



The Quarry Farm offers visiting opportunities to area schools and the general public. The Small Streams Program works directly with schools and other educational facilities to set up freshwater aquariums in classrooms.

Rather than displaying a common assortment of tropical or freshwater fish, Small Streams microhabitats feature miniature food chains as they exist naturally in local freshwater waterways. A Small Streams microhabitat offers opportunities for hands-on scientific interaction and observation.



*"Collection and observation of living aquatic insects, snails, and other macroinvertebrates creates an awareness of the great diversity of form and behavior of these organisms in streams. This unique hands-on experience will instill an awareness and understanding of the role of macroinvertebrates in creeks and rivers."*

*Kenneth A. Krieger, Ph.D. Senior Research Scientist  
Water Quality Laboratory, Heidelberg College, Tiffin, Ohio*

*"I liked this project because our students are getting real-life exposure to organisms that are common to our area of this county and state. I also like it because it goes beyond the textbook."*

*Kris Stechschulte  
Ottawa Elementary School, Ottawa, Ohio*



*"I have seen The Quarry Farm firsthand and am amazed at the diverse habitats that are represented within its nominal size. Because of this diversity, the amount of knowledge that can be imparted to students and the public is far reaching. What a novel idea to enhance the land ethic, conservation and natural resources for present and future generations."*

*Robert Vargo, Northwest Ohio Regional Scenic Rivers Manager  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources*

Please call (419) 384-7195 or email [thequarryfarm@gmail.com](mailto:thequarryfarm@gmail.com) to schedule an on-site visit of The Quarry Farm Nature Preserve & Conservation Farm or an educational workshop, tour, demonstration or group presentation.

Keep up with us online at [www.thequarryfarm.com](http://www.thequarryfarm.com) where you will find a weekly blog, a listing of educational workshops, presentation descriptions, upcoming events, and gift shop. The Quarry Farm Nature Preserve & Conservation Farm is a nonprofit organization.



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**T**he Quarry Farm represents the past, present and potential of Northwest Ohio and the heritage of Putnam County. This 50-acre natural area and conservation farm was once a stone quarry and still houses limestone and quartz boulders from the operation. The area was obtained by the Seitz family and preserved from development by Carl and Joyce Seitz. Mr. and Mrs. Seitz pastured Jersey cows and senior calves on the property until the early 1980s. Members of the family walked the upland pastures and waded in the waters of Cranberry Run, a tributary of Riley Creek and the greater Blanchard River watershed. Neighbors fished in the shallows of the “Quarry”, the largest pit abandoned by the quarries after springs filled its depths.

Today, members of the family continue to operate The Quarry Farm as a nature preserve and center for conservation education. The distinct habitats of The Quarry Farm are home to native birds, mammals, reptiles, insects and plants. The upland is primarily an elm-ash-soft maple forest intermixed with oak, wild plum, locust, hackberry and cherry. Bloodroot, Dutchman’s breeches, jack-in-the-pulpit, and other wildflowers grow under the canopy. A ten-acre upland meadow includes native grasses. The lowland floodplain is forested with Kentucky coffee trees, sycamore, osage orange and black walnut. Cranberry Run’s waters are clear most of the year and house many fish and insects.

Many species of migratory and residential birds and insects like great blue herons and dragonflies live here. Wild turkeys, released at the turn of the century by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), feed in the woods. The organic gardens of Red Fox Cabin are alive with butterflies and beneficial insects like the wheelbug. The old quarry itself suffered from stream dredging and sediment degradation, but it is still a wetland that is home to birds and reptiles.



Cranberry Run teems with small fish and insects, the basis of our Northwest Ohio food chain. In this photograph, students use a kick seine to catch benthic macroinvertebrates (small insects, insect larvae, mollusks and crustaceans.) The presence or absence of these ‘bottom-feeders’ can determine water quality. Continued testing of Cranberry Run typically yields excellent results.



*A representative of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) tours vernal (spring) pools in the floodplain of the Quarry Farm (left.) An abandoned stone quarry, the farm's namesake, and a dissected oxbow of Cranberry Run support healthy development for amphibians like American bullfrogs (above and bottom.)*



*Red Fox Cabin was relocated from the mountains of West Virginia to The Quarry Farm.*

*The structure, originally built in 1853, was reconstructed by Gerald Coburn and family with attention to detail and authenticity. The surrounding grounds are planted with organic gardens certified as butterfly habitat by the North American Butterfly Association (NABA).*



*The Quarry Farm offers creative workshops, such as this leaf-casting class taught at Red Fox Cabin.*