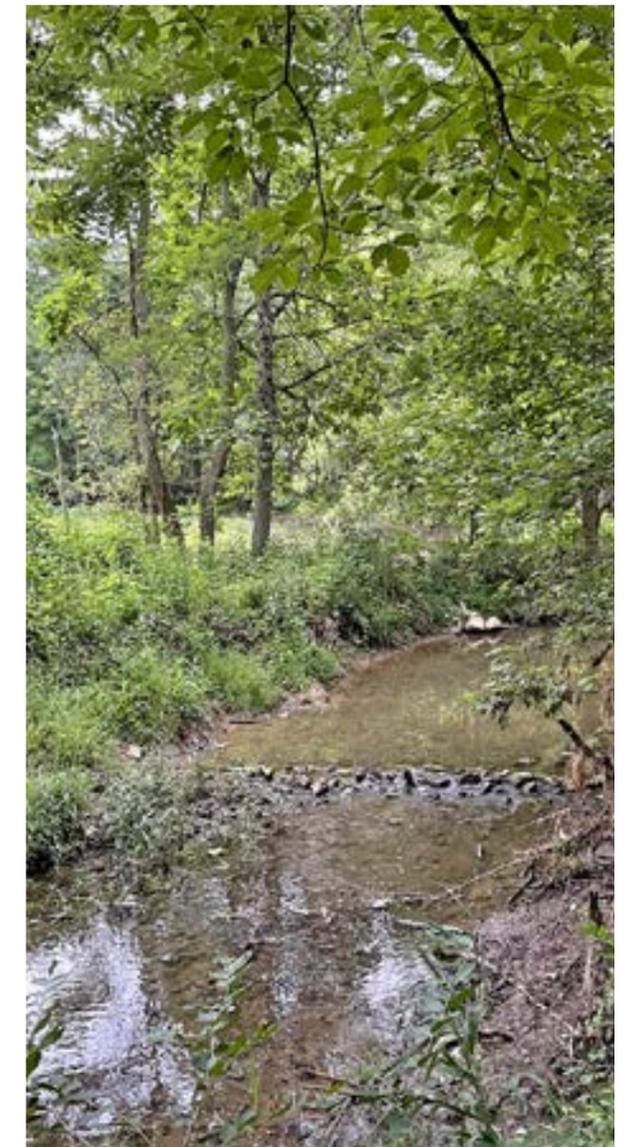
Walkers and runners will start at the Seitz Family Pavilion. Check-in is from 8:45 to 9:30 a.m. in the Seitz Family Pavilion, 1/8 mile north of 14321 Road 7L, Pandora. Please present ID to receive participation packet. The 5K run/walk will start at 10 a.m. (line-up at 9:50 a.m.) The race will be held rain or shine (unless there is lightning) so please dress appropriately and wear layers if necessary. There will be water along the route and refreshments at the finish line. **Registration is \$25.00 and may be presented the day of the race or download a registration form with mailing instructions at www.thequarryfarm.org.**

Follow us on Facebook to find out about pop-up events like night-time Star Walks.



THE
Quarry
FARM

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 Wilson's Warbler made a stopover this Spring.
(Photo by Deb Weston)

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: Cranberry Run bubbles past the old stone quarry, the stream clear to the bed and teeming with native fishes.

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

www.thequarryfarm.org

Printed on recycled, recyclable paper



Fourteen birders walked the trails to record 44 species during the Spring Bird Migration Hike.

Under One Big Sky

As the world begins to move about again, more requests for visits come our way. The Spring program season began poetically with Haiku Hike on April 17, International Haiku Day. Eight humans accepted the challenge. During our two-hour walkabout we penned five haikus using words and phrases that we collected on the trails. We wrapped the hike with donut holes and ambled south to visit the farm animal sanctuary.

After two years of cancellations, we were finally able pay an April 13 visit to the Roots and Shoots Garden Club of Wapakoneta in their home town. Club Member Phil Valentine visited here years ago and left with plans for wild bee boxes like those installed on the Red Fox Cabin porch by founder Gerald Coburn, boxes which still overwinter bee larvae.

Girl Scouts from Hardin County returned to the nature preserve on May 1 to remove bush honeysuckle. These girls and their leaders from Kenton and Ada came a couple of years ago to do the same. With social-distancing rules in place, the troops were assigned different spots to lop and pull the invasive plants. Travelling from a little further west in Allen County, a Cub Scout Troop from Bluffton practiced their hiking skills along the trails here in April and May.

Ottawa's Saints Peter and Paul School made hiking staffs and used them here on May 6, and on the following day Leipsic Elementary School students painted Lasting Leaf t-shirts. These engaging groups hiked and brought lots of treats for the animals. The Leipsic students drew pictures and wrote letters about their experiences to share with us.

The May 15 Spring Bird Migration Hike sky was clear, floodwaters from earlier in the week had shrunk to a couple of vernal pools, and 14 birders walked the trails to record 44 species. Most of these birds were just passing through, but not before Deb could take their pictures. Later in the week, a record number of were birds spotted and recorded here by birders David Smith and Deb Weston. "Last year on May 20th we had 56 species and on the 21st we had 57," reported Birder Deb Weston. "Today we chewed those numbers up and spit out an overwhelming 68 species. A phenomenal 18 warbler species, and The Quarry Farm is now at 134 species, which is 2/3 of the species seen in Putnam County."

—continued on back of newsletter



School field trips resumed at The Quarry Farm this Spring, including a visit from first-graders from Leipsic.

Resident Spotlight: Bruce

Imagine that you've been confined to a very small space—let's say a bed for the sake of human familiarity—most of your life and had all your meals served regularly. Like I said, you've been in bed so you've packed on quite a few pounds and you have little muscle tone. Suddenly, overnight, you find yourself stranded outdoors in strange place with no shelter, water or food that you are familiar with and no one to tell you what food is safe to eat. That's how Bruce (Doc Bruce Banner/The Incredible Hulk) the Broad-breasted Bronze Turkey came to The Quarry Farm.

Bruce was found in a Findlay park, turning slowly in circles on legs swollen from supporting a 50 lb.-body that jiggled with each movement. His breast was bare of feathers (probably from sitting in a small space like a cage) so he had no "coat" to protect him from chilly ground). A broken wing and tail feathers were also symptoms of confinement in a very small space. Our guess is that he was being cage-raised for a platter-ending. Then someone looked in Bruce's brown eyes and saw a wary curiosity staring back. They discovered that turkeys are sensitive, often gentle birds. Unfortunately, they assumed that, because Bruce looks like a wild turkey, he could fly and fend for himself like his wild cousins. After several people spotted confused, spinning Bruce, they got him here to the farm animal sanctuary where he was put on a diet. He is now several pounds lighter. His feet are still enormous but not swollen and he knows his name. Bruce's feathers may never be long and full because the damage to the growth ends is so extreme, but he does have little pin feathers sprouting from his naked breast and not-so-jiggly belly.

If you or someone that you know finds themselves unable to care for an animal, please surrender him or her to someone who can. Here are a few resources:

- Putnam County Dog Shelter: 1490 E 2nd St, Ottawa, OH 45875; (419) 523-8617
- Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association: www.owra.org/find
- Ohio SPCA: www.ohiospca.org

Tune in for 2021 'Quarry Fridays with the Bluffton Public Library'

For the second year, The Quarry Farm and Bluffton Public Library are presenting *Quarry Farm Fridays & Animal Book Bundles*. Most Fridays through the summer, you can watch a fun video featuring the Animal of the Week on Facebook Live at 10 a.m. The video will be posted later in the day on both organizations' Facebook pages and websites. Once the video goes live, there will be themed Animal Book Bundles available for pickup at the library on request. The remaining scheduled 2021 Quarry Farm Fridays are July 16, July 23 and July 30.



Jimmy Toskr the Eastern Fox Squirrel, was born with very few toes for climbing and a missing ear. He opened the 2021 Quarry Farm Fridays series on June 11. You can watch the archived videos on the Bluffton Public Library's Facebook page.

Thank you...

- ...Chris Allen for helping with school groups
- ...Leipsic Elementary School for produce
- ...Paula Harper for helping with school groups
- ...to the Putnam County Master Gardeners for devoting their Thursday time to pollinator garden maintenance (see photo below)
- ...David Seitz for honeysuckle removal, trail clearing and hydrological engineering
- ...Rita Seitz for leading Art in Nature programs
- ...Sts. Peter and Paul School for produce



Monetary Donations:

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