



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.



Spring Azure butterfly

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:
Question Mark butterfly in Spring

On the web:
www.thequarryfarm.org

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The first day of spring was on the chilly side, but the shelter of the nature preserve made the day perfect for making leaf angels.

We welcomed Spring (with a little help from our friends)

Spring is great cause for celebration after a polar cold winter that began prematurely with snow on October 31.

To honor the new warmer, green-growing season on March 21, The Quarry Farm planned 'Welcome Spring' Family Day by placing the event announcement in the winter newsletter. It was an optimistic move, one which dreamed big of turning over logs to find salamanders and the first bloodroot leaves curling up from the ground around the old homestead north of the 10-acre grassland.

The forecast looked promising for Saturday, with sun and predicted temps in the high 50s. What we got was cold wind and gray skies. Board President Laura switched the refreshment menu from cookies and lemonade to doughnut holes, cookies and a selection of hot beverages and we thought The Quarry Farm staff would be the only ones there to appreciate them.

Instead, we were joined by three families, all hat-and-coated and ready to hit the trails. Most were return visitors, so they knew that the wind chill would drop once we entered the nature preserve with its tree lines of defense.

Two Canada geese stayed put on the melted quarry surface, at least long enough for us to watch them lift off. We saw plenty of signs of movement, from a variety of tracks to wild turkey feathers. And since this walk was meant to greet Spring, this group inaugurated the vernal pool trail for all future guests.

Facilitator Steve gathered two water samples from the largest pool (see friend-of-The-Quarry-Farm Shayla Remaklus's photo on the opposite page), an oxbow that was once part of Cranberry Run prior to a brutal 1950s attempt to ditch the natural, wild creek. The oxbow is home to frogs, dragonflies, wood ducks and a variety of turtles. Saturday, most burrowed deep and our enthusiasm sent anything with wings away, but the net did yield scuds, a tiny crustacean akin to shrimp.

A warmer spring walk, one fit for wildflowers and light sweaters, is in the works for May 22 and May 30 (see Family Frog Hops). And grown-ups (especially gardeners and educators), don't miss out on the May 2 workshop (see the back of this newsletter).



Marsh the Nigerian dwarf goat was happy for 'Welcome Spring' hugs.

Residential SPOTLIGHT: Carlton

Although this past winter wasn't quite as hard on everyone and everything as the bitter, extended cold of 2014, it was still tough on those who had to be outside for long periods of time.

Maybe you found yourself locked out of your house or car on a windy, snowy day in January or February. Imagine what it must be like for a bird or animal who is petted, fed and fussed over one minute and then abandoned at the side of the road the next in weather like that.

Such was the case with Carlton, the pot-bellied pig. Less than a week after another little pig was found wandering at the side of the road outside nearby Columbus Grove, we received a call that one was discovered in a similar situation near Bowling Green.

After Carlton made the stressful car ride from Wood County to The Quarry Farm, we immediately made an appointment to have him examined and neutered. We strongly suspect that this young male had gone from being a cute little piglet to a hormonal teen overnight, one who had been fed treats to calm him down, which actually rewarded him for bad behavior.

But pigs are smart, with the emotional and intellectual levels of a three-year-old human. Once Carlton figured out that rooting at ankles did not produce a slice of banana or apple, but a step backward did, he was well on his way to becoming a model ambassador for his kind. We look forward to introducing him to visitors and classrooms this spring.



Spring 2015 Events

Family Frog Hops

Friday, May 22, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
and Saturday, May 30 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The toads and frogs are on the move with the warmer weather. Although they like to sit in the sun during the day, these amphibians sing for their supper in the evenings on the banks of the old quarry. Bring the whole family as we walk the trails, listen to the chorus and try to sing along!



Honeysuckle Pull Party

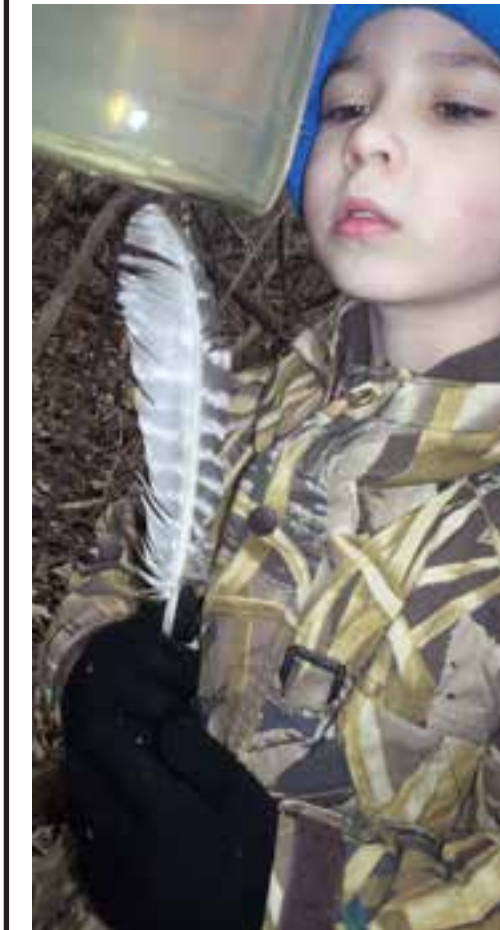
Saturday, June 13, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Bush honeysuckle is an invasive plant that shades out many of our wildflowers and the seedlings of native trees. We are launching a major program this year to take control of this shrub and replace it with native plants. Volunteers of all ages are invited to help us start the whole process. If you have little ones with lots of energy, this is the outing for you.

These events are free and begin in the Seitz Pavilion, 1/8 mile north of 14321 Road 7L, Pandora. We ask that you arrive promptly for each event. Walks will conclude with beverages and cookies in Red Fox Cabin.

Thank You

- AEP Ohio for grant monies
- Doug and Sandy Downing for a monetary donation
- Daryl and Peggy Bridenbaugh for donation of straw



Shayla Remaklus submitted this photo that she took during the March 21 "Welcome Spring Family Day" on The Quarry Farm. The image shows a friend looking at wetlands crustaceans called scuds.

WISH LIST

The following items are needed for visitor trail development and maintenance and educational animal ambassador rehabilitation, care and handling. Please call 419-384-7195 if you can supply anything on the list.

- unsalted tree nuts in the shell (walnuts, pecans, almonds, hazelnuts)
- apples
- grass hay
- paper towels
- incontinence/training pads
- volunteers who like to paint or plant

SAVE THE DATE:

May 2 workshop now open for registration

On Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine, walk The Quarry Farm Nature Preserve with naturalist Tamara Spillis and learn more about native mushrooms and wild plants.

- Registration: Open to the first 20 applicants (age 16 and over). Call 419-384-7195 or 419-234-4620 or email thequarryfarm@gmail.com before April 30 to register.
- Workshop Fee: \$15 (includes lunch)

(Optional) Bring a favorite field guide, notebook, pencil, cameras, trail snacks.

Did you know that if you are allergic to penicillin, you should not eat morel mushrooms, no matter how delectable. Morels contain a substance also found in penicillin that accumulates in body tissues and can eventually cause anaphylactic shock?

How about that oil lamps containing mushroom wicks may have lighted the world for ancient peoples?

Or that Genghis Khan made gun powder out of charred shelf mushrooms?

These are a few of the fascinating mushroom facts shared by naturalist Tamara Spillis during a recent slide presentation to The Gathering Basket Herb Society.



Bracket on downed branch

On Saturday, May 2, Tamara will share her extensive knowledge with 20 lucky people as we walk The Quarry Farm nature trails and prairie. We will have the opportunity to explore with Tammy as she identifies and talks about the mushrooms, flowers, and plants along the way, and if you have brought your camera, you can get some great photos.

Some wildflowers that we know about, like wood violets, blood root, and Jack-in-the-pulpit should be blooming on May 2, but the Quarry Farm staff are excited about the prospect of discovering other species that we haven't yet identified. When Tamara is finished surveying plant life here, we will have a great educational resource to share with visitors of all ages in the future.

Keep an eye on the weather forecast and come prepared for conditions. No matter what, we will have a great day on the trail.



Jack-in-the-pulpit (left) and wood violets (above)

About Tamara Spillis, Naturalist:

Tamara works part-time as Master Gardener Coordinator in Henry County (Ohio). In addition, she is a small business owner who manages a naturalist service, working with private landowners and conservation entities to identify and document populations of wildflower and wildlife species.

She also teaches and lectures at museums and colleges on Native American bone and stone tool use. An amateur mycologist, she has published articles on the use of mushrooms by diverse ancient and modern cultures for fire, warfare, and medicine.

Color photos that Tamara has taken in the field showed insects feeding on and pollinating wildflowers, plants in the various stages of their life cycles, easily confused plants with similar flowers — one edible and the other deadly, mutually supportive plant and insect relationships, common wild plants that are edible and others that are toxic, plants that we live alongside of but rarely see in our everyday lives, and many other insights into the natural world of the fields and woods around us.



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

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Questions? Call 419-384-7195, email thequarryfarm@gmail.com or visit www.thequarryfarm.org.

