



## **Bull's Run Newsletter**

### **Fall 2016**

#### **Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum**

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.



### **Bye Bye Summer, Hello Autumn!**

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum had a fun and educational summer with our members and the Middletown community! Bull's Run hosted a variety of educational opportunities including Summer Nature TOTS, our first annual Summer Tree Walk, and our always-popular Summer Wildflower Walk. Community events BRNSA participated in ranged from walking in the Fourth of July Parade, to promoting outdoor education at the Butler County Fair and National Night Out. All of this was accomplished with BRNSA naturalist Erin, a volunteer Board of Directors and an amazing crew of dedicated volunteers!

Land stewardship projects for the 11-acre park were made throughout the summer. Numerous volunteers donated their time and expertise to improving the diversity of the landscape, and maintaining trails to allow for enjoyment of the beautiful woods! Removal of invasive species like honeysuckle and euonymus continue to be an ongoing task to keep the native integrity of the ecosystem intact.

As we head into fall, Bull's Run is excited about upcoming activities as the landscape starts to change and leaves reveal their vibrant colors! There will be many opportunities to come support and learn with us, including the annual Fall Family Festival on the first Sunday in autumn, September, 25, 2016. Make sure to stay up to date with all of the exciting, upcoming programs and events by visiting our calendar of events on our website [www.bullsrn.org](http://www.bullsrn.org) and following us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/bullsrnarboretum/>

## Naturalist's Corner

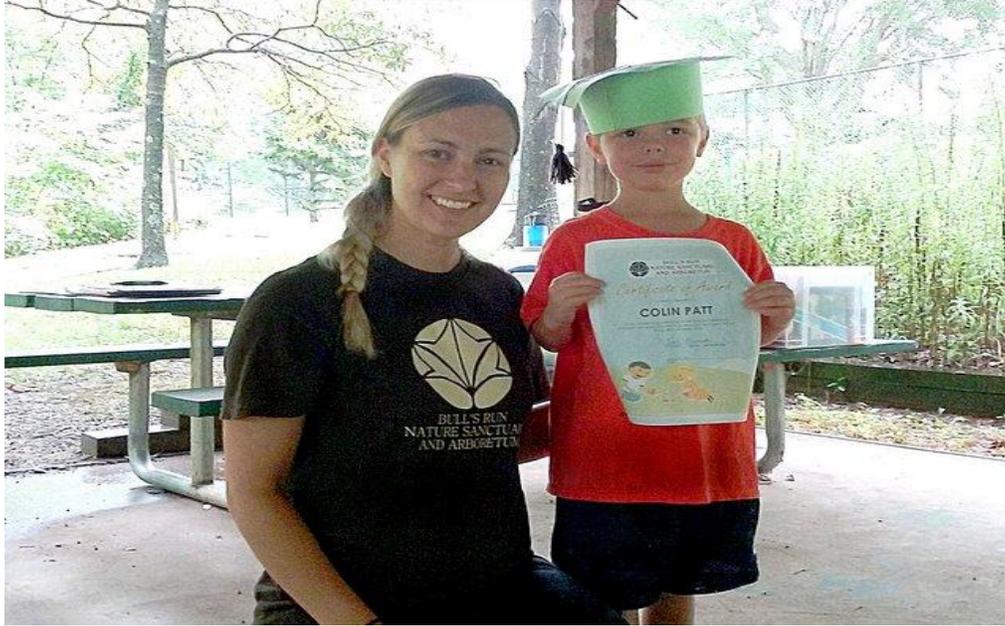


Photo Credit: Melissa Proffitt

Summer Nature TOTS had fun this year exploring all the wonders outside during summer at the Arboretum. We also had a Bull's Run Nature TOTS graduate! Colin Patt started the TOTS program when he was just one and a half years old during the winter session of 2013. Congratulations Colin and keep playing and exploring in the woods!!

## Fall Nature TOTS Starts in October!

With Summer Nature TOTS successfully concluded, Bull's Run looks ahead to Fall Nature TOTS! Nature TOTS is a child centered, hands on exploration of nature for children 6 months to 6 years old. Fall session runs five weeks, on Mondays October 3<sup>rd</sup> through 31<sup>st</sup> from 10:00am to 11:30am.



The program is free with your 2016 family membership of \$25. An annual membership entitles you to all Nature TOTS sessions within that calendar year! For more information and to reserve your spot, contact Erin at [naturalist@bullsrn.org](mailto:naturalist@bullsrn.org) or call 513-515-3746. **SPACE IS LIMITED! Register today!**

## Cold Stratifying Milkweed Seeds



Photo Credit: Debbie Grant



This time of year monarch butterflies are passing through our area on their way back to their wintering ground in Mexico. One way to help these beautiful creatures complete their migration is to plant milkweed. monarch butterflies feed on the milkweed's nectar, lay their eggs on the underside of the leaves, and in the larval stage feed on the leaves.

In nature, milkweed seeds are released by pods in late summer/autumn then remain dormant during the winter and germinate in the spring. For this reason, autumn is a great time to sow milkweed seeds outdoors, but fall planting isn't the only option. If the window of opportunity for fall planting has passed, there is still a way for milkweed to be planted later or indoors with the proper equipment. This process is called, "cold stratification". The purpose is to "trick" the seeds into believing they've been dormant all winter and it is time to wake up! For one method of cold stratification, all one needs are seeds with the silk removed, plastic zipped sandwich bags, and either moist paper towels or coffee filters. Simply wrap the seeds in the moistened towels, put them into bags and place in the refrigerator. After 30 days you can plant your seeds indoors or outside when the weather warms.

By cultivating milkweed plants you are helping the monarch butterflies to complete their yearly migration. For more information on monarchs and milkweed visit [www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org).

*By Sara Neu*

## The Threat to and from our Ash Trees



Photo Credit: Debbie Grant

If you look up to the treetops, even in late September, you can easily identify Ash trees. They are the tall trees, with stocky, opposite twigs and entirely leafless. Those trees are dead, killed by Emerald Ash Borers, and still standing. Emerald Ash Borers are originally from Asia and were stowaways on shipping pallets.

Our Ash don't have any resistance to these invasive insects, which burrow under the bark to lay their eggs. The larvae then feast on the phloem, or inner bark, of the tree, before emerging as adults and moving on to surrounding Ash trees. Without a functional phloem to move water and nutrients from the roots up through the tree, it slowly starves to death over 3-5 years. Once dead, the Ash become very brittle and a danger to nearby structures and people, so they should be removed as quickly as possible.

The plan was to contain the spread of Emerald Ash Borer by isolating infected trees by surrounding them with pesticide-treated trees. When Ohio had its first reported case, it deployed workers to monitor campsites and companies to deter moving infested wood across county lines, but the insects spread too quickly to contain. Finding resistant trees, like those resistant to Dutch Elm Disease and Chestnut Blight, or developing resistant hybrids, has been elusive. Then the hope became that after exhausting the Ash population, the Borers would die out and the young trees and saved seeds could rebound the population; but a Wright State professor confirmed last year that Borers have moved onto decorative Ohio native White Fringes (*Chionanthus virginicus*) and southern Devilwood trees (*Osmanthus americanus*), and will likely target additional species as Ash numbers dwindle.

Bull's Run had about 300 Ash when the Borer arrived in Butler County. We have been transplanting native seedlings to help fill in the holes in our canopy left by the dead Ash and ensuring diversity in the woods. The City of Middletown has graciously removed some of the larger Ash trees for us, though there are more for us to deal with. We are also working with the regional forester through the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources on all our options to remove the remaining standing Ash and revising our forestry plan.

We continue to battle a variety of invasive pests and plants, working to increase the health and habitat of Bull's Run. We appreciate all the community support and volunteer hours that keep us moving toward that goal.

For more information on Emerald Ash Borer, go to <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>

By Randy Wilson

## **BRNSA Seeks New Treasurer for Volunteer Board of Directors**

After nearly 6 years in the role of Treasurer, current treasurer, Jerry Schunk, is stepping down from the position. While Jerry will continue to be an active volunteer with Bull's Run, his time will also be spent contributing to other community service pursuits he is involved with like the Master Gardener's Organization. Bull's Run is extremely grateful for all of the hard work and dedication that Jerry has offered to BRNSA and its mission over the years! His support and belief in the importance of environmental education and stewardship is inspiring. And now it is time to find another individual who has the skill set and passion to serve Bull's Run in the role of treasurer.

Being treasurer of a community organization is a great honor, and a great responsibility! Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum is seeking a treasurer to join our Board of Directors to help ensure our Middletown community group is able to maintain and extend its activities and mission, resulting in greater benefits to the wider community. BRNSA employs one part-time employee and operates with an annual budget < \$50,000.

### **Main duties:**

-Oversee the financial administration of the organization, review procedures and financial reporting, advise the board on financial strategy, and advise on fund raising and annual budget. Keep the accounts of the organization, submit a written report to the board each month of all sums received and expected, and assets and obligations, keep employee records for one employee Naturalist.

### **Financial administration:**

-Keep up-to-date records as well as an audit trail for all transactions. Knowledgeable in QuickBooks  
-Make sure the organization complies with tax regulations, payroll tax and fringe benefits tax, 501(c)3 filings.  
- Complete banking tasks such as depositing cash and checks, paying the bills, issuing paychecks to staff and W-2s, and tracking income and expenditure throughout the year.

### **Maintain and develop policies and procedures to protect the organization:**

-Controls on expenditure, such as requiring authorized spending, signing checks, and tracking petty cash.  
-Systems for ensuring cash and checkbooks are kept securely.

\*If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact the BRNSA board of directors at [brnsaa@gmail.com](mailto:brnsaa@gmail.com)

## **Bull's Run Contributions since Spring Newsletter**

### **Memberships**

Loren E. Ackerman  
David and Janice Adams  
Baker-Stevens-Parrimore Funeral Home  
Dave and Barb Balsmeyer  
Chuck and Betty Bost  
Alice Bradshaw  
Tom and Sally Brickey  
Tom and Chris Buchert  
Shirley Butts  
Wilbur Cohen  
Richard Davies  
Pete and Peggy Dobrozsi  
Mary Donisi  
John Dupps, Jr.  
Jane Denlinger  
Don and Betty Elworth

Mary Enochs  
Margaret Fiora  
Frank Gene Fisher  
Elaine Garver  
Greg and Diane Gerber  
Lynn Getter  
Ed and Rose Grau  
Scott and Cindy Grau  
Nancy Haney  
Steve and Nan Hess  
Jane Hobbs  
LaVerne Hopper  
Ray and Jean Anne Kiefhaber  
Lois LaFayette  
Steve and Rosemary Longworth  
Heinz and Gisele Matthiesen  
Mary Lou McCormick

Bernie and Debbie McGuire  
Katie McNeil  
Ted and Marsh Miller  
Jana Morse  
Pete and JoAnn Moroz, Jr.  
The Mulhall Family  
Sara Neu  
Martha Oches  
Larry and Marsha Orcutt  
Imogene Orts  
Richard and Virginia Palmer  
Elizabeth Patterson  
Pamela Pearson  
Greg and Patty Pratt  
Barney and Bonnie Riesbeck  
Tom Ritter  
Elizabeth Rogers  
Ruth Sauer  
Jim and Lynnette Schluter  
Jerry and Barbara Schunk  
Ed and Ginger Seamon  
Judy Shillinglaw  
Glen and Joan Shivers  
Suellyn Shupe  
Ann Stoutenborough  
Nancy Strait  
Ernie Sturgill  
Julie Thomas  
Robert Thomas  
Katharine Titus  
Dennis and Suzi Vitori  
Erin Wallace  
Victoria Wannemacher  
John Whittington and Beth Everage  
Mary Lou Williams  
Steve and Lisa Wilson  
Wilson-Schramm-Spaulling Funeral Home

### **Education**

Loren E. Ackerman  
Imogene Orts  
Jim and Lynnette Schluter  
Glen and Joan Shivers  
Dennis and Suzi Vitori

### **Land Stewardship**

*These memberships were received between 3/7/2016 and 8/26/2016. 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!*

Victoria Wannemacher  
Wilson-Schramm-Spaulling Funeral Home

### **Facilities and Bridge Support**

Ray and Jean Anne Kiefhaber  
Jim and Lynette Schluter

### **Memorials**

Nita Driscoll  
*In loving memory of Robert Driscoll*  
Don and Betty Elworth  
*In loving memory of Scotty, beloved friend of LaVerne Hopper*  
Mary Lou McCormick  
*In loving memory of Donald McCormick*  
Julie Thomas  
*In loving memory of Joseph Thomas*  
Mary Lou Williams  
*In loving memory of Joe, Jeanne and Shirley*

### **Honorariums**

Scott and Cindy Grau  
*In honor of Debbie Grant*  
The Mulhall Family  
*In honor of Chris Parker*

### **Additional Contributions**

Alice Bradshaw  
Mary Donisi  
John Dupps, Jr.  
Jane Denlinger  
Nancy Haney  
Steve and Rosemary Longworth  
Heinz and Gisele Matthiesen  
Bernie and Debbie McGuire  
Larry and Marsha Orcutt  
Barney and Bonnie Riesbeck  
Jerry and Barbara Schunk

### **Middletown Community Endowment Fund**

Ed and Rose Grau

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

- ❖ Thanks to all of the Master Gardeners who volunteered at Bull's Run this year to eradicate honeysuckle, work on the Native Plant Garden and help on workdays.
- ❖ Thanks to Randy Wilson for organizing work day projects and all the dedicated volunteers!
- ❖ Thanks to Mike Wertz for mowing the prairie and helping maintain the ecological integrity of the preserve.
- ❖ Thanks to Chris Hymer for the wonderful new BRNSA t-shirt designs!
- ❖ Thanks to John Whittington for leading the Summer Wildflower Walk.
- ❖ Thanks to all those involved with Nature TOTS helping to build a bridge to the future where each child learns to love and understand the outside world.
- ❖ Thanks to the City of Middletown for mowing, supplying mulch for the trails and hauling off honeysuckle branches after work days.
- ❖ Thanks to Debbie Grant and Marge Kochunas for creating the bulletin board displays monthly.
- ❖ Thanks to Nancy Clark and Debbie Grant for the wonderful Butler County Fair and National Night Out displays.
- ❖ Thanks to those who shop at Kroger and have enrolled in their community rewards program, listing Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum – agency # 83005.
- ❖ Thanks to those who shop at Staples and say to put the Rewards toward Bull's Run 3752755599.
- ❖ Thanks to everyone who “likes” us on Facebook.
- ❖ Thanks to the Episcopal Church of Ascension for their all-around support.
- ❖ Thanks to Aaron Grant for maintaining our website.
- ❖ Thanks to all Board members for their enduring support!
- ❖ Thanks to all of our 2016 members and donors, we truly appreciate your support!

**2016 Membership Form is included in this mailing and is also available on the website.**

**Together we are making a difference!**

## **Resourceful Links**

[www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org)- Pollinator partnerships and eco-regional planting guides

[www.sierraclub.org/ohio](http://www.sierraclub.org/ohio)- The Sierra Club works to protect communities, wild places, and the planet itself. It is the oldest, largest, and most influential grassroots environmental organization in the United States

“The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn”- Ralph Waldo Emerson

## **Mark your Calendars for Upcoming Events**

Fall Nature TOTS- Mondays October 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31

Fall Work Days – Saturdays 9:30-1pm, Sept. 10th & 24th, Oct. 8th & 22nd, Nov. 5th

Fall Family Festival- Sunday September 25, 2016, 2:00p-4:00p

Bull's Run Annual Meeting- Monday October 10, 2016, 7:00p-9:00p at Verity Lodge on  
Miami Middletown campus

Light Up Middletown (*volunteers needed!!*)- **dates in December TBD.**

**\*\*Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website Calendar of Events for ongoing activities at BRNSA!**

**Please keep BRNSA in mind for speaker or service opportunities for your civic or scout group. Contact Erin at [naturalist@bullsrn.org](mailto:naturalist@bullsrn.org) to schedule an educational program at your meeting or, better yet, come visit Bull's Run for a guided tour. Volunteers are always welcome!**

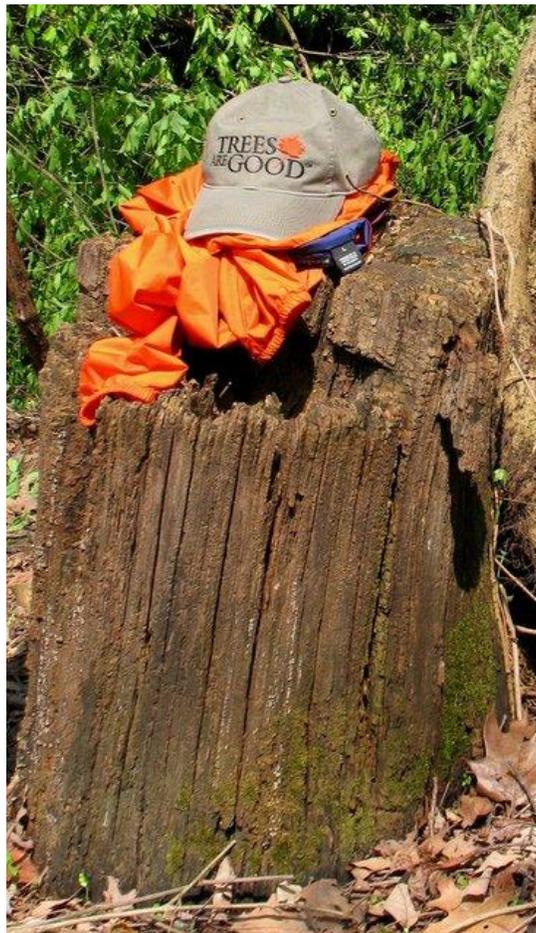


Photo credit: Debbie Grant