



Bull's Run Winter Newsletter December, 2010



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.

When talking to the members of Bull's Run, I find we all share a common bond; we played outside as children seeking four-leaf clovers, skipping rocks, catching bugs and climbing trees. As tots, we learned to love the outdoors through these experiences. Studies show that we can tell children not to litter or pollute, to always recycle and be good stewards of the earth, but telling them this won't be effective unless they are deeply connected to the earth. Grown children protect what they love!



We are now extending these early earth connections, through the Nature Tots program. This November found parents and their young children turning over rocks, walking across fallen trees, rolling down hills and playing in leaf piles - just simple pleasures, plain ole fun, but with long term rewards. As these child Self-Guided Exploration Programs continue to unfold, I am confident that we will reap future stewards of the land. This is why I, "do what I do"!

The Land Stewardship aspect of our mission took a major step in assuring the future management of the woodland park through a complete tree inventory. Thanks to senior Miami University Botany student, Alicia

Campbell, working under the guidance of Danielson Kisanga, we now have a GIS mapped record of the eleven and a half acre park including the genus, species and trunk diameter of every tree on the property. The findings show we have 1,925 trees more than two inches in diameter, including 236 ash trees. Such painstaking research provides an invaluable tool for us as we move forward with our plan to handle the impending demise of our ash trees and our commitment to maintaining a healthy woodland habitat.

The 2010 Cap Stone cementing the security of Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum into the future is the wonderful news of a \$10,000 endowment fund set up with the Middletown Community Foundation! [NOTE: Find details of this stellar gift on page # 2 "Three Generations, Shared Values."]

For 30 + years, generous supporters like you have donated countless dollars and hours in support of the two branches of the Bull's Run Mission: earth science education and land stewardship. Visualize the many forms in which we honor your gifts. Picture the annual Fall Family Festival celebrating the education aspect of our mission. Picture the sheer delight of tossing acorns into the woods that will become the oak trees of the future, and picture the joy of discovering amazing fossils from the very distant past. Yes, your support was there.

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Consider the many outreach events. Picture the clients of Mount Pleasant: young clients in the Children's Village - late summer: learning about the migration of the monarch butterfly, and waving good-bye as one is released; elderly clients in the Adult Day Care program gathered on the well shaded patio observing monarch butterflies. One client had a butterfly perched delicately on her trembling finger, and another remarked, "I'm 93 years old, and this is the first time I knew that a caterpillar turned into a butterfly." And yes, your support was there.

Picture the significance of the Eagle Scout project completed this summer by Josh Biddle. The work included two French drains requiring: 200 feet of trenching, 200 feet of drain tile and 18 tons of washed gravel; the installation of a new path requiring: grading the soil, building a frame, 160 feet of treated lumber, 50 feet of re-bar, 480 square feet of landscape cloth, and 12 tons of crushed gravel. Picture also the formal ceremony in recognition of this accomplishment which was celebrated for Josh at the First Presbyterian Church. Yes, your support was there. [NOTE: Find other details of this project on page #3 under, "Eagles Soar".]

We invite you to honor these and countless other activities of earth science education and land stewardship with your End of Year Contribution for Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum. We pledge to use it well. You will be there!

Three Generations - Shared Values

Residents of Middletown for nearly half a century, Ed and Rose Grau have made a difference. Contemplating their life works, their passions are clear - earth science education as well as developing and protecting natural habitat. Their children and grandchildren share these passions. At the time of their marriage commitment 50 years ago, their environmental concerns were mirrored by such visionaries as Rachel Carson whose powerful book *Silent Spring* was published in 1962, and Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson, whose powerful vision led to the birth of Earth Day on April 22, 1970.

The 1960's saw a time of vigorous activism in high schools and universities all across the land. The grass roots energy created by such leaders as Carson and Nelson sparked a movement that attracted the initial participation of one out of ten Americans nation wide. Three fundamental questions emerged: "What are the environmental concerns in our area? What needs to be done to alleviate them? How do we make the public aware?"

The Grau's answers to these questions have been basic and strong: Teach the children well - our own and others; through the National Wildlife Federation, certify the Geckeler Nursery School yard as a Wildlife Habitat site; regularly take pre-school students on guided tours through Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum.

The Grau family wants to see Bull's Run flourish in perpetuity. To that end, the children - now grown - in celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Ed and Rose, have dedicated a \$10,000 foundation gift to Bull's Run to be managed by the Middletown Community Foundation. With this most generous gift, we are inspired, energized, and committed to focus on our answers to the fundamental questions: We will continue to teach children and the community at large; protect and enhance wildlife habitat through land stewardship; make the public aware of the importance of the work at hand. Please join us and the Grau family in the journey.



Naturalist's Ramblings...

Eagles Soar!



You might expect this to be about birds, but I'm writing about Boy Scout Eagle projects. This June, Eagle Scout candidate Josh Biddle installed two French drains to help control water runoff at the entrance of Bull's Run, and rebuilt the walkway from the gate to the shelter. This was a HUGE undertaking, but with the help of his troop, family and church, Josh got it done.



Josh started planning last November, a year out from his deadline. I met with Josh several times and we worked through the design and materials needed. When I asked Josh what he had learned from this project his reply was wonderful; "I learned I don't want to be an engineer!"



That's what Eagle projects are about... LEARNING! Thank you, Josh for a job well done. I would also like to acknowledge the abundant assistance from Steve Lewis and Jeff McMullen for the planning and completion of this project.

Barb Reuss



Several members of the BRNSA board were present at Josh Biddle's Eagle Court of Honor on November 21.



Bull's Run Annual *Fall Family Festival* held on Sunday Oct 24, from 2-4 pm was a great success. It was a picture perfect fall day! Autumn colors greeted the families as they made their way to the picnic shelter where each table was staffed by volunteers ready with a wide variety of activities and crafts.

Look at all the fun we had!

- Nature displays and activities
- Scavenger Hunt
- Crafts & Snacks
- Planted tree seeds
- Learned about Ohio's state symbols



Loads of thanks to the many volunteers and community support that made this day such a wonderful success!

Some of the Official State Symbols of Ohio

Bird



Cardinal

Animal



White-tailed Deer

Insect



Ladybug beetle

Wildflower



Trillium

Tree



Ohio Buckeye

Stone



Flint



For the past two months I have been working as a Miami University Wilks intern at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum and overall, I would say it was a valuable learning experience for everyone involved. It helped me to apply some of what I had been learning in my environmental science classes, such as using sustainable practices by using recycled newspaper as a weed barrier before putting mulch down. It has also made me realize that I will have to deal with the business/financial side of life, whether I like it or not! I also got to know the great people that run this organization, who somehow are able to manage Bull's Run along with, it seems, multiple other projects as well as their normal jobs and lives. This busy, multi-tasking did cause a few communication problems with my internship focus and schedule, but we got it all figured out in the end. Their passion and drive to try to improve the natural environment, not just at Bull's Run, has and continues to amaze me. I only hope I can find a career for which I have the same amount of passion.

Alyssa Ferrero, Wilks Intern

Native Plant Garden and Prairie Tour

This August, Bull's Run offered its Second Annual Prairie Tour. John Whittington and Cameron Everage gave a wonderful educational presentation at the shelter. They had visited several other prairies in Ohio earlier in the summer in their research of what makes a prairie. Their conclusion was our prairie has everything the others had, AND IT'S RIGHT HERE! The group took a closer look at the native plants in bloom next to the shelter before hiking up to the prairie in full bloom. Despite the heat all enjoyed the splashes of color from the iron weed, purple cone flower, brown-eyed susan, black-eyed susan, plus the butterflies and goldfinches visiting the prairie.



Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum Members since June Newsletter

Memberships

Carolyn Keiffer
Gene and Pat Saylor
Ruth Sauer
Keith and Cheryl Huntsbarger
Michael and Margery Perkins
Marjorie Kochunas
Sue Wright

Special Donations from:

Digital Media Group, Inc.
Middletown Garden Club
Christine Parker
Ruth Sauer
Jeff McMullen
Debbie Simpkins McGuire in
memory of Ed Simpkins
Anonymous

Middletown Community Foundation

T. Duane Gordon gave in honor
of:

Marcia & Ted Brown
Mary C. Maurer
Joyce Thompson
Pat Bowman
Tom Dowden
Dean Penrod

These memberships were received between 6/15/2010 and 12/1/2010. If our records do not reflect your records, please notify us and we will be sure to include you in our next newsletter where we list new contributions to Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum. Thank you for your support.

Bridge Renovation

The Middletown Garden Club met in the shelter at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum to honor one of the park's founders, Carolyn Gaker. The members are posed on the 30 year old bridge that they



recently funded for a thousand dollar make-over. After hearing about some of the history of Bull's Run from the park's president, Debbie Grant, the ladies helped to plant jack-in-the-pulpit and remove dried flower seed heads for planting this winter.

The Middletown Garden Club was established in 1922. The club consists of 40 active members who meet from April through November. Their purpose is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening among amateurs, to aid in

the protection of native trees, plants and birds and to encourage civic planting. They have a longstanding relationship with Bull's Run also helping to fund and care for the front sign and garden.

Bull's Run has a new office!

Since July, we've been moving into our new office on the lower level of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension on McGee Avenue. Our educational supplies and documents are coming together in one place, our electronic data is being gathered onto our office computer, and the central meeting place allows for great discussions, both planned and unplanned. Our new e-mail address is brnsaa@gmail.com.



Left to Right: Chris Parker, Jerry Schunk, Debbie Grant, Jeff McMullen

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



- ❖ Thanks to John Whittington and Cameron Everage for presenting our prairie seminar and tour!
 - ❖ Thanks to Ted's Rental and Keith and Cheryl Huntsbarger, for equipment for the Eagle Scout drainage project, moving the boulder, and a generator and hedge shearers for trimming around the front sign.
 - ❖ Thanks to Josh Biddle for his Eagle Scout project of a new entrance pathway.
 - ❖ Thanks to Denny Lumber Company and Jeff McMullen, for supplies and guidance with the Eagle Scout path, for office furniture donations and allowing us to once again work the Tool Sale!
 - ❖ Thanks to Lewis Horticulture Services and Steve Lewis, for advice and assistance with the Eagle Scout path project.
 - ❖ Thanks Lisa Wilson for purchasing, ironing and hanging the new office curtains!
 - ❖ Thanks to Marsh and Dillman's grocery stores for Nature Tot supplies.
- ❖ Thanks to Danbarry for popcorn!
 - ❖ Thanks to Armbruster Florist and Flowers by Roger for Annual Meeting centerpieces.
 - ❖ Thanks to Doug Horvath for an entertaining presentation at our Annual Meeting.
 - ❖ Thanks to Carolyn Kieffer and the Miami Botany Department for providing Verity Lodge for the annual meeting.
 - ❖ Thanks to all the workday volunteers!
 - ❖ Thanks to the Episcopal Church of Ascension for their all- around support.
 - ❖ Thanks to Aaron Grant for maintaining our website.
 - ❖ Thanks to the numerous volunteers who brought craft supplies and food to our fall events!
 - ❖ Thanks to Debbie Grant for her consistent and loyal guidance to our Board of Directors and to all Board members for their enduring support!
 - ❖ To everyone who made Bull's Run part of their 2010 giving and those who plan to contribute in 2011. We truly appreciate your support!

**2011 Membership and Donation form is included in this mailing.
Together we are making a difference!**

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum 2011 Board of Directors

President – Debbie Grant

Vice President – Chris Parker

Recording Secretary – Jennifer Chen

Treasurer – Jerry Shunk

Newsletter – Nancy Clark

Land Stewardship – Jeff McMullen

City Liaison – Steve Langworthy

MUM Representative – Debbie Simpkins McGuire

Abby Ison

Naturalist - Barbara Reuss

Advisory Board – Carolyn Gaker, Lisa Wilson

Thank you to Virginia Christy for serving many years as volunteer guide and board member.

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming Events at Bull's Run

December

- 18 Annual Christmas Bird Count 9-10 am
- 19 Dog Walk 2-3pm
- 29 History of the Fresh Air Camp to Bull's Run documentary on TV Middletown, 8:00 pm and 11:30 pm
- 30 History of the Fresh Air Camp to Bull's Run documentary on TV Middletown, 4:00 pm

For more information please visit our website www.bullsrn.org

Contact Barb Reuss, Naturalist, to speak to your organization or for a program at Bull's Run.

Contact her at naturalist@bullsrn.org or 513-422-5063.



National Night Out

Four new Bull's Run volunteers made their debut in the Bull's Run tent during National Night Out at Jacot Park. Betty and Dick Fligor hail from Springboro. They spent several hours decorating eager children with ladybug or dragonfly tattoos. Carol and Jim Swisshelm are residents of Fairfield. Jim assisted in raising the tent and Carol, who is an Ohio State Master Naturalist Volunteer, brought pictures of several species of owls which visit their home. A talented artist, she also brought her reconstructed mouse, made from the bones and fur in an owl pellet. Needless to say, we enchanted MANY children with these wonders! WELCOME FOLKS!



Bull's Run Photo Gallery



Join us for the Annual Christmas Bird Count
On Saturday,
December 18 at 9 am!
No experience needed.

