



Bull's Run Newsletter Spring 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.



Spring Happenings at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum

Signs of spring are everywhere! Snowdrops, crocus, daffodils and other flowers are emerging from bulbs in gardens, tiny blue speedwell flowers and henbit are blooming in yards just beginning to turn green, birds are singing to attract mates and declare their nesting territory, and rain (instead of snow) is swelling the creek. A walk before the Spring Equinox usually yields bird songs and forest dwellers' tracks in the mud along the creek. A careful look under moist leaf liter may reward you with a salamander. Wildflower Walks, free and open to the public, will begin on Sunday, March 27, at 2 pm, with 3 others through April and into May. Join fellow enthusiasts for a guided walk to explore the ever-changing forest carpet of colors as the spring ephemerals take advantage of the spring sunshine before the forest canopy develops to shade them.

Other changes are happening, too. Our naturalist, Caedyn Skiff, is looking forward to Spring Tots and learning what treasures the woods have to offer as spring renews the forest and prairie. As the world moves on past the COVID years, we will slowly return to a new normal. The outdoor experience is still available to explore with social distancing enjoying nature. BRNSA will continue to have its gates open during daylight hours, slowly adding more programs to its calendar, so get out and explore!

Nancy Clark, President

Maple Sugar Hike

This spring's maple sugar hike was a bit of a disappointment since the weather did not cooperate on the day of the hike or those leading up to it. The warm days and cool nights that would normally signal the trees' sap to start rising from the roots just hadn't materialized yet. And now that the buds are swelling on the branches, the sap wouldn't be considered as tasty. So mark your calendars for next February and we'll offer the hike again.

Spring Wildflower Walk Series

Spring officially begins on March 20 this year, and this marks the beginning of a rainy season with warming temperatures and days growing longer. These cues tell plants it's time to come out and grow! As the season progresses there is an ever changing variety of beautiful native woodland flowers to see. To enjoy the wide variety of wildflowers, join us at more than one of our Spring Wildflower Walks to spot any of the over 30 different species we have identified at Bull's Run!

Harbinger of Spring



Notes from the Naturalist

Spring is the time for planting! As you make decisions about what flowers and shrubs to add to your landscape, consider finding native plants. There are many benefits to planting native, including lower maintenance requirements, supporting native wildlife and pollinators, and attractiveness! Because these plants are adapted for the Ohio soils and climate, you don't have to work as hard to help them grow! They require a little TLC at the beginning, but then you can sit back and watch them thrive. You'll see an increase in our native pollinators visiting your neighborhood, including beautiful butterflies and hummingbirds! These pollinators also help out with your garden maintenance, doing much of your work for you. To help your garden reach its maximum potential, I recommend researching the bloom time of anything you plant, and space it out! Plan so that you can have something blooming for most of the year, and keep your eye out for plants that stay beautiful all year round for some winter interest. Wondering where to find native plants? Many local nurseries in the Greater Cincinnati area offer a wide selection! See the list below to find somewhere close to you!

Recommended Nurseries: Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden's Bowyer Farm in Mason, OH- native plant sales are held once a month throughout the spring-fall, go to:

https://cincinnati-zoo.org/horticulture/horticulture_events/ for dates

Natorp's Nursery in Mason, OH

Bloomin Garden Center in Kenwood, OH

White Oak Garden Center

Delhi Flower and Garden Center

Ammon Nursery in Burlington, KY

Caedyn Skiff, BRNSA Naturalist

More Options for Native Plants

The County Soil and Water Districts (<https://www.warrenswcd.com/>) do annual spring seedling sales of mostly native species, which is where Bull's Run gets most of its plants to fill in space cleared of honeysuckle. Aullwood Audubon <https://aullwood.audubon.org> has an annual Spring native plant sale. The Midwest Native Plant Society conference and sale occurs each Summer (<https://www.midwestnativeplants.org/>). Keystone Flora in Cincinnati (<http://keystoneflora.com/>) is another great source of native plants. There are lots of options! If you have patience and time, seeds and plugs are another affordable option, Prairie Moon Nursery (<https://www.prairiemoon.com/>) is a great source for prairie flowers and grasses.

Randy Wilson, Land Stewardship

Winter Nature Tots

We had so much fun exploring our winter forest this year! We played in the snow, learned about maple syrup, and did some bird watching! This winter provided some cold days, where we bundled up and looked for signs of wildlife in the snow. We followed tracks and figured out where our animals were going while the world was asleep! We used binoculars to see who was visiting our birdfeeders, and looked at their colors to see if we could figure out what types of birds we found!



Plant Sale

Several of our regular Work Day Volunteers come to us from the Butler County OSU's Extension Office program Master Gardeners. We felt it was high time we thanked them by supporting one of their programs shown below. Please consider visiting their plant sale on May 7.

BUTLER CO. MASTER GARDENERS ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE



SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2022

10:00 a.m. until sold out!

***Perennials • Annuals • Shrubs • Wildflowers • Daylilies
Iris • Succulents • Herbs • Berries • Hostas
Vegetables • Natives • Houseplants • Unusual Species***

Also...

- New and gently used garden tools and décor
- Silent Auction for exceptional selected plants
- Bring your garden questions to our "Ask the Expert" table

Location:

**Butler County OSU Extension Office
1802 Princeton Road, Hamilton, 45011
2 miles west of Bridgewater Falls**



Cash, Credit Cards, and Checks

Proceeds support Master Gardener Projects in Butler County



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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

2022 Memberships

Loren Ackerman
Laird and Janet Becker
Tom and Chris Buchert
Shirley Butts
Cherri Carpenter
Nancy Clark
Katie DeVilling
Joe and Carolyn DiStaola
Patricia Gage
Cissi Glickfield
Debbie Grant
Ed and Rose Grau
Steve and Nannette Hess
Laverne Hopper
Les and Cheryl Landen
Rebekah Landen
Heinz Matthiesen
Dan and Brittany McIntyre
Mary Lou McCormick
Ted and Marcia Miller
Peter and JoAnn Moroz
George and Stephanie Nenni
Imogene Orts
Richard and Virginia Palmer
Thomas and Angela Retzios
Thomas Scott
Glen and Joan Shivers
Suellyn Shupe
Julie Thomas
John Whittington and Beth Everage
Randy Wilson

Land Stewardship

Loren Ackerman

Additional Contributions

Laird and Janet Becker
Tom and Chris Buchert
Katie DeVilling
Joe and Carolyn DiStaola
Cissi Glickfield
Les and Cheryl Landen
Mary Lou McCormick
George and Stephanie Nenni
Glen and Joan Shivers

Memorials

In loving memory of Forest Grant III
Debbie Grant

In loving memory of Gisela Matthiesen
Peg Bosch
Debbie Grant

In loving memory of Lazaros Retzios
Thomas and Angela Retzios

In loving memory of Joseph Thomas
Julie Thomas

Middletown Community Foundation

Ed and Rose Grau

These contributions were received between 12/15/2021 and 3/15/2022. 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!

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 Kochunus, Shauna Steigerwald and Randy Wilson.

Bull's Run Fundraising Challenges

For the safety of our volunteers and community, our main fundraiser, The Annual Garage Sale, has been postponed for a third year. Programs and workdays are still taking place while maintaining safe distances. As we navigate this challenging time, your support is critical in order to maintain and improve Bull's Run, as well as offering educational programs to the community. Please join us with your 2022 membership. Additional contributions are most appreciated!

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! This will not affect your fuel rewards in any way. We currently have 15 families participating in this program. Will you help, too?

1. Sign in to your digital account (or create one).
2. Search for our organization **Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum**.
3. Enter our NPO number **MX093**
4. Select our organization **Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum** from the list and click "Save".

Any transactions moving forward using the Shopper's Card number associated with your digital account will be applied to the program, **at no added cost to you**. Kroger donates annually to participating organizations based on your percentage of spending as it relates to the total spending associated with all participating Kroger Community Rewards organizations.

2022 Work Days

Happy Spring! We had our first work day on Saturday, March 19, starting at 9:30am. We swept last fall's leaves out of the shelter, planted elderberry cuttings along the creek and collected capsized blue tubes from last spring to reuse later this spring. On future work days we will be removing honeysuckle to make room for new native seedlings we'll be transplanting during April work days!

We supply the tools; just bring work gloves if you have them, and a water bottle. If you are fully vaccinated and boosted, you do not need to wear a mask, but please keep some space between yourself and others. If you are not vaccinated or have concerns about exposure for yourself or others, please wear a mask or ask for a task that allows you more space from other volunteers.

Spring Work Days on Saturdays 9:30am-1pm

April 2	April 30
April 16	May 14



2 Master Gardeners, 2 Board Members + Naturalist at March Workday

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

- ❖ Thanks to all the workday volunteers, both individuals and groups!
- ❖ Thanks to Mike Wertz for mowing the prairie so seeds collected last fall have a chance at new growth once they are spread at one of the upcoming spring Work Days.
- ❖ 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 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.
- ❖ 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 everyone who takes the time to pick up litter around the parking lot and along the trails.
- ❖ 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 2022, we truly appreciate your support!

2022 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!

Bull's Run Photo Gallery



Do you know who
made these
←tracks?→



Can you find the salamander? ↓



Winter Nature Tots
observing birds →



Mark Your Calendars For Upcoming Events

March

27 Wildflower Walk – 2 - 3 pm

April

2 Work Day 9:30am – 1pm
7, 14, 21, 28 Spring Nature Tots
10 Wildflower walk 2-3 Bull's Run
16 Work Day 9:30am – 1pm
22 Earth Day
24 Wildflower walk 2-3pm
24 Wildflower Walk @
Armbruster Preserve 4-5

April

29 Arbor Day
30 Work Day 9:30-1pm

May

1 Wildflower Walk Bull's Run 2pm
5 Spring Nature Tots
14 Work Day 9:30am – 1pm
27 Campfire/Naturalist event

June

24 Campfire/Naturalist event
25 Summer Tree Walk

For more information, please visit our website www.bullsrn.org or Facebook page
Contact Caedyn Skiff, Naturalist, at naturalist@bullsrn.org, to schedule a tour or service project, or
speak to your organization or for a program at Bull's Run. Please keep checking the website and
Facebook for updates on all listed events.