



Bull's Run Newsletter Spring 2024

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.



Harbinger-of-spring

Sights of Spring



Bloodroot

While winter in Ohio lingers, the early signs of spring are beginning to appear! Spring wildflowers will soon slowly display their colors as the early spring sunshine rivals the low temperatures and sporadic snow flurries. These early emergent flowers are referred to as ephemeral wildflowers as their beauty is fleeting, only lasting sometimes a couple days. These often-hardy species include the well named harbinger-of-spring, hepatica, and snow trillium. It is not uncommon for these early species to be blanketed by late snowfalls. They start the colorful scene of wildflowers of spring.

When out in nature keep your eyes on the forest floor for showing spots of early spring bloodroot and spring beauty bloom. Leaf clusters of shooting star and trout lily may be seen poking up through the snow. A closer look may reveal purple violets and grape hyacinth. The pink buds and blue flowers of Virginia bluebells will be easy to spot among the backdrop of a still muted winter landscape. Besides beauty, these ephemeral wildflowers are also essential resources to early emerging insects and returning migrants. Some of our pollinating insects have evolved relationships with specific ephemeral wildflowers. Some bee species feed exclusively from either the trout lily or Virginia spring beauty, while queen bumblebees in need of nourishment to establish new colonies depend on Dutchman's breeches. The deep blossoms pair with the insect's especially elongated proboscis in a natural fit. Other insects use ephemeral wildflowers as nurseries for the next generation. For instance, Lyre-leaved rock-cress and smooth rock-cress (*Arabis*), two members of the mustard family of plants, host the eggs of the Falcate Orangetip butterfly. These special relationships are vital to these species' survival. So as the weather slowly warms and we head outside, keep your eyes open for the early beauty of spring ephemerals. And join us on our spring wildflower walks! (*More details on page 3!*)

New Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum Contributions **Received since the Winter 2023 Newsletter**

Memberships

Loren E. Ackerman
Barbara Balsmeyer
Peg Bosch
Shirley Butts
Daryl and Nancy Clark
Chris and Danielle Cottle
Katherine Dykes
Ciara Elam
Lacey Foskey
Bob & Mary Alice Gast
Ann Geddes
Cissi Glickfield
Debbie Grant
LaVerne Hopper
Brad & Marge Kochunas
Heinz Matthiesen
Jeff McMullen and
 Barbara Ballard
Marcia Miller
Imogene Orts
Nicole Owens
Kenton Pate
Aaron & Melissa Quick
Teresa Reeves
Tom Ritter
Kathleen Dobrozsi
 Romans
Jack Schaefer
Glen & Joan Shivers
Greg & Jeanne Siewny
John Whittington and
 Beth Everage
Miranda Wilson
Bob & Gibbie Wise

Additional Contributions

Loren E. Ackerman
Barbara Balsmeyer
Kate Morrow Dykes
Bob and Mary Alice Gast

Cissi Glickfield
Light Up Middletown
Jeff McMullen and Barbara Ballard
Imogene Orts
Kenton Pate
Kathleen Dobrozsi Romans
Glen and Joan Shivers

Middletown Community Endowment

Glen and Joan Shivers

Memorials

In loving memory of Chris Parker
Ann Geddes

In loving memory of Forest Grant
Debbie Grant

In loving memory of Dick Hopper
LaVerne Hopper

In loving memory of Gisela Matthiesen
Heinz Matthiesen

In loving memory of David Kramer
Middletown Garden Club

In loving memory of Robert Sorrell
Middletown Garden Club

In loving memory of Lois LaFayette
Marcia Miller

In loving memory of Forest Grant
Bob and Gibbie Wise

Honorariums

The Middletown Garden Club honors
 Patti Gage
 Debbie Hazelbaker
 Lynn Zollett

These memberships were received between 1/1/24 and 3/1/24. 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.

Spring Wildflower Walks

Come join us on our wildflower walks to look for ephemeral spring wildflowers! Certain wildflowers only bloom in early spring before they get shaded out by the leaves on the trees. Come for one or more guided walks and see what's in bloom as it changes through the season! Sundays, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

March 24

April 7

April 14

April 21 (*Additional Walk at Armbruster Nature Preserve at 4p!*)

April 28

May 5



Park Work Days

Park work days are back! Volunteers are once again needed to join us on select Saturdays from 9:30a to 1:00p this spring to help keep Bull's Run Arboretum in tip top shape. Come for an hour or stay all morning; we appreciate any time you can offer. Assistance is needed in various areas, including mulching trails, planting native tree seedlings, removing invasive species, bridge and sign repair work, and weeding out the rain garden, to name a few. There is always something to do! Bring a water bottle and work gloves and we supply the tools!

Upcoming spring park work days:

March 23

April 6

April 20

April 27 *Earth Day Work Day!*

May 4

May 18



Spotlight on Nature TOTS

Here at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum, forging connections with the natural world is a long-standing tradition. And one of our most popular and valuable programs towards that end is our Nature TOTS program. Numerous families have participated in this program over the years in order to introduce our youngest nature lovers to the great outdoors. Many of these Nature TOT alums return to the Arboretum as adults and bring their own children and grandchildren to experience the fun and discovery in the woods! But Nature TOTS is more than just an early childhood nature program. It is a way to build community and meet other families with a shared love and wonder of nature. Parents learn how to best inspire confidence in themselves and their children to explore the natural environment in a safe way, while also connecting with other parents doing the same. The kids form new friendships and have a chance to play in nature with likeminded TOTS who want to flip rocks, climb mulch hills, and search for crawling critters. Nature TOTS meets in each season of the year to witness the changes in the woods and learn from what nature shares with us. Our next session will be Spring Nature TOTS which will meet Sundays in May. This program is available to all of our Family Membership holders. If you have questions or are interested in signing up, please email Naturalist Melissa at brnsaa@gmail.com.



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

- ❖ Thanks to all of our bird feeder volunteers for filling feeders this winter
- ❖ Thanks to Josh Proffitt for removing downed trees/obstructions on the trails
- ❖ Thanks to the Children and Youth Ministry at MUMC for your volunteer projects
- ❖ Thanks to those who shop at Kroger and have enrolled in their community rewards program, listing **Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum –organization # MX093.**
- ❖ Thanks to everyone who “likes” us on Facebook and shares events
- ❖ 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 wonderful membership holders, we truly appreciate your support!!

Become a Bull's Run Member Today!
2024 Membership Form can be found on
the website www.bullsrn.org or on pg 6

More Ways To Get Involved with Bull's Run

Become a Board Member! Our volunteer board members are vital to continuing the work of Bull's Run. If you care about our mission, please consider joining us! Interested parties can email brnsaa@gmail.com

Current board openings include:

Treasurer Create Treasurer reports on BRNSA financials to share with other board members.

Member at Large Serve as general board member, offering suggestions for programming and helping to execute the various events held throughout the year.

Contribute time, talent or materials:

Volunteer on a Workday with your own yard tools, or using some of ours, to help prepare the trails for tours, control invasive species or add to the diversity of plants. Individuals and groups welcomed.

Take pictures of your visit to Bull's Run and post them on our Facebook page or your own Instagram account. Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum is still one of Middletown's little-known gems of nature. Help us spread the word!

Kroger Community Rewards Program:

Kroger Community Rewards makes fund-raising easy...all you must do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card! When you enroll, please choose Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum under Community Rewards. This will not affect your fuel rewards in any way. Our new organization number is **MX093**. If you have enrolled in the past, your account has already automatically changed the number for you.



Membership Form 2024

Tax deductible

Our Mission Statement

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.

____ \$40 Family (printed newsletter)

____ \$30 Family (e-newsletter)

____ \$30 Individual (printed newsletter)

____ \$20 Individual (e-newsletter)

\$ _____ Additional Fundraising contribution

\$ _____ Contribution to the Endowment Fund with Middletown Community

\$ _____ Contribution in Honor/Memory of: _____

Please send an acknowledgement of memorial donation to: Name _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____ Check # _____ Address _____

(Membership also payable on website)

Name _____

Phone#() _____

Address _____ Email _____

To volunteer, schedule a program, tour, or speaker for your group, Contact Naturalist, Melissa Proffitt at 513-279-8958 or email brnsaa@gmail.com. For event information visit www.bullsrn.org or our Facebook page.

Mail to Bull's Run Arboretum, P.O. Box 425, Middletown, OH 45042-0425



Show Your Support of Bull's Run!

Want to show off your love for Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum? And support Bull's Run at the same time? Then make sure you get one of our t-shirts or ball caps! We have a variety of select sizes in short sleeve (brown or green color) and long sleeve (green color only) tees. These can make great gift ideas for the nature lover in your household as funds raised through sales go directly to supporting the care and maintenance of the arboretum! T-shirts are \$25 each and hats are \$20 each. Please email brnsaa@gmail.com to place your order today!



Reserve Your Bull's Run Environmental Education Kit

This year Bull's Run was generously awarded an Education Grant from the Middletown Community Foundation (MCF) to create environmental education program loan kits to be available to Middletown students and teachers at no cost! Due to limited scheduling availability for in-classroom programs, educators are welcome to request a loan kit. These kits are great for classroom use, use on field trips to Bull's Run Arboretum, homeschool groups, scout troops, and more! Education loan kits include suggested activities and lessons that support [Ohio Science Learning Standards](#) and incorporate [Ohio's Nature of Science](#). Environmental education kits available:

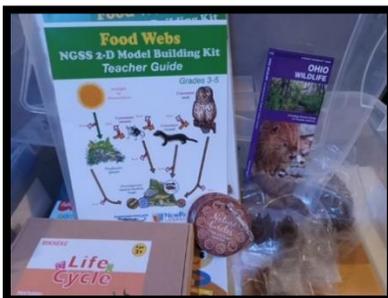


– Outdoor Education Field Backpack

- 3 wildlife and tree field guides
- 18 magnify glasses
- 10 binoculars
- 6 dip nets
- 18 tree rounds
- 1 leaf press
- 10 petri dishes
- 2 circle activity books with outdoor class games and suggested activities

– Life Cycles, Tracks, and Scat Kit

- Replica life cycle model of green bean plant, monarch butterfly, frog, ladybug, & snail
- Patty Pillar Game
- Wildlife Field Guide
- Molds of various wildlife tracks and scat
- Wildlife tracks guide copy page
- Nature Circles Track and Scat Cards
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– Food Webs Kit

- 2-D Model Building kit
- Copy pages for food web matching games and quizzes
- Desert, Forest, and Wetland food web models and activities

– Tree Ring Discovery Kit

- 5 tree rounds each from 6 species of trees
- 15 dual power (3x, 6x) magnifiers
- Regional field guide to North American trees
- Teacher's manual with background information, diagrams, student worksheet copy pages, and additional activities



-Wildlife Discovery Kits – each kit contains an activity guide, puppet, book, animal track replica, model, blackline master copy pages from activity guide. Species include:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Monarch butterfly | Owl (also includes other bird feather information and model) |
| Bat | Black Bear |
| Coyote | Raccoon |
| Squirrel | Bobcat |
| Beaver | |

Kits can be requested for loan for up to a 2-week period. Please contact our naturalist Melissa at brnsaa@gmail.com to schedule a pickup. Help spread the word to teachers, scout leaders, and other educators in our community!



Mark Your Calendars For Upcoming Events

March

Saturday, March 23, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Sunday, March 24, **Wildflower Walk**, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

April

Saturday, April 6, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Sunday, April 7, **Wildflower Walk**, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Sunday, April 14, **Wildflower Walk**, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Saturday, April 20, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Saturday, April 27, **Park Work Day – Earth Day!**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Sunday, April 21, **Wildflower Walk**, 2:00 – 3:00 pm *Additional Walk at Armbruster Preserve, 4:00 – 5:00 pm*

Sunday, April 28, **Wildflower Walk**, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

May

Saturday, May 4, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Sunday, May 5, **Wildflower Walk**, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Saturday, May 18, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Sundays in May, **Spring Nature TOTS**, 2:00 – 3:30 pm *5/5, 5/19, 5/26, 6/2*

For more information, please visit our website www.bullsrn.org or Facebook page.

Contact Bull's Run at brnsaa@gmail.com, to schedule a tour or service project, or speak to your organization or for a program at Bull's Run