



BULL'S RUN  
NATURE SANCTUARY  
AND ARBORETUM

## **Bull's Run Newsletter Winter 2022/2023**

**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.



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### **2022 at Bull's Run**

Another year at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum has ended, with some changes along the way, in addition to the changing seasons. Our goal is to have at least one guided tour free and open to the public every month. January began the year with a Winter Tree Hike following a Zoom class on buds and field cues. Winter Nature Tots explored the "sleeping" season in the woods. February was busy with a Bird Walk and a Maple Sugar Walk, even though Mother Nature did not cooperate with a productive sap flow. March saw the beginning of the Spring Wildflower Walks that lasted into May. April was filled with Spring Nature Tots. June had a Summer Tree Walk. July saw the Summer Nature Tots. August found Caedyn sharing information about Bull's Run at National Night Out, as well as the Prairie Walk. September was when Caedyn announced she was taking a full-time job with Clermont County Parks, but she still honored her obligation to Fall Family Fun. October was without Fall Nature Tots, but the Annual Meeting held at the Great Miami Room at River Center was wonderful with a slide presentation on "Native Orchids of Ohio" presented by Teresa Huesman and Jeanne Rhinehart from the Native Orchid Preservation and Education Society and shared via Zoom. The month ended with a Night Hike led by Caedyn (outgoing Naturalist) and prefaced with a presentation on Bats by Melissa (incoming Naturalist). November featured a Nature Scavenger Hunt sheet available at the gate in honor of National Take a Hike Day. December closed out the year with the Light Up Middletown fundraiser and the Annual Christmas Bird Count.

Many of these programs will be back in 2023, with new program ideas in the works as well. Please be sure to keep current with events as they will be posted on the website [www.bullsrn.org](http://www.bullsrn.org), on our Facebook page and on Instagram.

The biggest change moving into 2023 will be the necessity to hire a bookkeeping service to handle payroll and tax statements as the search for a new board member to fill the Treasurer position continues. Many thanks to Marge Kochunas and the late Forest Grant for their hard work in the role of Treasurer over the years!

**New Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum Contributions**  
**Received since the Fall 2022 Newsletter**

**Memberships**

Doug Bean  
Peg Bosch  
Wilson Breiel  
Cherri Carpenter  
Ron and Barbara Conley  
Katherine Dykes  
Chris and Linda Fiora  
Cissi Glickfield  
Ray and Anne Kiefhaber  
Heinz Matthiesen  
Paulette McCandless  
Jeff McMullen and Barbara Ballard  
Alton Mentel  
George and Stephanie Nenni  
Kenton Pate and Peggy Braitsch  
Jack and Linda Schaefer  
Jim and Lynnette Schluter  
Glen and Joan Shivers  
Bruce and Lisa Spring  
Joyce Williams

**Additional Contributions**

Doug Bean  
Peg Bosch  
Wilson Breiel  
Ron and Barbara Conley  
Chris and Linda Fiora  
Cissi Glickfield  
Ray and Anne Kiefhaber  
Heinz Matthiesen  
Paulette McCandless  
Kenton Pate and Peggy Braitsch  
Jim and Lynnette Schluter  
Middletown Garden Club

**Middletown Community Endowment**

Glen and Joan Shivers

**Honorariums**

*The Middletown Garden Club honors*

Nancy Fraunfelter  
Debbie Hazelbaker  
Patti Gage  
Lynn Zollett

**Memorials**

*In loving memory of Dick Hopper*  
*LaVerne Hopper*

*In loving memory of Gisela Matthiesen*  
*Heinz Matthiesen*

*In loving memory of Gisela Matthiesen*  
*Jeff McMullen*

*In loving memory of Charlie Null*  
*George and Stephanie Nenni*

*In loving memory of Forest Grant*  
*and Gisela Matthiesen*  
*Jim and Lynnette Schluter*

***These memberships were received between 9/7/22 and 12/31/22. 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.***

## Recent Public Events

Annual **Christmas Bird Count** was held Saturday, December 17, from 10 – 11:30 a.m. Six hardy bird watchers gathered at the shelter counting birds at the feeders there before walking the trails and counting more birds. In total 46 individuals representing 16 different species were identified throughout the morning.

<u>Bull's Run Arboretum</u>	<u>Christmas</u>	<u>Bird</u>	<u>Count</u>
Date: 12/17/22		10:00 a.m.	11:30 a.m.
Weather : Flurries w/gray skies	Temp	30 F	# birders =
<u>Bird Species - Common Names</u>	<u>Tally</u>		<u>Total</u>
Blue Jay	1		1
Cardinal	1		6
Carolina Wren	1		1
Chickadee-Carolina	1		7
Goldfinch	1		1
Junco	1		6
Mourning Dove	1		2
Nuthatch-red breasted	1		1
Red-shouldered Hawk	1		1
Red-tailed Hawk	1		1
Robin	1		2
Sparrow-House	1		1
Sparrow-Tree	1		1
Tufted Titmouse	1		9
Woodpecker- Downy	1		4
Woodpecker-Red Bellied	1		2
Other Sightings:			
squirrel dreys	25+		
# of species	16	# sighted	46

## More Ways to Help Bull's Run

*Serve on the volunteer Board of Directors as:*

**Recording Secretary** Take notes at the board meetings (currently via Zoom) and assist with communications among board members.

**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 spring 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.

## We have a New Naturalist!



Melissa Proffitt is thrilled to be the new naturalist for Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum! She has been involved with Bull's Run since 2013 and loves this green gem in her home community. Melissa has been doing environmental education for over a decade, and also works as the Education Specialist for the Warren County SWCD. Melissa earned her BA in Zoology and MA in Biology from Miami University, with a focus on Conservation Education. Her master thesis incorporated entertainment and theatrical elements into education programming to increase engagement and retention of information. She previously was a wildlife educator for a local museum and presented programs for classrooms and family groups. Melissa is passionate about working with all age groups and conducts classroom programs, community workshops, scout programs, STEM projects and initiatives, and more! As a workshop facilitator for Ohio [Project WILD](#), [Aquatic WILD](#), [Growing Up WILD](#), [Curious KIDSS](#), and [Project Learning Tree](#), Melissa also collaborates with and provides professional development to other local educators. She began her responsibilities in December. Melissa is excited to see you at Bull's Run soon!

## Note from the Naturalist

As 2023 commences, we are very excited about all of the conservation work and education programs ahead. Along with our traditional tree and wildflower walks, Nature TOTS, and Fall Family Festival, we will be exploring even more ways to connect our community with nature. And our BRNSA family continues to grow. Along with a naturalist, we are also pleased to welcome local Miami University student Alex Nix as our 2023 intern. Alex is a long-time nature enthusiast and part time veterinary assistant here in Middletown. Alex hopes to share his love and knowledge of the environment with anyone who will listen. Alex is enrolled at Miami University Regionals where he is studying applied biology. Alex hopes to aid in conservation efforts after graduating and working with the arboretum is like a dream come true to him. In his free time, he enjoys going on hikes, spending time with pets, and doing puzzles!



*Alex Nix*

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

- ❖ Thanks to Mike Wertz of Wertz Tree Farm for driving the rented bobcat to spread wood chips on the trails at a workday in October. Thanks to all the workday volunteers, both individuals, Master Gardeners, Miami University Middletown students and groups!
- ❖ Thanks to Melissa Proffitt, incoming Naturalist, for her presentation on bats prior to the Night Hike in late October.
- ❖ Thanks to everyone who joined Caedyn, outgoing Naturalist, for the Night Hike in late October.
- ❖ Thanks to Tim and Nancy Clark for putting the hopper bird feeders and suet cages back in position for the volunteers to fill them throughout the winter.
- ❖ Thanks to Nancy for creating the bulletin board display in November.
- ❖ Thanks to all the volunteers who greeted visitors to Light Up Middletown for a week of shifts in mid-December.
- ❖



- ❖ 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!
- ❖ To everyone who has already made Bull's Run part of their 2022 giving and those who plan to contribute in 2023, we truly appreciate your support!

**2023 Membership Form is included in this mailing at the top of page 7 and is also available on the website, if you have not already sent in your contribution. Together we are making a difference!**





## Membership Form 2023

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: (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 President, Nancy Clark at 513-368-3233 or email [naturalist@bullsrn.org](mailto:naturalist@bullsrn.org). 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**



## Bull's Run Photo Gallery



*Animal tracks in snow*



*Bur oak acorns*



*Blue damselfly*



*Public visiting BRNSA*

## Mark Your Calendars For Upcoming Events

### January

Saturday, January 21, **Winter Tree Hike**, ZOOM class 11:30 am – 12 pm ; In person Hike 1:30 pm

### February

Saturday, February 11, **Orchid Walk** 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Saturday, February 18, **Bird Count for Great Backyard Bird Count** 10:00 - 11:30 am

Sundays, February 5, 12, 19, 26, **Winter Nature TOTS**, 2:00 - 3:30 pm

### March

Saturday, March 18, **Work Day**, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

Friday, March 24, **Campfire Stories with a Naturalist**, 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 26, **Wildflower Walk**, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

### April

Saturday, April 1, **Work Day**, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

Saturday, April 15, **Work Day**, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

Sunday, April 16, **Wildflower Walk**, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Saturday, April 22, **Earth Day Work Day**, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

Sunday, April 23, **Wildflower Walk**, 2:00 - 3:00 pm, Wildflower Walk @ Armbruster 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Saturday, April 29, **Work Day**, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

Sunday, April 30, **Wildflower Walk**, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

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