



## Bull's Run Summer Newsletter

July, 2009

**Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum** in Middletown is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to preserving the natural area of Bull's Run, striving to develop the park as an environmental facility and educational resource for people of all ages.



### **BULL'S RUN CELEBRATES 30 YEARS**

Please share a story or photograph of a favorite visit to Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum that you have enjoyed over the past 30 years, or even before that when it was the Fresh Air Camp. Send your story and/or photo to [naturalist@bullsrn.org](mailto:naturalist@bullsrn.org) so we can include it at the annual meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 7-9 pm at Verity Lodge on MUM Campus. Bring a friend to the annual meeting who has enjoyed, or would enjoy, this unique land resource in the Middletown Community. Help us celebrate!

### **Extending the Education Outreach**

Following three years of intense interaction with the students and staff of Amanda Elementary, we are spreading our wings to broader options and opportunities. This pilot project was truly a learning experience for all involved. Using the knowledge gained during this time, we now branch out into additional venues while continuing to serve Amanda. It is truly an exciting time. The high points of the Amanda work are many, and the increased public awareness of the Bull's Run mission has been deeply gratifying, to say the least. From my perspective, the most rewarding experiences are often the least expected.

In December of 2007, Barb was outside with about forty 4<sup>th</sup> graders, working to prepare the soil for the extraordinary tree planting. She leaned back on her shovel, becoming uncharacteristically silent, then called to the lively children, and said, "Look up!" All eyes turned skyward – all ears tuned to the enchanting conversations of 100 Sandhill Cranes, greeting us (dare I say with gratitude for our efforts?) as they migrated toward their favorite southern haunts. This was indeed a once in a life time event for all who witnessed the fly-over.

We followed this experience with a Michael Forsberg gallery of internet photographs of these stunning creatures. One of these pictures showed the Sandhill greeting dance, and many of the children were delighted to learn to greet each other in like manner.

A continuing pleasure is the responses of the children when those of us they know from Bull's Run arrive at the school: "Yeah! It's Amazing Nature Day!"; "Miss Barb's here!"; "Miss Chris, I brought a spider today!"; "We have a bunch of caterpillars in our tree!" Yes, these comments are always accompanied by an exclamation point.

Numerous requests from Highview Elementary, have lead to Debbie Grant facilitating a butterfly garden at that site – to the enchantment of all, and again, public recognition. This initial effort – being available for projects in widening areas – leads to future opportunities and challenges.

And, yes, we celebrate your support. Without your backing this wondrous work would not happen. Thank You!

Chris Parker  
Education Director

## Naturalist's Ramblings

**"Tell me of what plant-birthday a man takes notice, and I shall tell you a good deal about his vocation, his hobbies, his hay fever, and the general level of his ecological education."** Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

New to Bull's Run this spring...over 200 native seedling trees and 80 wildflowers! Yes, it has been a busy planting season. I was beginning to feel that the shovel was a permanent extension of my arm, when along came Jack Schaeffer with his portable auger. I'm a convert now to Lithium-ion batteries, portable drills and steel augers! What an arm saver, especially for digging holes in clay soil. In addition to Jack's efforts, I want to thank John W., Cameron E., JJ, his friend and John P. We planted redbuds, dogwoods, sassafras, walnut, oak and serviceberry. Let's hope the summer is not droughty so that the transplants can establish and grace Bull's Run for years to come. Happy Birthday, little plants!

I wandered through the cleared areas of the park pulling wheelbarrows full of garlic mustard. We are making a big dent in the overabundance of that particular invasive plant. In some parks there are literally fields of garlic mustard in the spring, but Bull's Run is looking clean, by comparison. Many thanks to all the scouts and workday volunteers who helped pull this year... and last year... and the year before that! The seed can remain viable for several years, so we must stay vigilant. On any day when I feel overwhelmed by the land stewardship projects, I try to think of it as job security!

Wish us luck in our efforts to secure grant funding to remove the persistent bush honeysuckle. With continued efforts at education, more and more people are aware of the enormous threat amur honeysuckle is to native plants, including trees. We have been systematically removing it for 5 years. It is very hard work and we are all 5 years older! It is time to call in help from paid professionals to knock it back to a manageable level. If we get the funding, efforts will commence this autumn and a friend of mine will likely say, "I can hear the trees whispering a grateful prayer of thanks for release from their tormentor. The universe rejoices."

**"A conservationist is one who is humbly aware that with each stroke he is writing his signature on the face of his land."** Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*



Native Serviceberry- *Amelanchier canadensis*



Invasive honeysuckle- *Lonicera maackii*

## A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Carefully combine thirty-five vigorously energetic children, assorted trowels and shovels, dirt – as well as soil, seeds, flowers, vegetable plants, pebbles, mud, paper, rain gauges, gloves, songs, journals, field trips, hand lenses, and watering cans. Add outstanding dedicated teachers, committed hearty teenagers, a superb administrator, countless well illustrated books on a plethora of topics, questions, guesses [hypothesizing], focused determination, site visits from experts, shade trees, playground, charts, art materials, recyclables, and water misters. Top lightly with a climbable water slide and simmer under the summer sun. Name this concoction: **“I Dig It Summer Garden Camp, 2009”** which is happening at Damon Park on Pershing Avenue.

If it sounds chaotic, I have gravely misled you. Divided into three groups by age, the children work/play through a careful structured day in which there are pre and post tests on content, emphasis on math and literacy, skits and songs, and yes, a sprinkle of frivolity, along with applause and well earned prizes for jobs well done. The goals and curriculum include the following and much more:

- Maintaining - and raising - DIBELS scores
- Increasing literacy
- Improving math skills
- Strengthening social skills
- Comprehension of the rock cycle
- Awareness of soil layers
- Understanding of plant structure
- Composting/vermiculture comprehension and action
- Importance of reduce, reuse, recycle and action
- Energy/food chain comprehension
- Watershed principles/erosion prevention

This, too, is a new venture/adventure for the Bull’s Run Education Outreach Team. We [Debbie Grant, Lynn Getter, and Chris Parker] were privileged to have the opportunity to write the six hour a day, six week long camp curriculum - and are continuing to monitor the progress of the entire project.

The energy of the daily activities in this dynamic and demanding program is truly awe inspiring. What we are learning though this process will contribute to our continuing work to bring the community at large into deepening relationships with Earth’s systems. In turn, this will strengthen our commitment to adopt sustainability as the cornerstone of our daily practices. We hope you will join us in this endeavor just as you have loyally supported Bull’s Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum financially and with countless hours of volunteer services. YOU continue to be the reason for OUR successes.



Watering the Damon Park Garden



Checking the rain gauge and the outside temperature

## Memberships and Donations for 2009 received since the March Newsletter

*As of June 30, 2009*

Loren E. Ackerman  
Dr. Peter A. Ammentorp  
The Ballard Family  
Bill and Jennifer Becker  
The Blattner Family  
Tom and Sally Brickey  
Carl and Shirley Butts  
Daryl and Nancy Clark  
Wilbur Cohen  
Susan Cole  
Michael Dannis  
Mary Everage  
Jane and Gene Fisher  
Elizabeth Hagedorn  
Richard and June Haller  
Tom Howard  
Roland Gadd  
Elsie D. Garrett  
Elaine Garver  
Greg and Dianne Gerber  
Judy Gilleland  
Jane Gold  
Highview School PTO  
Joy Jones  
Dr. Ray and Jean-Anne Kiefhaber  
Brad and Marge Kochunas  
Jim and Jeanne Kraft  
Ellen and Bill Kukuk  
Lois LaFayette  
Dorothy Lawson  
Katherine Lawson  
Nancy Simonson-Leff and Todd Leff  
Sylvia Maynard  
Mary Lou McCormick  
Robert Q. Millan  
Ted and Marsha Miller  
Robert and Dorothy Morehead  
Edith Mulhall  
Martha Newton  
Barbara J. Norton  
Mary C. (Katie) Nuck  
Mr. Larry and Dr. Marsha Orcutt  
Chris Parker  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Pague

Pamela and Loring Pearson  
Bette Petrocy  
The Greg Pratt Family  
Elizabeth Rogers  
Ruth and Fred Sauer  
Jerry and Barbara Schunk  
Ted and Ginger Seaman  
JC and Anita Shew  
Glen Shivers  
Joan Shivers  
Eric and Susan Sotzing  
Ann Stoutenborough  
Bruce and Fran Thomas  
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Thomas  
Bill Tipton  
David and Susan Voyles  
Sharon and Tom Williamson  
Bill and Marge Wooley

### Donations given for Education Outreach by: Hopedale Unitarian Universalist Community

Bob and Midge McMullen  
Imogene Orts  
Peggy and Noah Powers  
Beth Prince  
Jim and Lynnette Schluter  
John and Barbara Shepard  
Don and Susan Thompson

### Additional donations received from:

Geckeler Nursery School  
Middletown Community Foundation  
Barbara Norton  
Chris Parker

### Donations given in honor or memory of a loved one:

Ric, Cherie, Amanda and Jacob Brewer  
*in memory of* Marilyn Brewer  
James W. Eich *in memory of* Marilyn Eich  
Sandra Jewell *in memory of* Joe Jewell  
and Nell and Bob Lentz  
Bruce and Glenda Peters *in memory of*  
Edward Gaker

**Thank you to everyone who has supported Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum in 2009.**  
*If your records differ from ours, please inform us at your earliest convenience and accept our deepest apologies.*

## **Bull's Run Prairie Tour**

Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2pm

As summer progresses, watch for the blooms of native flowers and grasses in the prairie. I'm hoping for a colorful field as more and more of the seeded plants grow and the transplants become established and mature. Prairies teach patience! I was very excited to recognize several prairie dock leaves this spring, only to sigh when my research suggested 3-5 years before a bloom! Finally, after 3 years of seeding, there are many indigo plants, all about 6 inches tall. Just think, in another 3 years they might flower! Actually, two transplanted indigos, a white and a blue, both bloomed this year. Not exactly like winning the lottery, but still, I was pretty excited. Every year it gets better; two rattlesnake masters, hundreds of bergamot, many coneflowers, both gray-headed and purple, coreopsis and sunflower, Joe Pye, ironweed and milkweed. "Susans" are plentiful, with black eyes and brown eyes! And the grasses, oh yes, the grasses, the foundation of a prairie: Big Bluestem and Little Bluestem with an increasing amount of Indian grass, all doing well. Hopefully the deer won't treat this area like their personal salad bar and there will be many plants on full bloom on August 9<sup>th</sup>, the date of the first ever Bull's Run prairie tour. We will meet at the shelter at 2pm to take a look at the Ohio Native Plant Garden and then walk up to the prairie to see what is showing off. Bring a water bottle and wear a hat and sunglasses as the prairie is a sunny and hot garden spot. If you have a field guide to flowers, bring it along.

If by chance you just can't wait until the 9<sup>th</sup>, check this out:

**2009 Ohio Prairie Conference set for Saturday, 1 August**

Highlands Nature Sanctuary

7629 Cave Road, Bainbridge, OH 45612

You can also find an abundance of prairie information at [www.ohioprairie.org](http://www.ohioprairie.org)

Hope to see you on August 9th!



Prairie Dock



Joe Pye Weed

## Mark your Calendars for Upcoming Events at Bull's Run

For more information please visit our website [www.bullsrn.org](http://www.bullsrn.org)

**July 19** Sunday 2:00 **Dog Walk** Join Boo Norton-Schmiedt with (or without) your four-legged friend on a leash, for a walk along the trails to enjoy the summer season.

**August 9** Sunday 2:00 **Prairie Wildflower Walk** Join Barb Reuss for a look at the Bull's Run Prairie. See the results of the past two summers of transplanting and seeding of prairie wildflowers by BR volunteers and local Master Gardeners.

**August 16** Sunday 2:00 **Dog Walk**

**Sept 20** Sunday 2:00 **Dog Walk**

**Oct 13** Tuesday 7:00-9:00 **Annual Meeting** Verity Lodge on MUM Campus.

**Oct 18** Sunday 2:00 **Dog Walk**

**Oct 25** Sunday 2:00-4:00 **Fall Family Festival** Bring your family for crafts, face painting and hiking.

Contact Barb Reuss, Naturalist, to speak to your organization or for a program at Bull's Run. Contact her at [naturalist@bullsrn.org](mailto:naturalist@bullsrn.org) or 513-422-5063. Visit our website, [www.bullsrn.org](http://www.bullsrn.org)

## Thanks to all who help keep Bull's Run an important asset of the community!

- To Denny Lumber Company for the opportunity to work their hotdog give-away and put out our tip jar.
- Armbrusters for working with us and providing the beautiful plants for our sale.
- Butler County Soil and Water for giving us 200 trees and consulting with us about creek flowage, bridges and erosion control
- Marvin's Organic Gardens for a gift of 15 native plants
- Aero Adams for giving us his Arbor Day Tree which he couldn't plant at home



- To the volunteers who helped paint the picnic tables, Nancy Clark, Debbie and Nathan Grant, and Marge Kochunas.
- Shovel and Hoe Garden Club for sharing flowers from their garden to help with the Butterfly Garden at Highview Elementary
- David and Susan Voyles for the donation of outdoor educational curriculum
- Everyone who has contributed to Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum with their time, resources, and monetary donations.
- Thank you to everyone who makes Bull's Run part of their 2009 giving. We truly appreciate your support!

**Together we are making a difference!**