



## **Bull's Run Newsletter** **Spring, 2012**

### **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.



### **SPRING OPEN HOUSE – WITH WALDEN IN THE WOODS**



Please join us on Saturday, April 14, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a Spring Open House Event. Enjoy live music, refreshments and educational displays. Learn more about your Arboretum and its rich heritage! Walk through the beautiful woods and see the spring wildflowers. Meet Chris Walden, nationally known nature artist, whose artwork vibrantly portrays the passion and beauty of the natural world. Mr. Walden, a native of New Zealand, now lives in the area and has a studio at Beau Verre.

Raffle tickets will be sold for a chance at one of his framed prints and other prizes: limited edition t-shirts, vintage arboretum t-shirts, and BR/Fresh Air Camp history DVD's. Raffle tickets will be sold from 10 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. You must be present to win the raffle.

### **SPECIAL ARBOR DAY ACTIVITY PLANNED AT BULL'S RUN**

Join Cindy Meyer, OSU Extension, for a walk around the park on Arbor Day, April 27 at 1 p.m. Learn to diagnose plant diseases and insect problems common to southwest Ohio that may be affecting plants in your backyard, by looking at what signs are presented at the arboretum.

### **Guided Spring Wildflower Walk Opportunities at Two Locations**



sharp-lobed hepatica

Spring has arrived EARLY this year. Many of the usual spring wildflowers are already at or past their peak. But more will come, so join us for whatever is blooming, and maybe listen for birds.

April 22 **Interpretive Wildflower Walk** 2:00 pm.

Explore the beautiful spring wildflowers at Bull's Run.

April 22 **Interpretive Wildflower Walk** 4:00pm on Autumn Dr. at the Armbruster Nature Preserve. Join the naturalist for a look at this extraordinary display of wildflowers. Turn off of Manchester Rd. on to Autumn Dr. and park at the dead-end near the water tower.

May 12 **Interpretive Wildflower Walk** 2:00 pm at Bull's Run.

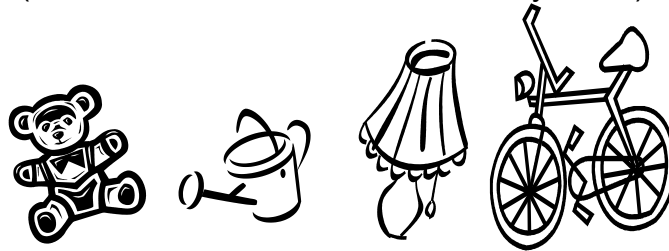
# BULL'S RUN GARAGE SALE

FRIDAY and SATURDAY

May 11 and 12- 8:00am to 4:00pm

4312 Walton Court Middletown, OH

(Located close to Bull's Run off Curryer Rd.)



**We need your gently used treasures!**

It is time for Spring Cleaning!

Look through the closets, sort through the cupboards and straighten up the garage, basement and storage shed.

**The proceeds from the sale will be used for bridge repairs.**

ITEMS TO CONSIDER DONATING: Small kitchen appliances, dishes, bed linen, towels, bikes, sporting items, tools, buttons, fabric, purses, shoes, children's clothing, games, toys and books, anything you want to get rid of. **NO ADULT CLOTHING.**

VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT THE SALE or WITH PRICING: - Call Debbie Grant at 425-7250  
TO DROP OFF ITEMS - Call Rose Grau at 424-1969. We will start collecting items April 1st.

**REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, REJOICE!**

## Bridge Update

Through the support of the Middletown Community Foundation and donations from you, our members, the bridge replacement project is off the ground. Surveying and initial engineering was completed by Apex Engineering in January. Our bridge committee, which includes a retired civil engineer and an experienced project manager, has reviewed and approved the plans. The board of Bull's Run has decided to build a stone-type bridge rather than wood to reduce maintenance issues. The bridge will be constructed with modular recycled concrete blocks which have been molded and colored to match quarried rock. The metal culvert will be replaced with an aluminized corrugated arch pipe with an 8 ½ foot opening. The natural creek bed will be restored and the open arch design will allow a natural flow pattern.

At the request of the bridge committee, Bull's Run will be consulting with a landscape architect to design a solution to the current erosion of the bank downstream of the large bridge, as well as a plan to stabilize the area to prevent future erosion. We are striving to use native plants and natural rock to preserve the natural environment and appearance of the park.

Total cost of the project is estimated to be \$45,000-\$50,000. To date, Bull's Run has raised \$9,000 toward completion of the project.

## **SHOPPING AT STAPLES?**

While you are there, consider donating your Staples Rewards monies to Bull's Run! They have made it very easy. Just tell them you want your Rewards to go to "Bull's Run – Zip 45044", and the Bull's Run Board will be able to save money on paper, ink cartridges and much more! And THAT will mean we can use a larger percentage of our funds for education and stewardship! Every ink cartridge recycled with Rewards earns us \$2. THANKS FOR CONSIDERING THIS!



*Picture courtesy of Tom Ritter*

## **BIRD WATCHING AT BULL'S RUN**

This year a welcome visitor was spotted at the bird feeders in January, a pileated woodpecker. This large member of the woodpecker family is the inspiration for Woody Woodpecker. Was she here just for the suet, looking for a mate, or has she acquired a taste for the Emerald Ash Borer?

More bird watching opportunities will be incorporated into the spring wildflower walks in April and May.

For a detailed report of the Christmas Bird Count, please visit [www.bullsrn.org](http://www.bullsrn.org).

## **NEW ADDITIONS UP ON THE PRAIRIE**



Several years ago, the late Bob Millan donated the old curb from the First National Bank in downtown Middletown. Barb and Jeff McMullen and Webbs picked it up from the Millan's home and delivered it to BRNSA. Mike Wertz moved the large slab to the present location in the prairie. Corbet Cox of Dodd's Monuments donated the construction of the actual bench.

Long time Board member Debbie Simpkins McGuire had a bench made out of it and a plaque dedicated in memory of her late husband, Ed Simpkins.

We hope this unique addition will allow you to rest among the prairie wildflowers, take a moment to treasure family and friends, and appreciate the world around.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
ED SIMPKINS  
1934-2009

BE GLAD OF LIFE BECAUSE IT  
GIVES YOU THE CHANCE TO LOVE,  
WORK AND PLAY AND TO LOOK UP  
AT THE STARS; THINK OFTEN OF  
YOUR FRIENDS AND EVERYDAY OF  
CHRIST; AND SPEND AS MUCH  
TIME WITH BODY AND SPIRIT IN  
GOD'S OUT OF DOORS  
GIVEN BY HIS WIFE DEBBIE

## Memberships and Donations—December 15, 2011-March 1, 2012

Loren E. Ackerman  
David K. Adams  
David, Barbara, & Chris Ballard  
*In loving memory of Virginia and Morris Ballard*  
Crystal Banks  
Dr. Bruce and Neila Barnes  
Douglas Bean  
*In honor of Barb Reuss and Jeff McMullen*  
Laird and Jan Becker  
Anne Berns  
Bill and Jeanne Berry  
*In loving memory of grandson Andrew Roberts*  
Chuck and Betty Bost  
Jerry and Joyce Bradley  
Tom and Sally Brickey  
Carl and Shirley Butts  
Cherri Carpenter  
Jung-Han & Jennifer Chen  
George and Virginia Christy  
Daryl and Nancy Clark  
Wilbur Cohen  
Larry and Carol Colclasure  
Elizabeth Cole  
Ronald and Barbara Conley  
Corbett Cox  
Yunluan Cui  
Michael Dannis  
Richard S. Davies  
Jane Denlinger  
Joseph and Carolyn Distaola  
Nita Driscoll  
*In loving memory of Robert A. Driscoll*  
John and Pat Dupps Jr.  
Warren and Ruby Elam  
Don and Betty Elworth  
John Whittington, Beth, Cameron Everage  
Chris and Linda Fiora  
Sheila Fletcher  
Rilla Foster  
Thomas Fye  
Patti Gage  
Dr. Louis and Carolyn Gaker  
Karen Gaker  
Sharon Gaston  
Gary and Lynn Getter  
Cissi Glickfield  
Jane Gold  
Forest and Debbie Grant  
Ed and Rose Grau  
Nancy Haney  
Steve and Nannette Hess  
Barbara Hinkel  
Bill and Lenora Housh  
Maryann Howard  
Bill and Abby Ison  
Richard Johnson  
Leonard J. Kahny  
Karen Kessler  
Jim and Jeanne Kraft  
Dorothy Lawson  
Rosa Lean Lindsey  
Elinor and Orie Loucks  
David and Barbara Martin  
Heinz and Gisele Matthiesen  
Mary Lou McCormick  
Bernie and Debbie McGuire  
Jeff McMullen and Barb Reuss  
Dr. Peter J. & JoAnn Moroz, Jr.  
Jana Morse  
Terri Mulhall  
Larry and Linda Mull  
Patricia Myers  
Bob and Diane Mysonhimer  
Bob and Carol Newkirk  
Julianne Nickell  
Boo Norton-Schmiedt  
Katie Nuck  
Martha Oches  
Ilona Ormsby  
Imogene Orts  
Dr. Richard ,Virginia & Rob Palmer  
Christine Parker  
Dr. Kenton and Cathy Pate  
Dr. Elizabeth W. Patterson  
Mike and Marge Perkins  
Jo-Annette Perry  
Bruce and Glenda Peters  
*In honor of Debbie Grant*  
Kari Plageman  
Noah and Peggy Powers  
Dr. Thomas and Angela Retzios  
*In loving memory of Lazaros Retzios*  
Robert and Judy Reuss  
*In honor of Barb Reuss*  
Mark and Coleen Richards  
Tom Ritter  
Elizabeth S. Rogers  
Judge Kathleen D. & Michael Romans  
Gene and Pat Saylor  
*In loving memory of Dodee Saylor*  
Jim and Lynnette Schluter  
Preston Schrock  
Carole Schul  
Jerry and Barbara Schunk  
Ed and Ginger Seamon  
Frances Sedge  
Judy Shillinglaw  
Glen Shivers  
Joan Shivers  
Dr. Gregory & Jeanne M. Siewny  
Nicki Slivinski  
Helen Smith  
Eric and Susan Sotzing  
Guy and Jackie Stone  
Ann Stoutenborough  
Sontha Strinko  
Carol and Jim Swisshelm  
Don and Susan Thompson  
Bill Tipton  
Heath E. Valentine  
*In loving memory of Mary P. Valentine*  
Hamilton and Linda Watkins  
Mary Lou Williams  
Ronald and Joyce Williams  
Steve and Lisa Wilson  
Anonymous



## HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

### **Facilities/Bridges**

Laird and Jan Becker  
Jerry and Joyce Bradley  
Michael Dannis  
Jane Denlinger  
John and Pat Dupps Jr  
Warren and Ruby Elam  
Don and Betty Elworth  
John Whittington, Beth &  
Cameron Everage  
Ed and Rose Grau  
Nancy Haney  
Bill and Lenora Housh  
Bill and Abby Ison  
Elinor and Orié Loucks  
Heinz and Gisele Matthiesen  
Bob and Diane Mysonhimer  
Boo Norton-Schmiedt

### **Facilities/Bridges**

Dr. Kenton and Cathy Pate  
Jim and Lynnette Schluter  
Jerry and Barbara Schunk  
Eric and Susan Sotzing  
Ann Stoutenborough  
Don and Susan Thompson  
Bill Tipton  
Mary Lou Williams  
Ronald and Joyce Williams  
Steve and Lisa Wilson

### **Undesignated**

Larry and Carol Colclasure  
Ronald and Barbara Conley  
David and Barbara Martin  
Mike and Marge Perkins

### **Land Stewardship**

Loren E. Ackerman  
Elizabeth Cole  
Thomas Fye  
Bob and Diane Mysonhimer  
Jeff McMullen and Barb Reuss

### **Education**

Elinor and Orié Loucks  
Dr. Peter J. & JoAnn Moroz, Jr.  
Patricia Myers  
Imogene Orts  
Don and Susan Thompson

### **History of Bull's Run DVD**

Michael and Katie McNeil

## THANK YOU!

- Thanks to Michael Wertz of Wertz Christmas Tree Farm for the donation of Christmas trees for the Winter Tots to play in.
- Thanks to Bob Wise for donating suet cakes and corn for the winter feeding and refurbishing all the feeder stations.
- Thanks to Bruce Peters for donating two large bags of corn.
- Thanks to our faithful feeder fillers: Guy and Chuck Stone, Corbett Cox and Marge Kochunas.
- Thanks to John Dupps for a spotting scope and tri-pod.
- Thanks to John Whittington for helping to lead the Winter Tree ID class with Barb.
- Thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who helped to greet people at Light Up Middletown
- Thanks to workers from Dodd's Monuments for completing the stone bench in the prairie.
- Thanks to Ron Price of Watsons Sand and Gravel for the boulders and delivery.
- Thanks to Donna Beauregard and her City crew for the installation of the boulder area.
- Thanks to Ed and Rose Grau for hosting our second garage sale on May 11 and 12.
- Thanks to Rita Robinson for photographing and assisting with the Nature Tot program.
- Thanks to Aldo Ross for his photographs for our Facebook page.
- Thanks to Aaron Grant for managing and updating our new website [www.bullsrn.org](http://www.bullsrn.org).
- Thanks to Debbie Grant for managing our Facebook site. "Like" us on Facebook!
- Thanks to everyone who shops at Staples or returns used cartridges and says, "Put it on the Bull's Run Rewards at Bulls Run 45044".
- Thanks to Keep Middletown Beautiful for the Recycling Unit.
- Thanks to the City of Middletown for removing the large dead Bitternut Hickory tree.
- Thanks to the Episcopal Church of Ascension for allowing us use of their building.
- Thanks to all who visit the park and keep the litter picked up.
- Thanks for your 2012 membership and additional contributions allowing us to move forward with the mission of Bull's Run. PayPal is now available on our website.



## **BIS PARTNERSHIP WITH MUM**

During this semester, we are fortunate to have four students from the Miami University Middletown Bachelor of Integrated Studies program collaborating with us. Casey Reese is working with Chris Parker in developing a presentation for the Women's Empowerment Workshop, a program developed by Board Member, DeAnna Shores. Middletown High School students will attend this event. Reese and Parker will present "Earth Ethics: My Earth, My rights, My Responsibility." Beverly Robertson, Heather Proffit and Mel Walden are planning, developing and marketing our upcoming Spring Open House on April 14.

### **Ramblings.....**

I had the good luck of carving out time to attend the Miami Valley No Child Left Inside Summit held at Cox Arboretum on February 25th. **No Child Left Inside** is a national movement birthed by the 2005 publication of Richard Louv's book, Last Child in the Woods. Across the country concerned families are determined to reconnect with the natural world in ways that are not extractive or abusive, but respectful, grateful and healthful. NCLI chapters in Cincinnati and Columbus have been organized for a few years. I am delighted that a collaboration of interested groups has begun a Miami Valley chapter. Get information by calling 5 Rivers MetroParks.

So, what are the compelling reasons behind this movement? Well, here are some fast facts from the Miami County Park District:

- *Children are spending half as much time outdoors as they did 20 years ago.*
- *A recent study found that children today spend an average of 6 hours each day in front of the computer and TV but less than 4 minutes a day in unstructured outdoor play.*
- *Children age 3-12 are spending 1% of their time outdoors and 27% with electronic media.*
- *In a typical day, only 6% of children age 9-13 play outside on their own.*
- *Today a child is six times more likely to play a video game on a typical day than to ride a bike.*
- *Sixty minutes of daily unstructured free play is essential to children's physical and mental health.*
- *Children who have frequent access to the outdoors gain competence in moving through the larger world; it also helps them to develop courage.*
- *The negative impact of decreased time outdoors includes a doubling of the childhood obesity rate... accompanied by an incremental 100 billion dollar cost to our health care system... as well as declining creativity, concentration and social skills.*

You can check out the "Green Hour" link at [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org) for ideas on how your family can enjoy the outdoors. Or join us at Nature TOTS. To learn more, Google NCLI and do a bit of browsing. There you can find the Ohio Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, and some "political" opinions.

Growing up, I never would have dreamed that playing outside needed to be mandated by legislation!

Barb Reuss, Naturalist

## **Nature TOTS... what fun!**

Q: How do you build a snowman without snow?

A: Uh, you don't!

We experienced 5 consecutive Wednesdays of the winter session of Nature TOTS without any snow! Fortunately young children enjoy the outdoors even when the weather is not what adults expect. Two new families joined our group of regulars, bringing the total to seven families and 11 tots. Our themes for outdoor exploration included birds: bird watching, bird identification, bird "conversations", bird feeding and playing with toy birds; chipmunks, squirrels, groundhogs, which are also called whistle pigs; animal tracks; buds and bark; and decomposition.

We explored the creek and got wet and muddy! Most days we used toilet paper tube binoculars, hand lenses and collection containers. We played with algae and watched it wave in the current of the water. We looked at fossils and found several colors and sizes of rocks. We climbed up... and down... a tree root ladder. The tots hiked, balanced, bounced, jumped, crawled, climbed, collected, compared, sorted, looked, touched, listened, conversed, slid, splashed, hid, ran, rolled, shared and helped one another. Oh, what a joy to experience nature through the fresh perspective of a child!

Please join us with your tots, age 6 months to 6 years, for the spring session of Nature TOTS beginning March 28 and continuing on Wednesdays through April. Register for the 10-11AM or 12:30-1:30PM session by calling Barb at 513-422-5063. Come learn with us!

## **WE HAVE TAKEN TWO MORE GIANT STEPS FORWARD**

Thanks to a generous donation from Watson Gravel, Inc., a new area for exploration has been added to the maintenance road complete with hollow logs, boulders, stepping stones and sticks and bark for creating! Donna Beauregard and her City crew installed the boulder area.

Board Members, Linda Mull and Debbie Grant, met with Pat Migliozi of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources recently at Bull's Run. He was very impressed with the invasive removal, namely honeysuckle, which has been accomplished and signed off on the next four acres of the EQIP grant!



A huge THANK YOU to Barb and Jeff and the numerous volunteers who have helped to clear those 4 acres this past year!!! We have 8 completed and 3 to go!

### **And a step back ...**

As we were walking around, Pat was looking at all of the woodpecker action happening on the trees. When we were in the Prairie, he asked if we minded if he cut into one of the small diameter ash trees. Just under the bark, we observed an active tunneling Emerald Ash Beetle larva just a couple of feet up from the base of the tree. Pat estimated that they had been in the tree for two years. Unfortunately, EAB has arrived.

*Debbie Grant*



## Spring Calendar of Upcoming Events

### March

**28 Spring Nature Tots** Begin (five Wed's, morning and afternoon sessions)

Outdoor exploration for parents and young children. Call Barb at 422-5063.

**31 Work Day** 9:30-1:00 Volunteers needed to help with mulching the trails and plant care.

### April

**14 Open House** 10:00 to 1:00 Learn about Bull's Run. A celebration with music and food! Meet nationally known wildlife artist, Chris Walden, enter the raffle for a signed, framed print!

**22 Wildflower Walk** 2:00-3:00 Bull's Run

Explore the beautiful spring wildflowers at Bull's Run with Nancy.

**22 Wildflower Walk** 4:00-5:00 Off-site at Armbruster Nature Preserve

Join the naturalist for a look at this extraordinary display of spring wildflowers. Turn off Manchester Rd onto Autumn Dr. and park near the water tower.

**27 Arbor Day** 1:00 Join OSU Extension, Cindy Meyer, for a walk around the park.

Learn to diagnose plant diseases and insect problems.

**28 Work Day** 9:30-1:00 Volunteers needed to help with mulching the trails and plant care.

### May

**11 and 12 Garage Sale** 8:00-4:00 off-site at 4312 Walton Ct. We need your donations! Call Rose at 424-1969.

**12 Wildflower Walk** 2:00-3:00 Bull's Run Join Nancy for a look at late spring wildflowers.

**19 Work Day** 9:30-1:00 Volunteers needed to help with mulching the trails and plant care.

**26 Work Day** 9:30-1:00 Volunteers needed to help with mulching the trails and plant care.

## Bull's Run Photo Gallery

early spring wildflowers



*sessile trillium*



*Dutchman's breeches*



*bloodroot*

Winter Nature Tots

