



## Bull's Run Newsletter Winter 2021/2022

**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.



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

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum has seen an increase in visitors since COVID restrictions imposed limited gathering indoors. People moved outdoors and discovered Bull's Run's trails.

With the resignation of Stephanie McCabe as naturalist at the beginning of the year, board members and volunteers worked hard to keep things moving. The Winter Tree Identification Class did happen in January, thanks to a lecture via Zoom with Dave Apsley, the Natural Resources Specialist with the College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Ohio State University Extension, followed by a hike at Bull's Run led by Nancy Clark and Sarah Meadows. Sarah also coordinated a well-attended Maple Sugaring Walk and Tasting in February.

Wildflower enthusiasts could choose from 5 different guided walks throughout the Spring Season, led by Nancy or Sarah, or a prairie walk in August, led by Sarah Meadows and Tom Borgman. The rain garden thrived in its second growth season.

Spring Nature Tots met on Mondays with Nancy to explore the wonders of the forest awakening to the new season. A special program on the 17-year cicadas brought renewed meaning to this unusual occasion.

And for those who just love Bull's Run (or needed extra credit or in-service hours) there were the work days in spring and fall – either clearing invasive plants, spreading mulch on the trails, picking up trash, planting trees or collecting seeds – all the over 200 man-hours were/are greatly appreciated! Many of our volunteers come from the Ohio Extension's Master Gardener program, and we cannot thank them enough for their contribution of time and effort.



Summer Nature Tots did not materialize without a naturalist to lead it. But now we have Caedyn Skiff, who joined us on October 1, and she led Fall Nature Tots on Thursdays.

In June, we lost Forest Grant, our treasurer of less than a year and longtime volunteer, to cancer. Thank you for the numerous donations that have been made in his memory, Plans are in the works to plant a tree next spring in his memory.

We were fortunate to have Greg Torres, co-host of Nature Guys Podcast, give an informative and educational talk on "Planting for Pollinators" via Zoom for our Annual Meeting in October. Greg gave us a link to his presentation and permission to share it on our website.

The big plans we had for Fall Family Fest in September and a Pumpkin Hike in October were again cancelled, but will hopefully be back in 2022. The Annual Winter Bird Count was held on December 18, despite the fog. For a full report of the bird tally, please see report on page 5 of this newsletter.

## New Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum Contributions Received since the Fall Newsletter

### New Memberships

Loren Ackerman  
David and Janice Adams  
Donna Beauregard  
Wilson Breiel  
Ron and Barbara Conley  
Richard Davies  
Pete and Peggy Dobrozsi  
Bob and Mary Alice Gast  
Steve and Nanette Hess  
Brian and Margie Homan  
Ray and Jean Anne Kiefhaber  
The Middletown Garden Club  
Jeff McMullen and Barbara Ballard  
Tom Ritter  
Jack and Linda Schaefer  
Jim and Lynette Schluter  
Glen and Joan Shivers  
Steve and Lisa Wilson

### Additional Contributions

Loren Ackerman  
Wilson Breiel  
Ron and Barbara Conley  
Pete and Peggy Dobrozsi  
Ray and Jean Anne Kiefhaber  
Jeff McMullen and Barbara Ballard  
Glen and Joan Shivers  
Joyce Williams

*These contributions were received between 10/6/2021 and 12/27/2021. 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.*

## BULLS RUN NATURE SANCTUARY & ARBORETUM NEEDS YOUR HELP

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary & Arboretum relies heavily on volunteers to continue as a non-profit, in addition to the generous contributions listed above. As we enter a new year, please consider donating your time and talents to help us care for and maintain the Arboretum. Here are ways you can help:

**Become a board member**

**Coordinate Newsletter**

**Water young memorial trees**

**Help place R.R. ties along paths**

**Perform treasurer or secretary duties**

**Replace trail signs**

**Attend 1 work day a season**

**Volunteer Coordinator**

**Set up/remove bird feeders**

**Feed birds**

**Garage sale coordinator**

**Maintain pollinator garden**

**Contact vendors for maintenance bids on bridge repair, invasive plant removal, etc.**

Please contact us by emailing [naturalist@bullsrn.org](mailto:naturalist@bullsrn.org) with your interests.

Thank you for your support,

The BRNSA Board

### Memorials

*In Loving Memory of David Armentrout*

Allan Smillie

The Forty Something Group

*In loving Memory of Forest Grant III*

Gisela Matthiesen

Jim and Lynette Schluter

Debbie Simpkins

Randy Wilson

*In loving memory of Mary Lou Williams*

Cindy Allen

Shirley Butts

Natalie Clark

Wayne and Vicki Hall

Gerald Humphreys

Phyllis Jean Newton

Regina Stugmyer

Charles and Diane Whitehead

Phil and Debbie Zorn

### Honorariums

*Middletown Garden Club honors*

Debbie Hazelbaker

Suzi Vitori

Lynn Zollett

### Middletown Community Foundation

Loren Ackerman

Jim and Lynette Schluter

## Introducing BRNSA's New Naturalist - Caedyn Skiff!



Caedyn Skiff joined Bull's Run officially on October 1, and was introduced to the guests at the Zoom version of our Annual Meeting. Now we would like to formally introduce her to you.

Caedyn studied at Northern Kentucky University and earned a B.S in Environmental Science with a minor in Biology. She has volunteered at the Louisville Zoo, interned at the Broadbent Wildlife Sanctuary and the Second Chances Wildlife Center, and worked at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden as a LCEAF Education AmeriCorps Member and seasonal employee in the Horticulture Department. She continues to hold a part-time job at the Zoo, as well as the part-time job with Bull's Run.

To quote Caedyn: "I am passionate about wildlife conservation and I believe its success depends on educating future generations." She has a personal goal of helping to connect students with the natural world and feels her expertise on conservation has helped her educate the community about the challenges species face today. She is familiar with native ecology and threats to wildlife habitat.

### 2022 Winter Nature TOTS

Child-centered, hands-on exploration of nature for children ages 6 months to 6 years (and their caregivers)!

5-week program, on Thursdays 10:00 - 11:30 am

January 27, February 3, 10, 17, & 24

Come out to explore nature with us this winter! Each week, we will discover the beauty in a seemingly silent, sleeping forest, play games, and create fun crafts! This program is for children ages 6 months to 6 years, along with their caregivers. Reservations and 2022 membership are required, and your membership allows you to come to winter, spring, summer, and fall Nature Tots in 2022. Dress warm, we will be outside the whole class! For information or to register, email [naturalist@bullsrn.org](mailto:naturalist@bullsrn.org) or visit [bullsrn.org/membership/](http://bullsrn.org/membership/) to join!

Call BRNSA naturalist, Caedyn Skiff,

at 513-279-8958 or email [naturalist@bullsrn.org](mailto:naturalist@bullsrn.org) to register!

\*BRNSA 2022 family membership required to participate in this FREE program.

To become a member, visit [www.bullsrn.org](http://www.bullsrn.org) or fill out the form on page 7.

### Bird feeding

Thanks to Nathan Grant for installing the feeders and Brad Kochunas for hauling the seed from Diver's. We have the winter schedule covered with Karen Dillon, Marge and Brad Kochunas, and Debbie Grant. We would love for other people to be trained. If you know of anyone who might like to tag along someday, please contact BRNSA via email to [naturalist@bullsrn.org](mailto:naturalist@bullsrn.org).

## Fall Nature Tots

What a great time we had in Nature Tots this fall! We got to see changes occur before our very eyes each week! We discovered what makes leaves change colors and found out just how many different shapes and colors we can find in our autumn forests. As the weather turned colder, we learned how different animals prepare for the winter, and hiked through the woods to see if we could find any possible winter nests. Using the things we saw, we built our own winter nests to make sure we would be cozy and warm all season.

*Nature Tot “sitting” in her nest*



## Special Report on the Spotted Lanternfly



This December, I had the opportunity to join the Lucas County OSU Extension office to learn about some of the most prevalent invasive species here in Ohio, and a new species that could be heading our way- the spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*). This insect is native to Southeast Asia, and was accidentally brought to the United States in the early 2010s. It was first discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014, and has continued to spread since. It was seen in Northeast Ohio in 2020, and recently has been seen in Jefferson County in Indiana. While the insect is not an outright killer of

trees, it reproduces in great numbers and can become a nuisance, competing with native insects for resources. The tree it has been seen laying eggs on most often is Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), which is another invasive species. The nymphs have been found feeding on grapevines and hops plants as well. Scientists recommend thoroughly washing your car and clothes if you have been visiting or hiking in areas that the spotted lanternfly has been seen. For more information about these species and to learn how to identify them, visit [www.invasive.org](http://www.invasive.org) and use their search function.

*Caedyn Skiff*



## Notes from the Naturalist

When the weather turns cold, our focus turns to indoor activities, experiencing nature through windows. However, there are many ways to enjoy nature over the winter- and there are even some benefits to being outside in the cold! Hiking in cold weather burns more calories as your body works to keep warm, and can even help alleviate seasonal depression. Some tips for winter hiking:

- Wear layers! The more you move, the more your body warms up, and a heavy coat will make you sweat. Wearing several thinner layers will allow you to adjust with your activity level.
- Throw a thermos of hot chocolate or tea in the car for after your hike! There's nothing more rewarding than a hot, sweet treat.
- Bring your camera! Winter lighting makes for some beautiful photos, and you can even turn it into a fun activity. Make a winter scavenger hunt, or see who can get the coolest photos! Tip: don't be afraid to focus on the small things- an ice-covered twig can make for a great picture.

Winter is also a great time for bird watching- and you don't even have to stand outside in the cold! You can set up a bird feeder outside your window and watch the birds that visit your home. Make sure that you're willing to keep it supplied with seed all winter though- it will become an important food source for your neighborhood birds. You can even participate in some community science projects by joining Cornell University's Feeder Watch and identifying the different bird species you see! If you want to find out what birds we have at Bull's Run, join our Great Backyard Bird Count on February 19!

## Upcoming Events with the Naturalist

**Winter Tree Identification Class Returns** with a few changes. We will be offering a class on Zoom (since we can't gather inside) on Saturday, January 22 at 10 a.m. to introduce and review terms used to describe characteristics of woody plants used in identifying them without their leaves. Then at 2 p.m., Caedyn will lead an hour hike at Bull's Run to put your newly learned skills in practice. Join us for one or both of these sessions by contacting Caedyn at [naturalist@bullsrn.org](mailto:naturalist@bullsrn.org) to be sent the Zoom Meeting link. A Winter Tree Guide booklet will be available on the hike for \$5 (member's price) or \$8 (non-member's price).

### **Great Backyard Bird Count Hike**


Saturday, Feb. 19, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum, 3909 Rosedale. We will celebrate the national Great Backyard Bird Count sponsored by **Cornell Lab of Ornithology** and the **National Audubon Society** with a hike at Bull's Run. The 25th annual GBBC will be held Friday, February 18, through Monday, February 21, 2022. You may visit the official website at [birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org) for more information to participate in your own backyard.

### **Maple Sugar Hike**

Saturday, Feb. 28, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum, 3909 Rosedale Road. Join us for a hike and check out the tapped trees in the arboretum! Learn about how maple sugaring began, how it's done today, and see if you can tell the difference when you taste the real thing vs. 'fake syrup'!

### **2022 Winter Nature TOTS**

Thursdays 10:00 - 11:30 am, January 27, February 3, 10, 17 & 24  
 Child-centered, hands-on exploration of nature for children ages 6 months to 6 years (and their caregivers)!  
 5-week program. Pre-registration is required by sending an email to [naturalist@bullsrn.org](mailto:naturalist@bullsrn.org).

<u><b>Bull's Run Arboretum</b></u>	<u><b>Christmas Bird</b></u>	<u><b>Count</b></u>	<u><b>Report</b></u>
Date: 12/18/2021 10:00 a.m.	Weather conditions		# birders = 3
<u>Bird Species - Common Names</u>	Foggy!		
Blue Jay		1	
Brown Creeper		2	
Cardinal		4	
Carolina Wren		5	
Chickadee-Carolina →		13	
Crow		2	
Flicker		1	
Junco		1	
Mourning Dove		1	
Sparrow-House		5	
Tufted Titmouse →		9	
Woodpecker- Downy		2	
Woodpecker- Hairy		2	
Woodpecker-Red Bellied		2	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1	
# of species sighted 15		Total # sighted = 51	

Very foggy morning - stayed to observe @ 3 feeders plus walked up to the prairie.

Used Cornell Lab bird calls app to confirm identification of about 30% of the birds spotted.

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

- ❖ Thanks to the visitors to Bull's Run for picking up any trash they find along the trail or in the parking lot and disposing of it responsibly.
- ❖ Thanks to all the workday volunteers, both individuals and groups!
- ❖ Thanks to the City of Middletown for mowing, felling dead ash trees and hauling off honeysuckle branches and bags of winter creeper after work days.
- ❖ Thanks to Nancy Clark, Debbie Grant and Caedyn Skiff for creating the bulletin board displays monthly.
- ❖ Thanks to the Butler County Master Gardeners for their partnership with Bull's Run to eradicate honeysuckle and help on work days, following COVID-19 protocols. Education and volunteerism is flowing both ways!
- ❖ 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 Instagram and shares events.
- ❖ Thanks to the volunteers who manned the Welcome Booth at Light Up Middletown in December.
- ❖ Thanks to Aaron Grant for maintaining our website.
- ❖ Thanks to the Grant family for reconditioning the bird feeders and setting them in place for the winter feeding season.
- ❖ Brad Kochunas for transporting the bird seed from Diver's to Bull's Run.
- ❖ Thanks to the volunteers filling the feeders with seed to help supplement the diet of the feathered (and furred) winter residents of BRNSA.
- ❖ Thanks to all Board members for their enduring support!
- ❖ To everyone who has already made Bull's Run part of their 2021 giving and those who plan to contribute in 2022, we truly appreciate your support!

**A 2022 Membership Form is included in this mailing at the top of page 7 and is also available on the website.**

**Together we are making a difference!**

## **2021 Work Days**

We were unable to hold our work days in the usual way this year due to the pandemic. With safety precautions and social distancing we did manage to have 5 work days this spring and again in the fall. With over 200 volunteer hours we removed truckloads of bush honeysuckle, along with invasive European Buckthorn, multi-flora rose, winter creeper and Oriental Bittersweet. Thank you to all our volunteers that came out and made this possible!

Just a reminder – volunteer logging in more than 25 man-hours at Bull's Run are eligible to receive a free dark green, short or long sleeve t-shirt with the Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary Arboretum logo on the front. Wear it with pride for all of your hard work helping at BRNSA! The shirts are also for sale to the public.





**Membership Form  
2022**  
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 Contribution  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution: Education Outreach/Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution: Facilities Improvement/Bridges \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution: Land Stewardship \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution to the Endowment Fund with Middletown Community Foundation  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution in Honor/Memory of: (Name) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please send an acknowledgement of this donation to:    Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Enclosed**    Check # \_\_\_\_\_    Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Membership also payable on website*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone# (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

To volunteer, schedule a program, tour, or speaker for your group, contact Caedyn Skiff, naturalist@bullsrn.org, or President, Nancy Clark at 513-368-3233. For event information visit [www.bullsrn.org](http://www.bullsrn.org) or our Facebook page.

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



**More Ways to Help Bull's Run**



***Kroger Community Rewards Program:***  
 Kroger Community Rewards makes fund-raising easy...all you have to 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 organization number is MX093.

**Many thanks to our current all-volunteer Board of Directors for their leadership, dedication and hours of service to BRNSA:** Nancy Clark, Rachel Diver, Debbie Grant, Marge Kochunas, Shauna Steigerwald and Randy Wilson. We are seeking new board members to replace our treasurer, who passed away in 2021, and our secretary, who has moved on to other responsibilities.

*Nature Tots making a discovery along the trail with naturalist, Caedyn Skiff*

## Bull's Run Photo Gallery



Maple sap will be running soon! Join us for the Maple Sugar Hike on Feb. 26.

Caedyn reading nature book to Tots this past autumn →  
Let Caedyn know if you plan to join her for Winter Nature Tots!



### Mark Your Calendars For Upcoming Events

#### January

- Winter Tree Identification Class** online, contact [naturalist@bullsrn.org](mailto:naturalist@bullsrn.org) for link to Zoom class.  
Saturday, Jan. 22, 10 -11 a.m.
- Winter Tree ID Hike @ BRNSA**  
Saturday, Jan. 22, 2 – 3 p.m.
- Winter Nature Tots**  
Thursday, Jan. 27 10-11:30 a.m.

#### February

- Winter Nature Tots**  
Thursday, Feb. 3, 10, 17 & 24, 10-11:30 a.m.
- Winter Bird Hike @ BRNSA**  
Saturday, Feb. 19, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.,
- Maple Sugar Hike @ BRNSA**  
Saturday, Feb. 26, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

For more information, please visit our website [www.bullsrn.org](http://www.bullsrn.org) or Facebook page  
Contact Caedyn Skiff, Naturalist, at [naturalist@bullsrn.org](mailto:naturalist@bullsrn.org), to schedule a tour or service project, to  
speak to your organization or for a program at Bull's Run