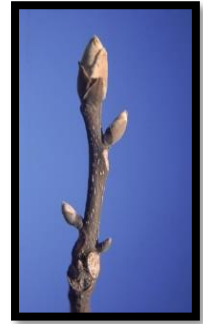




Bull's Run Newsletter

Spring 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.



New Beginnings this Spring

As spring arrives in the woods, many exciting things have been taking place at Bull's Run. With our new naturalist and new intern, we have been offering a plethora of our popular public programs! We had an excellent turn out for our annual Winter Tree ID class in January, putting our identification skills to work with the help of established BRNSA members, along with some new faces from our community. Our friends from the Native Orchid Preservation & Education Society (NOPES) also returned in February to teach us how to observe for the early green emerging leaves of Ohio orchids. We spotted a beautiful Putty Root orchid along with some great places to keep an eye on for more as the season continues. February programming also included a successful Great Backyard Bird Count where we spotted multiple species of either yearlong residents or returning migrators.

The highlight of February was the return of our beloved Nature TOTS program! After a brief hiatus as we were searching for a new naturalist, the winter session of 2023 started strong with 5 families participating with TOTS across the whole age range, from 18 months to 6 years. We explored hibernation, migration, sounds and colors, searched for salamanders, and even made nature Valentines! The TOTS also overwintered wildflower seeds which will be planted in the prairie and butterfly garden during Spring Nature TOTS. We hope to grow our group even more with each session! Remember this is a FREE program to all our current 2023 Family Membership holders. Spring TOTS will take place on **Sunday afternoons from 2:00p to 3:30p on 4/30, 5/7, 5/21, 5/28**. Make sure to email naturalist@bullsrn.org to register your child(ren) today!



As spring rolls on we are excited for our annual wildflower walks, taking place from end of March into May and a return of our Park Workdays. Our volunteers are invaluable at helping to maintain the beauty and ecological health of the nature preserve. We can always use extra sets of hands and smiles to accomplish invasive species removal, trail maintenance, seed and tree planting, and much more! Check out our calendar of events to know when the next upcoming workday is scheduled!

New Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum Contributions
Received since the Winter 2022/2023 Newsletter

Memberships

Loren Ackerman
Adam and Sara Austin
Jan and Laird Becker
Tom and Chris Buchert
Shirley Butts
Amy Chambers
Katie DeVilling
Joe and Carolyn Distaola
Racheal Diver
Bob and Mary Alice Gast
Greg and Dianne Gerber
Debbie Grant
Rose and Ed Grau
Heinz Matthiesen
George and Stephanie Nenni
Imogene Orts
Teresa Reeves
Tom Ritter
Dr. Tom Scott
Glen and Joan Shivers
Julie Thomas
Lynn Watkins
John Whittington and Beth Everage
Joyce Williams
Miranda Wilson
Steve and Lisa Wilson
Holly Young

Additional Contributions

Jan and Laird Becker
Tom and Chris Buchert
Katie DeVilling

Joe and Carolyn Distaola
Bob and Mary Alice Gast
Rose and Ed Grau
George and Stephanie Nenni
Imogene Orts

Middletown Community Endowment

Loren Ackerman
Glen and Joan Shivers

Memorials

In loving memory of Forest Grant
Debbie Grant

In loving memory of Gisela Matthiesen
Heinz Matthiesen

In loving memory of Bonita Scott
Tom Scott

In loving memory of Joe Thomas
Julie Thomas

In loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. Louis B. Gaker
Steve and Lisa Wilson

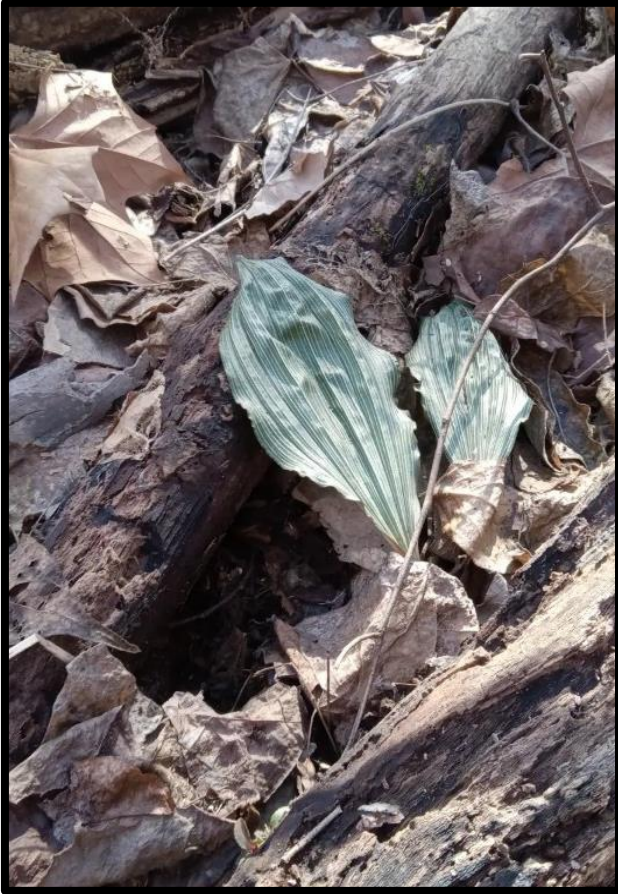
These memberships were received between 1/1/23 and 3/1/23. If our records do not reflect your records, please notify us and we will be sure to include you in our next newsletter where we list new contributions to Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum. Thank you for your support.

Great Backyard Bird Count Results

The **GBBC** was held Saturday, February 18, from 10 – 11:30 a.m. Four dedicated bird watchers gathered at the shelter counting birds at the feeders before walking the trails and counting more birds. In total 49 individuals representing 21 different species were identified throughout the morning, an increase from December’s count! Our data was submitted to eBird online database through Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

<u>BRNSA Great Backyard Bird Count</u>			
Date: 2/18/2023	10:00 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	
Weather conditions - sunny, clear	Temp 31 F	# birders = 4	
<u>Bird Species - Common Names</u>	<u>Species Present</u>		<u>Total Individuals</u>
Blackbird			
Blue Jay	X		1
Brown Creeper			
Canada Goose			
Cardinal	X		5
Carolina Wren	X		1
Cedar Waxwing			
Chickadee-Carolina	X		6
Cooper’s Hawk			
Crow	X		1
Flicker			
Goldfinch	X		1
Grosbeak-rose breasted			
House Finch	X		1
Junco	X		2
Mourning Dove	X		4
Nuthatch-red breasted			
Nuthatch-white breasted	X		3
Purple Finch			
Red-shouldered Hawk	X		1
Red-tailed hawk	X		2
Robin	X		1
Sparrow-House	X		3
Sparrow-Song			
Sparrow-Tree			
Sparrow-White-crowned			
Sparrow-White-throated	X		2
Starling	X		1
Towhee			
Tufted Titmouse	X		2
Woodpecker- Downy	X		2
Woodpecker- Hairy			
Woodpecker- Piliated			
Woodpecker- Red Headed			
Woodpecker-Red Bellied	X		4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
Black Vulture	X		5
Turkey Vulture	X		1
Totals # species	21	# sighted	49

Note from the Naturalist



As the brown leaf litter of the winter woods still lay on the ground, early green leaves of Ohio's native orchids begin emerging in February and March. One of these unique orchids is the putty root orchid (*Aplectrum hyemale*), so named for the historical practice of crushing the underground storage organ called a corm and releasing the sticky, putty-like substance produced. This substance was used as a type of glue to mend broken crockery and pots.

The wintergreen leaf of this orchid (pictured left) is currently visible and when it deteriorates with age in the spring then the plant may flower. The Putty Root orchid produces 7 to 15 small flowers with a purplish-white lip or labellum. However, pollination is not guaranteed as this orchid does not produce nectar or fragrance, thus depending on exploring insects like ants to physically remove the cap of the anther and press the pollen onto the stigma. The column of the stem also naturally bends as the plant matures which can also cause self-pollination. The root system of this orchid also benefits from a symbiotic relationship with compatible mycorrhizal fungi often found in decaying logs, making it a difficult plant to transplant.

Though the Putty Root population is described as stable, it is typically found in small, fragmented populations in maple and beech dominate forests of North America. We

will search for blooming orchids during our upcoming Wildflower Walks! *Check out upcoming events at the end of the newsletter for more details!*

Note from the Naturalist Intern

Spring is right around the corner! With warmer temperatures and wetter weather, we should be expecting the world to blossom around us. While we mostly pay heed to the beautiful blooms and waking wildlife, spring is the perfect time to look for some of the more hidden gems that this season has to offer us. Wild ginger, morel mushrooms, garlic mustard, redbud buds and dandelions will all be in season! Spring foraging can be a fun and educational activity with delicious outcomes, but it must be done safely.

In order to forage safely, you should have multiple types of identification. Whether identification is in the form of a field book, identification app, foraging guide, or help from a knowledgeable forager, you should always use at least two different positive identifications before harvesting a foraged good. Local foraging groups can be a forager's best friend! If you have never tried something you have foraged, make sure



to only try a small amount at a time. This way if you experience an allergic reaction, it should only be mild, and treatable with an antihistamine. Happy spring foraging!

International Bat Appreciation Day



iiBig Brown Bat - Leah Riley USFWS

Get ready to celebrate our world's only flying mammal in April! Every year on April 17, conservationists and nature enthusiasts around the globe come together to recognize International Bat Appreciation Day. Of the over 1400 species of bats on our planet, 10 species call Ohio home. All of our native bats are microbats—small, insect eating bats ranging in size from 2.5 to 6 inches long in body length. Of these 10 species, 6 of them have been hibernating through the winter in caves and abandoned mines. These include Ohio's smallest bat called the tri-colored bat, the northern long-eared bat, big brown bat, little brown bat, small-footed bat, and Indiana bat (federally endangered). Meanwhile, the remaining 4 species will be returning from a southern migration. In our spring and summer months we will see these species, which include the red bat, evening bat, silver-haired bat, and the largest Ohio bat called the hoary bat.



iTricolored bat Pete Pattavina_USFWS

Many myths and misconceptions persist about bats, and bringing awareness and appreciation for these ecologically valuable animals helps to improve public perception and tolerance. For instance, do you love chocolate? Then get ready to thank a bat because bats in areas like Indonesia help control the pests that eat and damage cacao trees. Do you enjoy corn on the cob? Then thank a bat! Bats also feed on the corn earworm pest, and save corn producers globally an estimated 1 billion dollars in savings from pest control. Yet despite all of the ecological benefits bats provide, they face many conservation challenges. From disease like white nose syndrome— an invasive fungus which causes mortality during hibernation— to habitat loss to human persecution, bat population numbers are dropping. But we can help!

Many folks are familiar with and have bird houses on their property, but we would love to see more bat houses in our communities. Bat houses provided shelter space for bats, and even roosts where moms can raise their young pups in maternity colonies. To attract bats, you can plant night blooming flowers which will bring the insect food supply the bats need. Want to see an example? Check out the bat house at Bull's Run near the butterfly garden. But please be respectful of our nocturnal friends and do not disturb them. For ideas on bat houses and more bat facts, check out the Ohio Bat Working Group website at <https://u.osu.edu/obwg/>.

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

- ❖ Thanks to Teresa Huesman and the Native Orchid Preservation and Education Society for leading our native Ohio orchid search on February 11.
- ❖ Thanks to everyone who joined us for the Great Backyard Bird Count on February 18.
- ❖ Thanks to volunteers filling bird feeders this winter.
- ❖ Thank you to Brumbaugh Construction for donation of wood chips for our trails.
- ❖ Thank you to the City of Middletown for repairing the security light in parking lot.
- ❖ 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 2023 members, we truly appreciate your support!

*2023 Membership Form can be found on the website www.bullsrn.org or on pg 7
Together we are making a difference!*

More Ways To Get Involved with 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.



Mark Your Calendars For Upcoming Events

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
Sunday, April 30, **Wildflower Walk**, 2:00 - 3:00 pm
Sunday, April 30, **Spring Nature TOTS**, 2:00 – 3:30 pm

May

Saturday, May 6, **Work Day**, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm
Sundays May 7, 21, & 28, **Spring Nature TOTS**, 2:00 – 3:30 pm
Sunday, May 7, **Wildflower Walk**, 2:00 - 3:00 pm
Friday, May 19, **Campfire Stories with a Naturalist**, 7:00 pm
Saturday, May 20, **Work Day**, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

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