



BULL'S RUN
NATURE SANCTUARY
AND ARBORETUM

Bull's Run Summer Newsletter

June, 2008

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum
in Middletown is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to preserving the natural area of Bull's Run, striving to develop the park as an environmental facility and educational resource for people of all ages.

Ramblings from the Naturalist

A Sad Sort of Happiness

I've noticed there always seems to be two sides to a coin; and an edge. That is the analogy I thought of as two friends and I approached a local residence to rescue the wildflowers growing in the yard prior to bulldozers beginning their work of progress. We've done such work before so we were geared up for the hard work of finding and identifying the flowers, digging, bagging, moving, replanting, tagging, watering and praying each plant would reward our hours of labor by thriving in its new home at Bull's Run.



But other such rescues have been somewhere else, out of town, not in our back yard, and so were blanketed in a feeling of happiness, of doing a good thing, saving important pieces of our environmental puzzle for the future. This time it felt different. In our own back yard, where there are so many empty commercial buildings and a mall begging for businesses, here was a secluded yet very accessible piece of land covered with enormous oak trees, bigger than many we protect at Bull's Run, (the biggest Buckeye tree I've seen), lovely wildflowers, the kind we purchase and transplant into the protected sanctuary of Bull's Run, and a charming home. Here are so many of the necessary ingredients for a refreshing park with a nature center. That's something I believe this town needs. But progress will see it developed into the new site for an existing grocery store that is

currently about a mile west.

My priorities don't fit comfortably with this scenario. I know the economy is important. But so is clean air, water and soil (none of which is found on the shelves of a grocery store), beauty, peace, rest and room to escape from the high stress of our accepted lifestyles. And nature centers are important for the environmental education they provide, the re-connecting of people with nature. But this beauty will disappear under asphalt and concrete and the current store site will join the city's legions of empty buildings and potholed parking lots. We three friends began our work quietly, a cloud of senselessness hanging over us. I don't get it. Do you? I really hope these flowers grow.

TREE-mendous Effort!



The date: May 16th, 2008. 7:45 AM.

The scene: 75 auger holes (each 30-inches across and 18 inches deep) awaiting donated trees; 200 stakes flagged with pink and orange ribbon; 30 shovels, 10 wheelbarrows, 24 trowels, a dozen rakes, bags of work gloves, a mound each of compost and mulch, 75 feet of hose, dozens of plastic milk jugs. Was it a yard sale? NO!

The players: The sun shines gently down on 37 groggy folks, assembled in the Amanda school yard, sipping caffeine, learning the procedures and listening to the day's agenda. Beginning at 9AM, 450 pre-K through 5th grade students will assemble in the gymnasium for an invocation and then, from 9:30 until 3:30 we will plant trees! And we won't stop 'til the job is done and all the children have had their hands in the dirt, to plant, feed, water and celebrate their classroom trees!



If you haven't driven by the school on Oxford State Road, I encourage you to do so. Go admire the visible effect your membership dollars have had. The invisible effect is the experience every child had on that day, the memories that will live on, even as the trees themselves. I can only imagine a scene, 20 years from now when a young parent lifts her child to touch a leaf and says "When I was in 5th grade, I planted this tree." Our thanks to all who worked hard that day, inside organizing or outside planting, to all who donated time, labor or materials, to all who teach.



You are TREE-mendous!

Spring into... field trips!

The month of May kept volunteer guides busy with school field trips. Over 140 Wildwood, Highview and Amanda Elementary students visited the park and studied the creek, tadpoles, birds, migration, soil, rocks, trees, leaves... the many wonders of our woods. Another 70 had "indoor" field trips. When storms prevented students coming to Bull's Run as scheduled, we took our show on the road and went to the schools. Although not the same as being in the woods, the students all had fun with our various indoor nature activities. I thank the participating teachers and our super nature guides, Giselle, Chris, Deb, Anne, Nancy, Barb and our new guy on the trail, Jerry, for their flexibility, adaptability and willingness to do whatever it takes to teach children about nature. If YOU are interested in joining this fun bunch of grown up kids, become a nature guide. For information, give me a call at 422-5063.



students wearing maple seed moustaches

Barb Reuss

Volunteers Make "Tree City" Happen



If you get stopped at the light on westbound Route 122 in front of Bob Evans, take notice of the new Tree City USA sign at the intersection. This national award represents the collaborative work of many, of which Bull's Run volunteers play a part. One criteria of the award is the city must spend a minimum of \$2 per Middletonian for trees and tree care. Middletown has approximately 51,605 residents which means we must account for spending \$103,210. Volunteer hours are figured at \$15 per hour. The workday hours at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum relating to trees such as planting new trees, mulching around trees, pruning and removing invasive honeysuckle (which has been proven to prevent new tree growth) count toward the Tree City USA spending requirement. For 2007, Bull's Run volunteer hours accounted for \$4008.75 of tree city credit. So far in 2008, with all of our spring tree plantings, we have already exceeded last year's total!



Mark your Calendars for Upcoming Events at Bull's Run

Sept 20 Saturday 9:30-1:00 **Workday** Welcome all volunteers with an eagerness to keep Bull's Run at its best.

Oct 13 Monday 7:00-9:00 **Annual Meeting** Speaker and desserts! Location to be determined.

Oct 26 Sunday 2:00-4:00 **Fall Family Festival** Bring your family for crafts, face painting and hiking.

Nov 8 Saturday 9:30-3:00 **Scout Workday**

Contact Barb Reuss, Naturalist, to speak to your organization or for a program at Bull's Run. Contact her at naturalist@bullsrn.org or 513-422-5063. For more information visit our website, www.bullsrn.org



We want to thank the **Middletown Community Foundation** for their support of our education outreach to Amanda School. On April 30th we received notice that MCF approved \$4210 for teaching supplies, a storage shed and some program preparation time. With the volunteer efforts of several Amanda community “handy men” we were able to stretch the money for one large, pre-built shed into the purchase of materials for two smaller sheds which the volunteers will build. Now THAT’S grassroots effort! Thank you MCF! Thank you volunteers!

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

- Amanda school personnel and principal, Beth Prince, for their gracious accommodation of the Outdoor Education Program
- Bull’s Run members who sent additional contributions in support of outdoor education. You are touching many lives!
- Volunteer Nature Guides: Nancy Clark, Anne Berns, Barbara Conley, Debbie Grant, Chris Parker, Jerry Strunk, and Gisele Matthiesen
- Armbruster’s for their beautiful flowers and cooperation and support of our May plant sale.
- Bern’s for donating flowers to the children’s gardens at Amanda
- Diver’s for mulch for the 75 new trees at Amanda
- City of Middletown for brush pick-up
- People who walk the trails and pick up litter
- Spring workday volunteers: National Honor Society students, MUM Botany students, Butler County Master Gardeners, and community volunteers.
- Tree planting volunteers: Amanda School Community, Master Gardeners, Bull’s Run representatives, Denny Lumber Company, and Norvell’s. In addition to all of the children helping, a total of 40 adult volunteers working 187 hours.
- Middletown Community Foundation for a grant to help support our Amanda School Outdoor Education Program.
- Denny Lumber Company for inviting us to participate in their twice yearly Tool Sale
- Thank you to Aaron Grant for maintaining the website.
- Everyone who has contributed to Bull’s Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum with their time, resources, and monetary donations. We truly appreciate your support!

Together we are making a difference!

Bull’s Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum Members since Last Newsletter

William and Mary Akers	Bill and Lenora Housh	J.C. and Anita Shew
William and Debbie Akers, Jr.	Leonard Kahny	<i>in thanks for church program</i>
Dr. Peter A. Ammentorp	Dr. Carolyn Keiffer	Joan Shivers
Bill and Jennifer Becker	Dr. Ray and Jean Anne Kiefhaber	Gary and Jenny Shupe
Carl and Shirley Butts	Blair and Joy Kinner	Thomas E. Smith*
Daryl and Nancy Clark	Bill and Ellen Kukuk	Hope Taft
Jim and Marilyn Eich*	Todd and Nancy Simonson Leff	Bruce & Fran Thomas
Carl and Margaret Fiora	Bob and Midge McMullen*	Janet Turber
Chris and Linda Fiora	Michael and Katie McNeil	David and Susan Voyles*
Eugene and Jane Fisher	Meijer’s Inc.	Victoria Wannemacher
Tom and Stella Fye	Middletown Community Foundation	John A. Whittington
Dr. Louis and Carolyn Gaker	Terri Mulhall	Mary Lou Williams
Dr. Gregory and Dianne Gerber*	Jo-Annette Perry	<i>for bridge replacement</i>
Jane Gold	Ryan and Jessica Perry*	Sarah and Lauryrn Williams
Ed and Rose Grau	Bob and Bette Petrocy	Bill and Marge Wooley
Geckeler Nursery School	Margaret Newton Phillips*	
<i>in thanks for preschoolers’ tour</i>	<i>in memory of Bud Newton</i>	<i>* denotes Education Outreach donation</i>
Highview Elementary PTO	Ted Pollard	
The Honey Do Couples Garden	Jean Riesz	
Club, West Chester, OH	Jerry and Barbara Schunk	
<i>in thanks for wildflower tour</i>	Mike and Betty Scorti	

These memberships were received between 3/11/2008 and 6/11/2008. If our records do not reflect yours, please notify us and we will be sure to include you in the next newsletter when we list new contributors to Bull’s Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum