

Bull's Run Summer Newsletter

July, 2014



Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum
is a non-profit volunteer organization located in NE Butler County and serving the surrounding community. We are dedicated to preserving the natural area of Bull's Run and strive to develop the park as an environmental facility and educational resource for people of all ages.



Spring Nature Tots gave Barb Reuss a fond farewell at their final meeting by planting a tree in her honor up in the prairie. The Prairie was Barb's special project over her 10 years with Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum, dedicated to the memory of her parents.

The Board and Volunteers from WOW and Workdays also gave a Barb a special farewell on the final workday she organized on May 24. It's difficult to put into words what Barb has contributed over her tenure as naturalist for this small city woodland refuge. She was instrumental in creating Nature Tots for preschool-aged children and their care-givers, when the educational component of the naturalist's job shifted over

the years. When she'd started as naturalist, schools regularly made field trips to the Arboretum. Later, she took education to the school and into the classroom, with only an occasional field trip. Nature Tots encourages the youngest community members to explore the world of nature with all the wonder of a searching child. Her dedication to land stewardship and attempting to maintain the diversity of the native floral species of the park that sustains the fauna living there, was only surpassed by her passion to educate the public, visitors and volunteers alike, of its importance to our community as a whole.

Thank you, Barb, for a job well done! You will be missed.

Welcome to Erin!

The Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum's Board of Directors is pleased to announce the selection of the new naturalist, Erin Skimming. After reviewing several applications submitted and meeting with the candidates, Erin was chosen to replace Barb Reuss. Erin is studying Environmental Engineering Technologies at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. She is currently working the summer for Greene County Parks and will use that training, along with the knowledge and insights Barb was able to share with her prior to her departure, to take the Arboretum forward into a promising future. Erin brings experience with children gained as an intern with Vision Trek in Cincinnati. We are excited to have her join us as we continue to nurture this unique resource for the benefit of all ages in our community.



Volunteer Gloria (dark shirt), New Naturalist Erin, Retiring Naturalist Barb
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Work Days at Bull's Run



Bull's Run Arboretum was again one of the sites around the city that benefited from the Middletown EARTH DAY Festival 2014 held on April 12 and hosted by Keep Middletown Beautiful at the new Cincinnati State Campus downtown. Almost three dozen volunteers put in just over 118 man-hours in one morning to mulch trails, help clean up trash, pull garlic mustard (an invasive plant species), weed and mulch the memorial trees outside the fence, and plant 35 young trees. The blue tubes you will see throughout the arboretum protect the young sassafras, black gum, hazelnut, pecan, persimmon, tulip poplar, witch hazel, spice bush and pawpaw seedlings from predation by hungry wildlife.

The April 26th work day had 11 volunteers show up for 30 hours of hard work. The rest of the 48 seedlings were planted, along with sprouted acorns. More euonymus (another invasive) was pulled away from the shooting star patch and two teams cut and daubed honeysuckle down the shelter hill, while others pulled garlic mustard.



Fourteen members of the skydiving Team Fastrax made another welcome appearance at the work day on May 17th, along with 12 volunteers from the community to put in over 78 man-hours of labor. Both men and women pitched in to remove garlic mustard, bush honeysuckle and spread mulch along the trails, plus weeding, planting and mulching the two butterfly gardens.



The May 24th workday saw 11 volunteers donating 41 hours of labor to pull the last large patch of garlic mustard out by its roots. Erin Skimming, the new naturalist, also got a first-hand look at what wonderful volunteers can do to keep the Arboretum a welcoming natural area.

Another Great Garage Sale!

Another great effort by donors, pre-sale price markers, staffers and shoppers! What better way to make new friends, turn your lightly used items that were taking up room in your home and turning them into treasures for someone else, all the while raising funds to support Bull's Run Arboretum. Ed and Rose Grau once again opened their home providing us the opportunity to invite people to visit Bull's Run and bring in some needed money. Proceeds from the sale were nearly \$2500! **"Wow, what a garage sale!"** Thank you to the Graus for their longtime confidence and generous support and to all the participants, donors, buyers and volunteers!



Garage sale volunteer, Paula Dickerson and Garage sale Coordinator, Chris Buchert

Something New to Watch for on our Website

This month I will be starting a series of short films centered around Bull's Run, physical science and environmental topics. I will be providing supplementary articles and material with each video, so that you can explore the topic in greater detail, if you so choose. As always, if you enjoy them, please share them wherever possible! The first video will be shared very soon, until then, here is a bit of primer!

- Eric Haas, Board Member

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum

"Nature Sanctuary", what does that mean, exactly? We've all grown up with a popular image of what "nature" looks like. It is big. It is dramatic. It's the realm of inspirational posters, National



Geographic documentaries and Ansel Adams photographs. To most of us, nature is a place that we have to travel to reach. We strap on our boots, pack up the car and head out to the nearest National Forest, metro park or to Bull's Run. After a few gulps from a water bottle, we pass through the gates and officially enter nature. This, we think, is where nature is. It is neatly contained within these fences. It blocks out any sight of civilization. It is a place meant for relaxation and appreciation. This, of course, begs the question: where were we before we passed through that gate?

We were still in nature. In fact, you have never left nature once in your entire life. Nature fills your lungs when you breathe and fills your glass when you are thirsty. Nature surrounds and encompasses you. We are not standing on the outskirts of nature and looking in, we are an increasingly important link in nature's chain.

What does this mean to those of us that wish to protect and preserve nature? To me, it is great news. It means I don't have to focus my efforts on faraway places that I might never see. Instead of simply mailing a check to some forest on another continent, I can grab a shovel and work with nature directly. I can plant native trees and flowers and watch them grow over the years. I can watch wildlife find a home in them. I can watch children's eyes light up with wonder as they discover them. To me, this is what makes Bull's Run great. Bull's Run may not have the luster of Yellowstone or the size of the Amazon. It may only be 11 acres, but that it is what makes it great. It's great not in spite of its size, but **because** of it. It's great because it is right in the middle of our community.

You don't have to go very far to help protect nature. We are constantly in need of new ideas and more helping hands. The effort it takes to maintain Bull's Run is far from small. There are always new sights to see and new issues to solve. We are proud of the work we do at Bull's Run. It may be a small patch of the woods, but it is our patch of the woods. Please, come join us.

Kroger Community Rewards

You can help Bull's Run by enrolling in Kroger's Community Rewards program at www.kroger.com/communityrewards. Please type in Bull's Run or our organization # 83005. This will not affect your fuel rewards. If you enrolled prior to April, please renew on-line today for the current annual cycle that began May 1. Your participation is making a difference and Bull's Run is receiving checks quarterly from this program. Thank you.

Update on Bridge Project

Last summer the major project was replacing not one, but two bridges along the red trail, thanks to memberships, generous donations and grants from the Middletown Community Foundation and the Miriam G Knoll Foundation. Late last year we received funds from the S. L. Gimbel Foundation Advised Fund at The Community Foundation to further enhance the trail leading to those bridges for renovating the steps. We also have volunteers willing to tackle one of the smaller bridges with a new, low impact design utilizing materials already on the property. We appreciate all of the work that goes in to repairing and maintaining the trail system at Bull's Run.

Memorial Trees Policy

Last year we replaced several trees between Rosedale Road and the fence using the last open areas in the Memorial Plantings area of Bull's Run. Moving forward, any plantings in memory or honor of a loved one will follow a new policy. A tree may be selected from a list of native species known to be available from local nurseries, to be planted within the fenced wooded area for a donation of at least \$500 (price dependent on source). The donation will be listed in the newsletter following the planting and on the website, www.bullsrun.org, and the donors and honoree's family will be given the GPS coordinates of the planted tree, but otherwise it may remain unmarked.

NEW PROJECT – MEMORIAL REFLECTION AREA

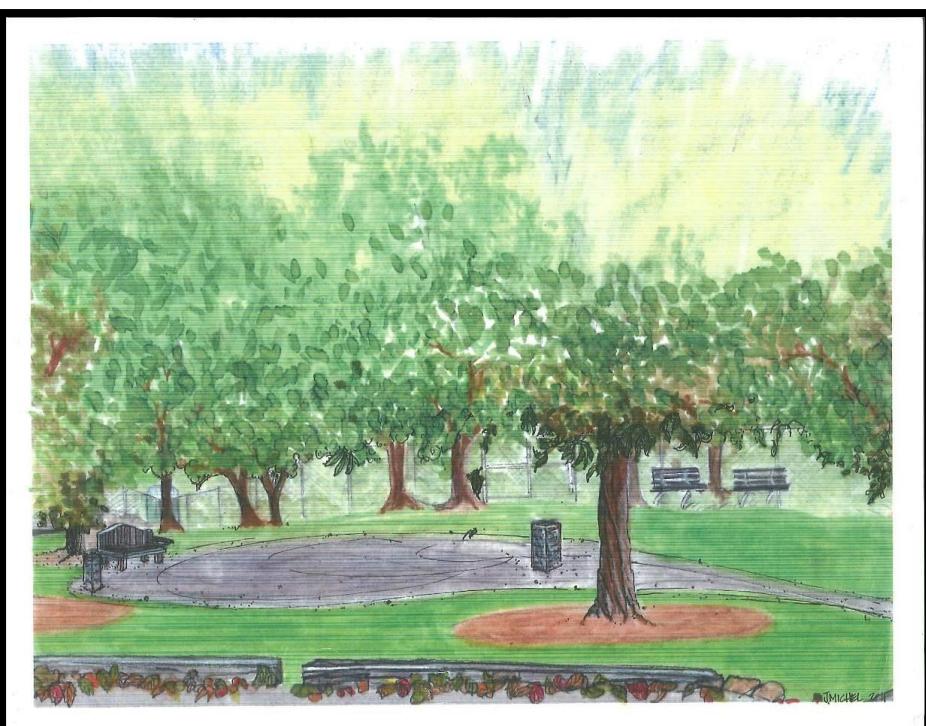
Now that the major bridge project is completed, we are ready to focus on something new that we have dreamed of for several years. Memorial plantings began over 30 years ago, have been added to over those years and are now creating a new leafy canopy between the road and the fence. We have plans to create an area for reflecting on nature, loved ones, and life. Jeff Michel has rendered a drawing of our vision, including the historical marker that was originally placed along the walk, a new memorial monument and benches, accessible via a packed aggregate pathway from the parking area off Rosedale. Work should begin in the fall. The memorial monument will display names of those loved ones you wish to honor with a donation to Bull's Run. The benches can also be dedicated to someone for a year. Details can be found on the enclosed donation form and on the website. Please consider this lasting dedication to loved ones that will support your Arboretum into the future.

**MEMORIAL
REFLECTION
MONUMENT**

To honor those who foster an appreciation of nature

In memory of those who nurtured a respect for nature

For those who enjoy the beauty of nature



LINKS TO LEARNING

Welcome to a new feature of the newsletter. We will feature links to websites we hope will be of interest to our members and readers, some you may already be familiar with, others may be new. In the interest of education about the wonderful world we live in, how it works, and how we can be better stewards toward it, we offer these informational links to learning. We welcome suggestions for future issues and hope to hear some feedback on the Arboretum's website, www.bullsrun.org, and the Facebook page, www.facebook.com/bullsrunarboretum.

<http://www.greenumbrella.org> The Green Umbrella is a non-profit organization working to improve the economic vitality and quality of life in the region around Cincinnati by maximizing the collective impact of individuals and organizations dedicated to environmental sustainability.

[DragonflyTV . Home Page | PBS KIDS GO!](#)

DragonflyTV showcases eager young scientists in a way that encourages all kids to discover the wonders of science. It's a new approach in science television for kids, because it features ordinary children and their own science investigations. Whether shooting over moguls on freeride skis, getting up close and personal with alligators, or cooking up experiments in their own kitchens, the DragonflyTV kids empower viewers to explore, question, and learn. In each episode, children tell how they pursued their own investigations, communicating the infectious excitement that comes with making their own discoveries. DragonflyTV was created in collaboration with Project Dragonfly at Miami University, which founded Dragonfly magazine, the 1st national magazine to feature children's investigations and discoveries. Major funding for DragonflyTV is provided by the National Science Foundation.

Sixth Annual Prairie Plant Seminar and Tour

HOT! HOT! HOT! Don't miss this year's "Bulls Run Tall Grass Prairie" tour. See, smell and touch our prairie grasses and wildflowers. Local volunteer and "backyard naturalist", John Whittington will again lead our sixth annual prairie tour on Sunday, August 17, beginning at 2 PM. (John most

recently co-presented our third Winter Tree Identification Class.) Meet in the shelter for an entertaining Prairie Seminar, to be followed by a tour of the Bull's Run Prairie. John has visited many SW Ohio prairie sites and will share his observations. Bull's Run has an impressive collection of prairie plant species...right here...that you might otherwise have to travel to in order to see. Learn a little, see a lot and have a fun afternoon at the prairie. Dress for the weather. In August, prairie weather is supposed to be HOT! A hat, sunglasses, insect repellent and a water bottle are good ideas. Cameras are welcome! Rain or shine, the tour goes on, but not in a storm. Join

our "backyard naturalists" and learn a little nature at Bulls Run. Questions: call John at 513-423-2081.

John Whittington

Contributions for 2014 received since the March Newsletter

Thank you to everyone who has supported Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum in 2014. As of June 11, 2014

Memberships

Loren E. Ackerman
Bruce and Neila Barnes
Jerry and Kitty Blattner
Raymonda Brandon
Tom and Sally Brickey
Tom and Chris Buchert
Robert and Ruth Charles
George Christy
Wilbur Cohen
Elizabeth Cole
Jane Denlinger
Paula Dickerson
Pete and Peggy Dobrozsi
Mary Enochs
Gene Fisher
Sheila Fletcher
Patricia Gage
Nannette Hess
Ray and Jean Kiehaber
Don and Mary McCormick
Patricia Myers
George Nenni
Larry and Marsha Orcutt
Imogene Orts
Elizabeth Patterson
Bruce and Glenda Peters
Tom and Angela Retzios
Mark and Coleen Richards
Betty Risner
Elizabeth Rogers
Judge Kathleen Dobrozsi Romans
Susan Gertz and Tom Runyan
Frances Sedge
Judy Shillinglaw
Glen and Joan Shivers
Nicki Slivinski
Lance Thomas
Carrie Upchurch
Lynne Waxweiler
Mary Lou Williams
Ron and Joyce Williams

Bridge Support

Loren E. Ackerman
Ray and Jean Kiehaber
George Nenni
Mary Lou Williams
Ron and Joyce Williams

Memorials

In loving memory of Patricia Inwood
Casper and Casper, LLC

In loving memory of Robert A. Driscoll
Nita Driscoll

In loving memory of Joseph Thomas
Lynne Waxweiler

Honorariums

Barb Reuss-with thanks for your years of selfless dedication-you'll be missed
Kitty and Jerry Blattner

Additional Contributions

Tom and Chris Buchert
George Christy
Elizabeth Cole
Patricia Myers
Larry and Marsha Orcutt
Bruce and Glenda Peters
Glen and Joan Shivers
Miranda Wilson

Education

Imogene Orts
Susan Gertz and Tom Runyan

Land Stewardship

Jane Denlinger

In Kind Donations and Services

Ed and Rose Grau

We rely on your generosity to keep this unique natural area a valuable resource to the community.

Thank you!

Consider a Donation to the BRNSA General or Endowment Funds

With each generous gift we are inspired, energized, and committed to continue to teach children and the community at large, protect and enhance wildlife habitat through land stewardship, and make the public aware of the importance of the work at hand. Many have made memorial contributions that have benefited Bull's Run, either as plantings, memorial benches or toward the bridge rebuilding project. In 2010, Bull's Run Endowment Fund established was, managed by the Middletown Community Foundation. Since then, several contributions, either as donations or decisions to include Bull's Run in their will, have added to the fund. Please consider Bull's Run in your future plans. Thank you!



Nature Tots

Spring Nature Tots explored the arboretum as it woke up from a long winter nap. Preschool-aged children, along with their caregivers, joined Barb as they had fun getting closer to nature. For those families that have participated in Nature Tots throughout the past years, please join me for a reunion once a month during the summer to see the changes the season brings. Bug repellent and water bottles are strongly recommended.

Nancy Clark

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

- John Ridge for the bobcat arrangements to make trail mulching easier.
- FastTrax team members for participating in a major Work Day on May 17.
- Meg Melampy, the Organic Gardener, for the butterfly garden.
- The 23 Kohl's workers who added their time and strength on Work Days.
- Dr. Carolyn Kieffer for donating the blue tree tubes and aqua gel for planting the seedlings.
- Nayeem Choudry and Josh Lyles for ideas on refurbishing the small bridges.
- Jeff Michel for his support of Bull's Run as a work sight for Keep Middletown Beautiful's Earth Day Project.
- Boonshoft Museum of Discovery's Collections Department for the loan of bird artifacts for the presentation made by BRNSA at the Earth Day Project lectures at Cincinnati State.
- Rose and Ed Grau for hosting the garage sale, our biggest fundraiser event, receiving garage sale items and phone calls at all hours as well as cleaning up donations. Displaying everything as you would find it in a store. Writing and delivering the newspaper ad and putting up and taking down all the signs. Pleasantly greeting everyone both days of the sale, while having their yard looking immaculate!
- Everyone who donated items for the Garage Sale!
- All of the Garage Sale workers who helped to make the garage sale a huge success!
- Bob and Gibbie Wise, Marge Kochunas, Nancy Clark, Barb Reuss and Ann Stoutenborough for plants for our garage sale.
- Nature TOTS and land stewardship volunteers for time, effort and cheerfulness.
- The Middletown Garden Club for caring for the entrance planter.
- Board members, neighbors and visitors who report damage to the natural and man-made resources at the arboretum.
- Everyone who has contributed to Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum with their time, resources, and monetary donations. We truly appreciate your support!

Together we are making a difference!

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming Events at Bull's Run

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

July 21 Monday 10:30 am. Nature TOTS Reunion.

August 5 Tuesday 5-9 pm. Join us for National Night Out at Sunset Park

Visit our booth for a close-up look at nature

August 17 Sunday 2:00 – 3:00 pm Sixth Annual Prairie Seminar & Tour

August 18 Monday 1:30 pm. Nature TOTS Reunion.

September 14 Saturday 9:30 am – 1pm Work Day

September 28 Saturday 9:30 am – 1pm Work Day

October 2 Wednesday, 10-11 am or 12:30-1:30 pm Nature TOTS! – Fall session begins

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

Contact her at naturalist@bullsrun.org. Visit our website, www.bullsrun.org

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum is one of Middletown's green jewels. The organization responsible for maintaining the 11-acre natural area is led by a volunteer **Board of Directors**. If you are interested in joining us in keeping Bull's Run a jewel, **please** fill out the enclosed form and let us know of your interest. THANK YOU!

Bull's Run Photo Gallery



← Work Day Volunteers -
FastTrax



Butterfly Garden→

Volunteers having fun while clearing
garlic mustard at a Work Day →→

Spring Nature TOTS ↓



Invasive non-native euonymus
crowding a shelf fungus →

