



BULL'S RUN
NATURE SANCTUARY
AND ARBORETUM

Bull's Run Newsletter Autumn 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.



Great Outdoor Weekend



Caedyn and volunteers preparing garden for milkweed seedlings

The BRNSA Naturalist, Caedyn Skiff, began at the shelter on Saturday, September 24, at 2:00 pm with a special program on Monarch Butterflies. This past spring Bull's Run qualified for a grant to receive milkweed seedling plugs and planted them along the access driveway butterfly garden. Last month monarch butterflies laid eggs on those mature plants and caterpillars have been found feasting on the leaves in preparation for continuing their magical life cycle. Later in the month they will emerge as fourth generation of 2022 butterflies to make the long migration to Mexico for the winter. Those



Monarch caterpillar

who visited Bull's Run enjoyed a wide variety of activities to explore this amazing migrator of the insect world.

Annual Meeting

We are pleased to announce the Annual Meeting will feature "Native Orchids of Ohio" presented by Teresa Huesman and Jeanne Rhinehart from the Native Orchid Preservation and Education Society. The objectives of this group of native orchid enthusiasts are to work with other groups to preserve orchid habitat and in situ native orchids and to educate through presentations and displays emphasizing orchid conservation, prevention of removal of orchids from the wild, removal of invasive species, research, and growing seedlings for distribution to orchid habitats. The meeting will begin at 7pm on Thursday, October 20. We are planning a Zoom production in conjunction with an in-person meeting. Join us in the Great Miami Room of the River Center in the Bicentennial Commons (MetroParks of Butler County) at 120 S. Carmody Blvd. Please send a message to naturalist@bullsrn.org if you plan to attend virtually so the link to the zoom meeting can be sent to you.



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

Memberships

Loren Ackerman
Tom and Sally Brickey
Amy Chambers
Rachel Diver
Jay and Karen Dillon
Pete and Peggy Dobrozsi
Christie Drake
John Dupps Jr.
John and Betty Elworth
Chris and Linda Fiora
Robert and Mary Alice Gast
Debbie Grant
Laverne Hopper
Brad and Marjorie
Kochunas
Bill and Ellen Kukuk
Steve and Rose Longworth
Paulette McCandless
Michael and Katie McNeil
Richard Munson and Libby
Birch
Ashley Nygren
Glen and Joan Shivers
Joyce Williams
Holly Young

Additional Contributions

Loren Ackerman
Jay and Karen Dillon
John and Betty Elworth
Chris and Linda Fiora
Robert and Mary Alice Gast
Laverne Hopper
Brad and Marjorie Kochunas
Steve and Rose Longworth
Michael and Katie McNeil

Middletown Community Endowment

John Dupps Jr.
Paulette McCandless
Glen and Joan Shivers

Memorials

In loving memory of Marilyn Brewer
Bill and Ellen Kukuk
In loving memory of Robert A. Driscoll
Nita Driscoll
In loving memory of Forest Grant III
Debbie Grant
In loving memory of Gisela Matthiesen
Debbie Grant



*White Oak planted 9/10/22
In Memory of David Armentrout*

These memberships were received between 3/12/2022 and 9/7/22. 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.



Another way to help at Bull's Run!

**October Workdays, Saturday 8 and 22
and November 5, 9:30-1pm**

Help us clear out invasive plant species to create better habitat for the creatures that call Bull's Run home and make it more enjoyable for all the human visitors too! On a dry day we will collect seeds in the prairie. We supply tools and snacks. Please bring work gloves and your personal water bottle.

Volunteers at workday help maintain trails and plant seedlings

Notes from the Naturalist

The Monarch Migration is upon us! The past couple of weeks, I've started to spot some caterpillars and even a couple of adult butterflies flitting around. What is it about these insects that captures our attention so fully? To start, the monarch makes one of the longest yearly migrations in the insect world, covering nearly 3,000 miles from Canada back down to Mexico. However, not every generation of monarchs is capable of making this journey. In the spring, the species migrates north from Mexico to Canada for the summer. It takes 3 full generations of monarchs to reach Canada, and the 3rd generation dies as soon as they have laid their eggs at their destination. The fourth generation, or super generation, is a unique, stronger generation. It is these monarchs that make the 3,000 mile migration back to their ancestral winter grounds. They will reach Cincinnati in their peak around the third week in September, so keep your eyes out!



Unfortunately, this amazing species has joined the IUCN Red List as Endangered as of this year. The biggest threat causing this is habitat loss and fragmentation. Monarch butterflies will only lay eggs on the milkweed plant, in the *Asclepias* family. As we develop more land into roads, buildings, and lawns, milkweed is few and far between, making it harder and more perilous for the adult butterflies to find somewhere to lay eggs. How can you help? Plant milkweed! Both common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) and swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) are native to Cincinnati and grow well! Even planting a few individuals will provide habitat for monarchs, and chances are you will see some caterpillars at your home next year!

Summer Nature Tots:

This summer, we made the most of the warm weather to enjoy our forest! We used our senses to explore all of the sounds, sights, smells, and textures that nature provides. Splashing in the creek led to some cool rock and insect sightings! In our final week, we got up close and personal with a monarch caterpillar and even got to release some brand-new adult monarchs! Watching them fly off to check out the very forest we know so well was a truly magical moment.

Fall Brings Changes

As the season changes Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum is also facing a change. Caedyn Skiff, our current part-time naturalist, has let the Board of Directors know she will be moving on to a full-time naturalist position with Clermont County Parks by the end of September. We wish her the best in her new adventure and are pleased she has agreed to remain as a consultant on the board moving forward. So – once again we are looking for someone to fill the position of part-time naturalist at Bull's Run. Please visit the link on our website or pass it along to someone you think might be interested joining our mission to preserve the natural area of Bull's Run and develop the park as an environmental facility and educational resource for people of all ages.



Mega Migrators

When thinking about fall migrating birds, tiny, colorful neotropical migrants called warblers are first to come to mind. However, many other families of birds also shift their locations with the seasons.

Looking up in the sky on a crisp fall day may reveal hawks and vultures soaring through the thermals. You might also notice a large group of vultures roosting together, their hulking forms visible high in the trees, resting during their journey.

Sandhill cranes are first noticed by their loud calls even before they come into view. Large flocks flying in formation are a common sight over Ohio skies starting in September and October. Massive numbers of these cranes can be observed at Whitewater Memorial State Park in Liberty, IN and also at Brookville Lake, from fall through early winter as they gather together before migrating farther south.



Canada and other geese are easily recognized by their honking calls. Their v-shaped formations are often one of our first clues that the seasons are changing

This fall, when out and about, look up and you may just witness these mega migrators as they make their way south.

by Rachel Diver

Upcoming Public Events



Join us for a **night hike** on Saturday night, October 29, from 7 – 8:30 p.m. Bring a flashlight, but we will be covering the lens with red tissue paper for night vision. With luck we might see some night creatures. We will learn more about moths, bats, owls and other nocturnal inhabitants of the woods. (Inclement weather date will be October 30.)

For more on bats, join Joe Johnson, bat ecologist with the University of Cincinnati, during [Bat Week](#) about the lives of Ohio bats during winter. Where are they hibernating? How are they dealing with white-nose syndrome? We will explore these questions and more!

Register at - go.osu.edu/winterbats

National Take a Hike Day is November 17. Get out on the trails at Bull's Run. A scavenger hunt sheet will be available at the gate for you to stimulate your experience.

Annual **Christmas Bird Count** is scheduled for Saturday, December 17, from 10 – 11:30 a.m. Gather at the shelter dressed for the weather. New and experienced bird watchers are all welcome. We have seen the common cardinals, chickadees and sparrows every year and get really excited about more infrequent sightings of brown creepers, piliated woodpeckers and yellow-bellied sapsuckers. Join us this year to discover something new!

Sorry to announce that with the vacancy of the Naturalist position we will be unable to host Fall Nature Tots. However, keep an eye on our Facebook page and watch for impromptu gatherings at the shelter of those who would like a guided walk in the woods as fall colors develop and the forest prepares for winter.

More Ways to Help Bull's Run

Serve on the volunteer Board of Directors as:

Treasurer Our current treasurer will be leaving the position at the end of 2022. She stepped back into her former roll after the sudden death of the previous treasurer on a temporary basis. If you enjoy math or have any bookkeeping skills, we will gladly walk you through the QuikBooks software we currently use.

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

Note from the Naturalist

After a wonderful year of serving as the Naturalist for Bull's Run, I am stepping down, as I have joined the Naturalist team at Clermont County Park District. I've loved being your naturalist, and have learned so much from everyone! From four seasons of Nature Tots to leading guided hikes through the forest, I've had so much fun joining your community and will always treasure my memories. I will be staying in at Bull's Run as a board member, so I will still see some of you at future work days and events! Thank you so much for everything!

Caedyn Skiff

Seeking New Naturalist!

We are looking for a new naturalist to coordinate education programs and volunteers. Please see the description at <https://tinyurl.com/bullsrn> for more details and how to apply, or email naturalist@bullsrn.org. Please share with anyone you know who would be interested!

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

- ❖ Thanks to Mike Wertz of Wertz Tree Farm for once again mowing the prairie to stimulate new growth.
- ❖ Thanks to all the workday volunteers, both individuals, Master Gardeners, Miami University Middletown students and groups!
- ❖ Thanks to Randy Wilson, Sarah Meadows, Tom Borgman and Workday volunteers for planting the oak tree in memory of David Armentrout.
- ❖ Thanks to everyone who joined Caedyn for the Annual Prairie Walk in August.
- ❖ Thanks to the City of Middletown for clearing the trails of a huge sycamore section that came down in summer storms, mowing, felling dead trees and hauling off honeysuckle branches and bags of winter creeper after workdays.
- ❖ Thanks to Caedyn for creating the bulletin board displays monthly.
- ❖ 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!

Red Maple donated by Jason Nemeth in honor of 100th Anniversary of State Farm Insurance

**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!**



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 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. 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



Another Volunteer Opportunity!

Bull's Run board members and volunteers have helped greet visitors to Light Up Middletown for many years. A simple task to share a holiday smile, hand out an informational brochure and tally the number of cars that come to enjoy this unique holiday light display. Bull's Run is looking for help with 2 hour shifts (6-8 or 8-10 pm) on the nights of Thursday, December 8 through Wednesday, December 14. The link to sign up will become active in November but you can let us know if you are interested in helping by sending an email to Naturalist@bullsrn.org now. Sign up with a family member or friend and spread some holiday cheer!



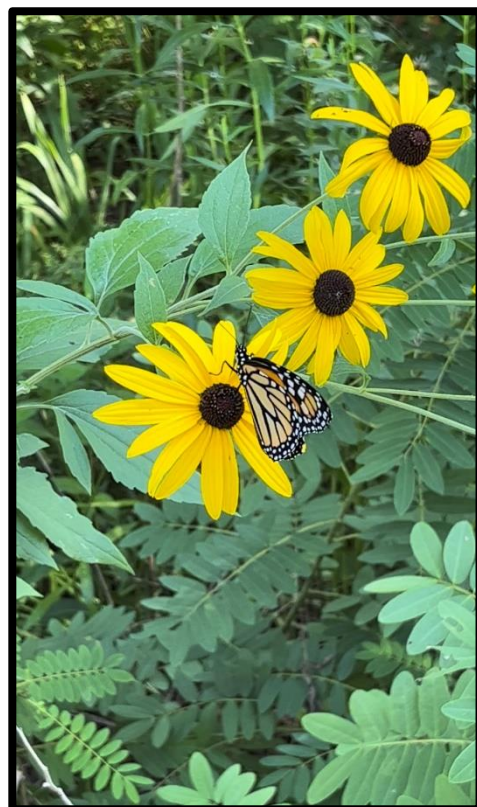
Bull Run Photo Gallery



bald hornet nest



Tot exploring fall leaves



Monarch butterfly

Swamp milkweed seeds



Mark Your Calendars For Upcoming Events

October

Saturday, October 8, **Work Day** 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Thursday, October 20, **Annual Meeting** via Zoom or in person at River Center, 7:00 – 8:30 pm. Guest Speakers, Teresa Huesman and Jeanne Rhinehart talk on “Native Ohio Orchids”. **Free** event.

Saturday, October 22, **Work Day** 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Saturday, October 29, **Night Hike** 7:00 – 8:30 pm See what’s in the bat trunk!

November

Saturday, November 5, **Work Day** 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Thursday, November 17, **National Take a Hike Day**. Watch for more details on our Facebook page and look for the scavenger hunt sheet at the gate.

December

Saturday, December 17, **Annual Christmas Bird Count**, 10 am.

For more information, please visit our website www.bullsrn.org or Facebook page
Contact Bull’s Run at naturalist@bullsrn.org, to schedule a tour or service project, or speak to your organization or for a program at Bull’s Run