



Goldenrod

False Sunflower

Jerusalem Artichoke

Sneezeweed

## The Bright Lights of Early Autumn

By September and October, most of the white, blue, pink and purple wildflowers have faded from the landscape, but our byways glow into early autumn with the bright yellows and golds of what we might refer to simply as “pretty yellow flowers.” Let’s give a respectful nod to four of those cheery wildflowers—Goldenrod, False Sunflower, Jerusalem Artichoke, and Sneezeweed—and get to know them personally.

The four have much in common. All four are members of the huge family *Asteraceae*, also *Compositae*; their flower petals grow daisy-like in rays around a center. The centers are typically a cluster of many tiny florets. All four attract pollinators (bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds), so they are important economically and ecologically. Deer avoid them. All are perennial, and cultivars have become popular garden flowers. While they share family traits, their differences can help us distinguish them.

**Goldenrod**, a common name for *Solidago*, may be the easiest to identify. More than 100 species grow wild in moist soil in North America, but a few have become popular in gardens. The plant heights average three to five feet. The flower heads are fluffy plumes or fans densely covered by tiny florets. Because they produce almost no pollen, they can’t be blamed for allergies. They are not poisonous to humans; in fact, parts are edible and can have medicinal uses. Because they are native, they are not termed invasive, but they can spread aggressively by seeds and roots.

**False Sunflower**, one common name for *heliopsis helianthoides*, is a native that can be mistaken for a daisy. It prefers sun and can grow in a wide range of soil, preferably on roadsides, near wooded areas and in prairies. The plants reach three to six feet and bear

flowers with yellow (the common color here) to orange rays that may droop slightly around a soft brown center, earning them the nickname Ox-Eye Daisy. They are neither invasive nor toxic.

**Jerusalem Artichoke**, or *helianthus tuberosus*, is not an artichoke but rather a species of sunflower native to central North America. The plants can grow from five to nine feet tall, bearing bright yellow, daisy-like flowers with sturdier petals than False Sunflower or Sneezeweed. Its elongated tubers (fleshy underground stems) vary in color from light brown to white, red or purple and have a nutty flavor. They are highly nutritious and can be eaten, either raw or cooked. In fact, tasty-looking recipes can be found online. The plant was once a widely cultivated root vegetable crop that is regaining popularity.

**Sneezeweed**, or *helenium autumnale*, is so called because its leaves were once dried and used to make snuff. The plants prefer moist soil and are at home along streams and wetlands. They grow from two to five feet tall and bear pale yellow to orange flowers with fan-shaped drooping rays. It is sometimes called Wingstem because of the gill-like “wings” running the length of the stems. Although attractive to pollinators, it is poisonous (in large amounts) to humans and livestock.

**One final note: all four of these “pretty yellow flowers” look lovely in floral arrangements.**

—The Gardener at The Quarry Farm

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## Fall 2022 Programs & Events

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @thequarryfarm

### Global Big Day

**Saturday, October 8, 9 a.m.**

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

Everyone, wherever you live, is welcome to take part in Global Bird Weekend, especially those for whom birding is a relatively new hobby or interest. October 8 is October Big Day, the first day of the international effort. Join birders Deb Weston and David Smith at The Quarry Farm Nature Preserve & Conservation Farm on that day for a 9 a.m. hike to record the species that you see in the nature preserve. The complete list will be submitted to ebird.org to join the global team and help set a new record for birding. Wear sturdy, comfortable walking shoes. Admission is free but donations are appreciated.

### Create a Concrete Garden Leaf

**Saturday, October 15, 10 a.m.**

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

Make a concrete bowl or decor using leaves and other materials to form your creation. Participants are welcome to bring a sack lunch to eat in the Seitz Family Pavilion. Note: The event will be cancelled if it is raining or if the temperature is below 50 degrees F; registrants will be notified via email. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED by emailing your response to [thequarryfarm@gmail.com](mailto:thequarryfarm@gmail.com) by Wednesday, October 12, at 5 PM. Materials fee: \$15.00 per person.

### Give Thanks Woodland Walk

**Saturday, November 26, 10 a.m.**

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

Hike off some Thanksgiving Day feast when you join us for a late fall color hike of the nature preserve trails. There will be cookies so a few calories may be replenished. Wear sturdy, comfortable walking shoes. Admission is free but donations are appreciated.

### Cold Moon Hike

**Wednesday, December 7, 6 p.m.**

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

The moon travels once around Earth every 27.3 days. It also takes about 27 days for the moon to rotate on its axis. At new moon, the moon is between Earth and the sun, so that the side of the moon facing toward us receives no direct sunlight. When the moon has moved 180 degrees, its disk is as close as it can be to being fully illuminated by the sun, so this is called full moon. Wear sturdy, comfortable walking shoes. Admission is free but donations are appreciated.



**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.



Fall is the season for a variety of interesting fungi like this "sprouting" outside Red Fox Cabin.

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: A Summer Azure Butterfly nectars on Sneezeweed. Any Azure seen in late summer and fall is almost certainly a summer azure. The pupae overwinter here. (Photo by Deb Weston)**

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

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

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A Pandora-area homeschool group experienced late summer creekside with us (below right) while another from Findlay spent the first morning of autumn around the quarry wetland (above).

## Under One Big Sky

The last time students from Ohio Northern University (ONU) spent part of Ada Community Engagement Day, or ACE Day, at The Quarry Farm, COVID-19 wasn't a household word. On August 20, ACE Day 2022, 10 students and faculty members came and went to work. In just an hour and a half, both the henhouse and the white barn had a fresh coat of paint, except for the highest peaks, and one big pig-sized full-bodied mud rub and a snout print.



ONU ACE Day participants painted in the sanctuary with the help of Molly Goat.

Saturday, September 9.

Summer ended with a September 9 Pandora-area homeschool group visit and Fall began on September 22 with a homeschool group centered in Findlay. Altogether, 130 people rotated through three stations that included nature scavenger hunts in and around the pollinator gardens, a walk to Cranberry Run to search for macroinvertebrates and a trip to the farm animal sanctuary.

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These farm animal sanctuary outbuildings are over 100 years old. Now they are protected, prolonging their structural integrity and general all-around sightliness.

The first "Paint in the Pavilion" session took place on September 3. Using sketch pads, paints, and markers, several individuals spent a couple of creative hours putting their talents to the test.

The 8th Annual Quarry Farm Jam jammed on September 10, with nine musicians sharing their instrumental and vocal talents with a gathering of outdoor music fans. Pencil in next year's Jam:



Nature inspired at "Paint in the Pavilion".

## Resident Spotlight:

### Gert & the Chickies

Alert! It's Gert, and she has a brood of chicks that she keeps her exotic eye on during the day. Never fear—Gert the Peahen is not aggressive in her protection, at least not with humans. She clacks her beak at us to tell us to keep our distance from the three domestic hen chicks that she adopted this spring. We do not encourage the animals here to procreate. The mammals are all spayed or neutered. It's not a simple matter to spay a hen, though. One secretive hen hid her nest long enough that, once found, we moved her and her eggs into a hutch and let nature and her broodiness take its course. Four eggs were laid and three hatched. Mama Hen was anxious to be out and about so she was reintroduced to the flock. That very night, Gert left her treetop perch to settle in next to the kids.



Once the chicks were large enough to join the adult chickens, we settled them into the henhouse after dark. Gert was not pleased. She flew to the peak of the house and clacked at us. The next morning, she flew down to the henhouse roof and waited for the door to be opened. When the chicks emerged, Gert gathered them up and took them on an exploration of the grounds. For two months, this has been the routine. Once the sun begins to set, Mother Gert flies to the rooftop and watches the chicks trundle off to bed before she roosts high in a tree.

Gert and her sister Mavis arrived just before the pandemic. They came from a retirement community in Sandusky. Rather than brutally cull the flock, the director and residents sought to place some of the birds in new homes. Mavis was the dominant bird here, calling and stomping across the road to visit Neighbor Casey and her supply of cracked corn. Unfortunately, Mavis' bravado led her to land on Quinn the Fox. That aggressive and foolhardy move didn't end well for Mavis. Shy Gert mourned for a time, eventually coming out of her shell to exhibit greater sense than her sister and a motherly instinct that is a boon to three young hens.

## Under One Big Sky

(continued from inside cover)

Between the two field trips, Tyree the Red Rat Snake (also known as a Cornsnake) and Gerald the Rescued Rooster traveled to Archbold to represent The Quarry Farm at Fairlawn Haven Retirement Community. The residents listened to their stories and shared some of their own experiences with animals in their long lives.



Tuning at the Jam

For a number of years, The Quarry Farm has been invited to present at the Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District's 5th Grade Conservation Tour. This year is the 50th year that fifth grade students from every school in the county have gathered at Ottawa's Memorial Park to learn about the natural world, natural resources and how to conserve both. Classes rotate through stations that include invasive species, insects, recycling, soils, woodland, pollinators, a barn tour at a nearby dairy farm and wildlife. The Quarry Farm is often assigned to the latter, which is where we were on September 27 and 29. Students used their ears to identify native Ohio wildlife based on sound then were surprised by a visit with Tyree who had been snuggled inside the presenter's coat in order to keep his reptilian self warm against the early fall chill.

## Thank you...

...to Brad Brooks for mowing the prairie trail  
 ...to Martha Erchenbrecher, Phil and Phyllis Seitz for assisting school groups  
 ...to Bobbie Sue Greneth for taking the lead at the Jam  
 ...to Leap Meats for donating food for Quinn the Fox  
 ...to David Seitz for honeysuckle and vine removal and hydrological engineering  
 ...to Deb Weston and Debbie Lieber for trail clearing

## Monetary Donations:

The Bonifas Family  
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 Gathering Basket Herb Society  
 The Gundy Family  
 Putnam County Master Gardeners



A Great Egret resided on the quarry this summer. (Photo by Deb Weston)



Tyree meets 5th grade conservation tourists.