

It's Not So Much What the Fox Says As What She Doesn't

Ylvis is a Norwegian comedy duo consisting of brothers Vegard and Bård Ylvisåker. They are the creators of the viral song and video *The Fox (What Does the Fox Say?)* that I did listen to after I lost count of how many kids and parents brought it up after meeting Quinn, The Quarry Farm's rescued fox and educational ambassador for her species.

I can tell you that most foxes do not have blue eyes and I'm not sure what the Ylvisåker Brothers did to have a fox assigned to them as a guardian angel. That is one spirit/bodyguard that is going to melt away into the landscape at the first sign of trouble. But before it takes off, it's going to pick your pocket, race away with the goods, stash them in a secret location, and urinate on whatever it is to lay everlasting claim.

Items that we have found in Quinn's "secret" hideaway (a litterbox in the basement) include: socks, underwear, dog toys, peanuts, a jar of peanut butter, potholders, dog collars, cat treats, baby carrots, potatoes, Fig Newtons, buttered toast, and whole bags of bread and rolls of toilet paper.

As far as what the fox says, Quinn says a whole lot. I've never heard her *ring-ding-ding*, although she did snatch a bell off the Christmas tree and that rang mightily until it was buried in kitty litter. The Ylvisåkers really didn't reproduce much of Quinn's vocalizations in their 2013 earworm, although she did mutter "*fraka-kaka-kaka*" when I changed the litter box and a wrapped stick of butter fell out into the garbage bag. And after she grabbed



a second stick of butter from the box I hadn't yet emptied, she screamed "*a-hee-ahee ha-hee*" while she ran up the stairs with her reclaimed treasure.

Under One Big Sky

(continued from inside cover)

The evening of October 19 was beautiful for 1st and 2nd grade Girl Scout Troop 1063 to earn "Bugs" and "Hiker" badges, have hot chocolate and donut holes, and see both the sunset and the rising full moon over The Quarry Farm.

On October 22, a homeschool group of about 50 from the Pandora area came for a hike, t-shirt painting, black walnut tasting, and some good tree sitting. Dupont Church of the Brethren Preschool Kingdom Kids Preschool spent two days with us, October 22 and 28. They created leafy shirts, helping each other to do so, hiked up and down and all around, and compared their own hands to a Virginia Opossum's handprint.

Matt Schroeder, student at Ottawa-Glandorf High School and Eagle Scout candidate, walked back to the grassland on December 4 to set markers for birding platform. The completed low-level platform will measure approximately 10' x 16' and include a couple of benches for resting and bird watching. Matt intends to set the



Kingdom Kids preschoolers learned that Virginia Opossums have thumbs just like they do.

posts for his Eagle Scout project when the spongy ground is drier in the coming year. Matt's brother Sam engineered the Nature's Classroom on the preserve to achieve his Eagle Scout rank in 2019.



Twenty-four bird species were seen during the 2021 Spring Sparrow Hike. (Photo by Deb Weston)

Winter 2022 Programs & Events

Dress for the weather for outdoor events, including good walking shoes, and meet in Seitz Family Pavilion, 1/8 mile north of 14321 Road 7L, Pandora.

Annual Hat Day Night Hike

Saturday, January 15, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

National Hat Day is January 15. In celebration, wear your favorite warm hat and join us for a night hike in the nature preserve. If the sky is clear, we'll see the waxing moon just two days before it is the full January Wolf Moon.

Book Discussion with the Bluffton Library

Tuesday, January 25, 5 p.m. at the Bluffton Public Library, 145 S. Main Street, Bluffton

The Quarry Farm joins Bluffton Public Library to lead this fun, insightful animal book discussion about *The Good, Good Pig* by Sy Montgomery. Sophie the Pot-bellied Pig will be joining us for this discussion, which is open to adults and teens. Register at the library at 419-358-5016 or in person by January 18 and check out your copy of the book.

Great Backyard Bird Count

Saturday, February 19, 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Every February, participants from around the world take part in this citizen science project to collect data on wild birds. In 2021, over 300,000 participants counted nearly 7,000 bird species, including some right here in the nature preserve. Bring your binoculars as we document the many species of birds that migrate through or shelter here. All recorded species will be submitted to the international count.

Spring Sparrow Hike

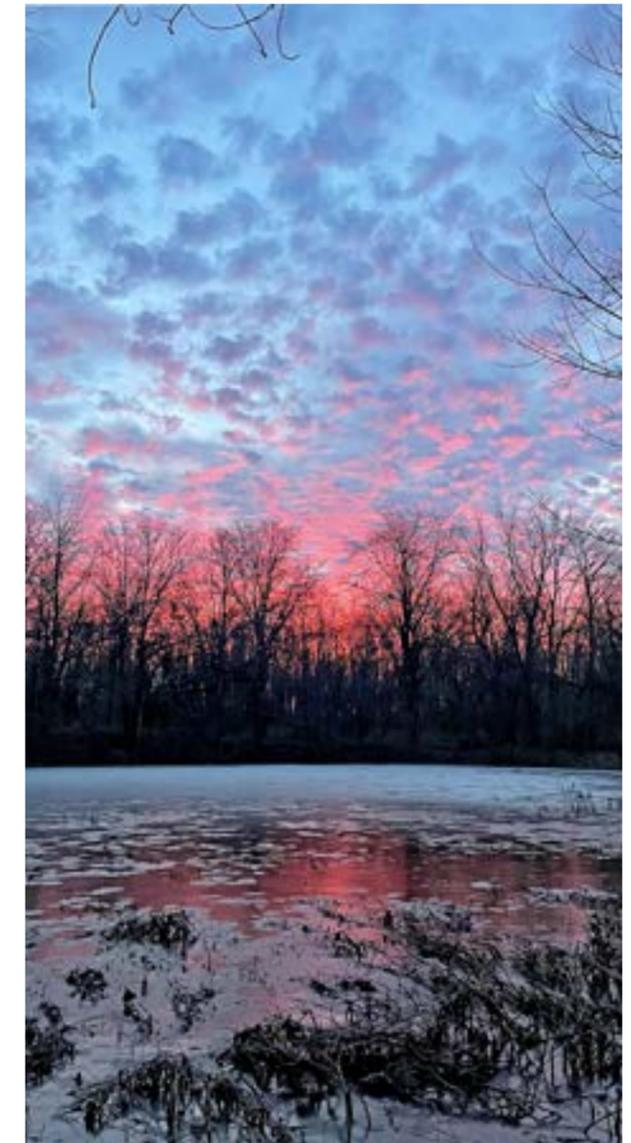
Sunday, March 20, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Join us for a hike on the first day of Spring 2022. As March 20 is also World Sparrow Day, we will see how many different species of sparrows we can spot and submit our findings to ebird, one of the world's largest biodiversity-related science projects.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates.



NATURE PRESERVE & CONSERVATION FARM



Pandora Homeschoolers discovered the sofa tree on the quarry wetland land bridge.

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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 upland sugar maples brought late fall color to the nature preserve.

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: Frosty sunrise over the quarry wetland

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

www.thequarryfarm.org

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October Big Day observed warblers in the still green wetland.

Under One Big Sky

On October 2 at 10 a.m., skies were blue and a west windy breeze made for good running/walking conditions for this year's Quarry Farm 5K. Participants passed Deb Weston as she played the theme from *Rocky* at the Mallahan Bridge. The runners and walkers navigated through one goodly gust of soybean dust kicked loose from a harvesting crew. Rita Seitz called out split times at the halfway point. Everyone heard cow bells as they crossed the finish line.



This year's 5K included a First Team Finish. (Photo by Deb Weston)

- First Run Finish, Men: Frank Ordaz
- First Run Finish, Women: Erin Fitch
- First Walker Finish, Men: Jay Shapiro
- First Walker Finish, Women: Lois Seitz
- First Child Finish: Titus Haselman
- First Team Finish: Lois Felkey, Phyllis Seitz, Susan Seitz

October Big Day (October 9) was the first day of the international effort known as Global Bird Weekend. Birders Deb Weston and David Smith led a 10 a.m. hike to record the species seen in the nature preserve. The complete list was submitted to ebird.org to help set a new record for birding. Fourteen species were recorded:

Mourning Dove	Blue Jay	Gray Catbird
Turkey Vulture	Golden-crowned Kinglet	American Robin
Belted Kingfisher	White-breasted Nuthatch	American Goldfinch
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Brown Creeper	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)
Downy Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	House Sparrow	Common Yellowthroat
Eastern Phoebe	Field Sparrow	Bay-breasted Warbler
Tufted Titmouse	White-crowned Sparrow	Blackburnian Warbler
House Wren	Song Sparrow	Palm Warbler
European Starling	Tennessee Warbler	

Just three days before, Deb and David walked the trails to prepare for the October Big Day Hike. On that day, October 6, they observed and recorded a different variety of birds:

—continued on back of newsletter

Resident Spotlight: Yellow Legs

There are currently nine roosters living in relative harmony here in the farm animal sanctuary. There are actually eight living in harmony; Gerald the rescued cock-fighting rooster has his own space. As long as Gerald doesn't make eye-contact with another rooster, he is a peaceful ambassador for his kind. But eight other roosters move about on the three-acre pasture during the day and roost together at night. In all the years that this peaceable kingdom has been in operation, only one rooster was relinquished to the person who brought him to us, because of his combative nature.



As we move into deep winter, there is harmony in the flock. That's a good thing since they spend the harshest days in close quarters. Visitors frequently comment on how everyone gets along. Probably for that reason, we do get calls from people who ask us if we can "take just one more rooster, please" and the answer is usually—in the summer, anyway—that we can try. But it's not us that do the trying. It's up to the boys themselves. That "one more rooster" could set everyone on edge, with battles between the new rooster and the ruler of the roost turning into a blood bath throughout the flock. Roosters and hens alike will enter the fray, often times resulting in tension amongst the mammals, too. After all, they all know what they are shouting at each other. We humans don't, hard as we try.

One spring afternoon we spotted a person standing on the opposite side of the fence row, a yellow-legged rooster in his arms. For all of the above reasons, he was prevented from dropping the bird off and driving away.* I don't know if the bird truly did just show up in someone's yard as reported or if this was yet another Easter chick who grew up and out of favor. But we did say we would try. Yellow Legs turned out to be a shy, nervous bird. While he is tall, he is not aggressive in any way. At night he bunks down in a low open shelter in the north pasture, requiring one of us to crawl in and scoop him up to roost in the henhouse in the south pasture. Once in, he settles into the warmth of the flock until the door is opened at dawn and he can sprint down the hill and back up to the northern high ground for the day.

**For the record, that should never, ever be done with any animal, anywhere.*




BOOK DISCUSSION WITH THE QUARRY FARM

Tuesday, January 25
@6:00 p.m.

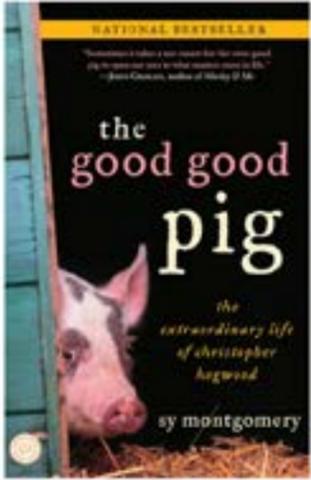
Title: *The Good Good Pig*
by Sy Montgomery

Anne Coburn-Griffis of The Quarry Farm joins Bluffton Public Library to lead this fun animal book discussion.

Open to adults and teens.

Register at the library by January 18 and to check out your copy of the book!

Bluffton Public Library
419-358-5016
145 S. Main St., Bluffton
blufftonlibrary.org



Thank you...

...to Derrick Diller for hay and straw
 ...to Pandora Homeschoolers for animal treats
 ...to Paula Harper for 5K treats
 ...to David Seitz for honeysuckle removal, trail clearing and hydrological engineering
 ...to Phil Seitz for announcing the 5K start
 ...to Rita Seitz for timing at the 5K
 ...to David Smith for leading October Big Day
 ...to Bill and Joan Utendorf for apples
 ...to Casey Walker for produce for animals
 ...to Deb Weston for leading October Big Day and for photographing the 5K



The Great Pumpkins came back for another year. Dave and Jane Hilty rolled a wagonload of orange goodness down the driveway on November 6. When they came back to pick up the empty wagon on December 11, most of the farm animal sanctuary residents recognized them and mourned the removal. Lucy the Donkey was especially vocal.

Monetary Donations:

Doug Alexander
 Marcella Ciccotelli
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 Martha Erchenbrecher
 Erin Fitch
 Linda Madras Gorey
 Laura Gretzinger
 Alice Mason Hailey
 Paula Harper
 Putnam County Conservation District
 Mark Seitz
 Rita Seitz
 David Smith
 Dawn Stechschulte
 Deb Weston



Sophie the Pig will be joining us for this discussion!

*This program is planned to be held in person at the library.