



Bull's Run Summer Newsletter

June, 2010

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.



BULL'S RUN ENTERS THE 21ST CENTURY

In April, Bull's Run was selected to receive a grant from CDP Bridgeworks. CDP Bridgeworks is a program of Community Development Professionals designed to build the capacity of faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) to help them better serve the community. This grant will be used to purchase computers, a projector and screen, and software to handle our increasingly complex financial and membership management needs.

The grant will allow us to streamline our administrative functions and focus on our mission to maintain and improve the Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum and to provide environmental education to the community.

PLANT SALE RAISES \$600

The annual Mother's Day plant sale was a success again this year despite the uncooperative weather. The sale netted \$600 for the Arboretum. As always, the plants from **Armbruster Florist** were of exceptional quality. Thanks to John Ridge, we were able to have a second plant sale site at **The Jug**.



Special thanks are due to Armbruster Florists for continuing support in ordering and potting plants and delivering them to the Arboretum. Thank you to the following volunteers who helped make it happen: Marge Kochunas, Steve Longworth, Nancy Clark, Jeff McMullen, Rita Robbins, Heather Robbins, Lisa Wilson, Forest Grant, Debbie Grant, Abby Ison, Travis Levant, and the Chen family (Jung-Han, Jennifer, Helena, and Claire.)

A Gift from Duke Energy



In late March, Duke Energy supported Bull's Run by contracting Asplundh to clear trees and brush for us. Three men with massive chain saws and a bucket truck accomplished in five days what would have taken us over a year to do. I was impressed by the workers attention to safety (including the naturalist's!) and their expertise with the equipment. Many thanks are in order for the Duke Energy Vegetation Management Team, Gary Williams and Tony Sinclair, and for the Community and Customer Relations person, Tim Abbott. Awesome job! Hope to see them again next spring!



Naturalist's Ramblings

Trees, Shrubs, Flowers and Tree City!

Spring is a busy season at Bull's Run. Field trips, tours, speaking engagements, new programs all ramp up in the spring and spring planting season nurtures my bond with the land. This year we planted purchased trees, donated trees, Arbor Day trees and more than a few understory native shrubs. From my scribbled notes on mud splattered paper, I reckon it to be about 180 native trees and shrubs added to the park. Every spring we plant more flowers, both in the woods and in the meadow. This year that added up to about 90 transplants and one bazillion seeds! (yep, I counted them!) Many of these are annual donations from members and friends. The lists are long and diverse, which is good for a healthy habitat. Here is a sampling of transplants: oaks, pecan, serviceberry, dogwood and American Chestnut; bladdernut, arrowwood viburnum, witch hazel, red osier dogwood and hazelnut; butterfly weed, celandine poppy, liatris, columbine and black cohosh. But that's not all! Our tree planting efforts at Bull's Run help this City help the State of Ohio to maintain its rank as the State with the most Tree Cities in the U.S.! Once again Middletown achieved Tree City status. Four of us attended the awards luncheon hosted by the City of Montgomery on April 23. Some of the awardees have been Tree Cities for over 20 years! Middletown received its three year award. Congratulations Middletown!

“Why are you cutting everything down?!?”

One of the goals of Bull’s Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum is to return the land to a more natural and native environment. To achieve this we’ve got to clear the non-native, diseased, and dead trees, bushes, vines and other plants to allow the native flora and fauna to return and prosper. Rest assured that as we remove these plants, we are replacing them with literally hundreds of native trees, bushes, and wildflowers. Over 250 hours have been spent in this replanting effort.

Some of your other questions and our answers:

Why are you cutting down all the trees?

Trees that have defects in roots, trunk, or branches are more likely to fail, perhaps causing personal injury or property damage. We are also removing ash trees as the emerald ash borer will soon reach our area and ultimately kill them. Early removal helps slow the spread of the infestation and allows us to get ahead of the game by planting native trees now.

Why are some of the trees left standing with their tops cut off?

Dead trees provide wildlife with vital cover from predators and the elements, and places to raise their young.

Why are there logs lying around everywhere?

Logs also provide homes for wildlife. As they decompose, they return valuable nutrients to the soil.

Why are there huge piles of dead plants everywhere?

Most of the honeysuckle in the park is an invasive species- it is not native to the area, spreads rapidly, and deprives native plants of sunlight and water. As we cut down the honeysuckle and other invasive plants, we pile it to provide shelter for wildlife, to decompose and return nutrients to the soil, and to help prevent erosion of the newly cleared areas while new plants are getting established.

If you would like to help us in this project, please call our naturalist, Barb Reuss, at 513-422-5063 or e-mail us at naturalist@bullsrn.org.

New Program a Success!

Every Wednesday in the month of April, children ages 2-5 arrived at Bull's Run along with their caregiver for an hour of nature exploration. This program, called Nature Tots, was designed by MUM student Katie Gerard as part of her Integrated Studies degree. The 16 tots came from Geckeler and Sunshine pre-schools attending a morning or afternoon session. Bull's Run supplied staff, ideas, tips and materials. The parents/grandparents supplied safety, supervision and encouragement. The tots provided the curiosity, boundless energy and the direction of study.



Our rules to the caretakers were simple: keep the children safe but try not to hover; encourage free exploration (follow the tot's lead) and share in the excitement of discovery; continue outdoor exploration throughout the week and come back next week! Without being told what to do the tots found their individual interests. For some it was flipping logs, others loved the creek and TADPOLES! Still others spent a lot of time digging in the mulch piles looking for bugs.

This program is very different from our school field trips which are necessarily tied to state standards. This is child centered, experiential nature education. Based on evaluations from the caregivers, we believe this pilot program deserves expansion to three seasons. We are considering enrollment options so that more families can participate. If this is a program that resonates with you, we can use your support. Please contact Naturalist@bullsrn.org for more information. Get involved with YOUR organization!



Barb Reuss, Naturalist

Memberships and Donations for 2010 received since the March Newsletter

As of June 15, 2010

John and Cathy Arnold
Jerry and Kathleen Blattner
Ladd and Marcia Brown
The Chen Family
Daryl and Nancy Clark
Roger Conner
Katherine DeVilling
John and Paul Dickerson
Don and Judy Dixon
Bill and Marcella Donahue
Elaine Garber
Louis and Elsie Garrett
Elsie Garrett
Ann Geddes
Duane Gordon
Rich and June Haller
Lewis and Marilyn Hamilton
Joy Jones
Dr. Carolyn Keiffer
Dr. Ray and Jean Kiefhaber
Bill and Ellen Kukuk
Lois Lafayette
Katherine Lawson
Steve Longworth
Joe and Rosemary Lyons
David and Barbara Martin
James Martindale
Mary Lou McCormick
Les and Phyllis Mills

Martha Newton
Dr. Ron and Martha Oches
Dr. Marsha and Larry Orcutt
Dr. Kenton and Cathy Pate
Loring and Pamela Pearson
Noah and Peggy Powers
Jack and Nadine Raiche
Judge Kathleen Romans
Fred and Jane Ruscher
Jerry and Barbara Schunk
June Shafor
Deborah Simpkins
Ann Stoutenborough
Bruce and Frances Thomas
Doug Thrush
Treva Thurman
Bob and Joyce Triick
Janet Turber
Charles Turner
Michael and Kirsty Wertz
Ron and Joyce Williams
Thomas and Sharon Williamson
Bill and Marge Wooley

Donations given in honor or memory of a loved one:

Lynne Waxweiler
in memory of Sally Martindale

Thank you to everyone who has supported Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum in 2010.

If your records differ from ours, please inform us at your earliest convenience and accept our deepest apologies.

Meet You at the Office

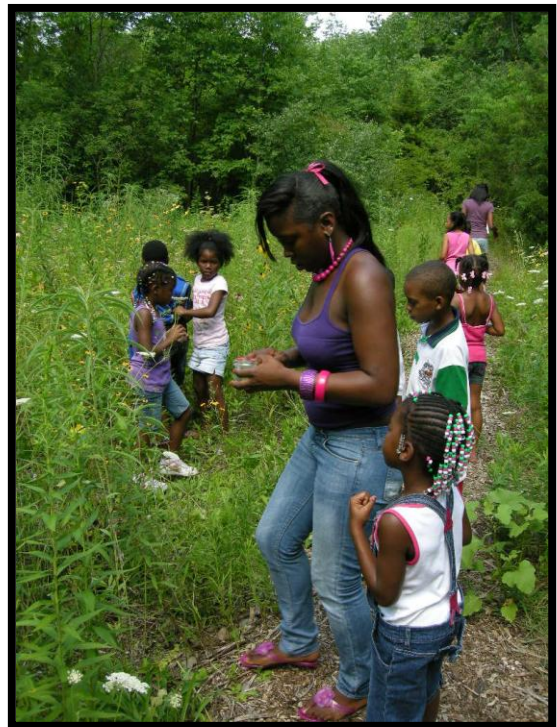
Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum will soon be moving into our first office! We are in the process of negotiating a lease with the Episcopal Church of the Ascension on McGee Avenue for the use of office and storage space. Finally, thirty years worth of documents and educational supplies will have a home. In the future, guides will only have to make one stop to gather program supplies. As we gear up, and our specific needs become apparent, we'll be inviting you to consider helping us fill in the gaps with office supplies.

Second Annual Prairie Tour



If you missed it last year, you can participate this year! Please join volunteers John Whittington and Cameron Everage as they lead our second tour of the prairie meadow at Bull's Run. The date is Sunday, August 15th at 2 PM. Meet in the shelter. Dress for the weather... in the meadow that usually means you should include a hat and sunglasses! Cameras are welcome! The tour is rain or shine but not in a storm. If you have questions, call John at 423-2081. Enjoy expanding your nature knowledge at Bull's Run!

Bull's Run Photo Gallery



Community Center Tours Prairie



Nature Tots



Mayfield student investigates meal worms
Page 6

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming Events at Bull's Run

For more information please visit our website www.bullsrn.org

June 20 Sunday 2:00 **Dog Walk** Join Boo Norton-Schmiedt with (or without) your four-legged friend on a leash, for a walk along the trails to enjoy the summer season.

July 18 Sunday 2:00 **Dog Walk**

August 3 Tuesday 5-9 pm. Join us at **National Night Out at Jacot Park.**

Visit our booth for a close up look at nature

August 15 Sunday 2:00 **Dog Walk**

August 15 Sunday 2:00 **Second Annual Prairie Tour**

Sept 19 Sunday 2:00 **Dog Walk**

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. Visit our website, www.bullsrn.org

Answer to Rambling's Sleuthing: *Strix varia*

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

- Carolyn Keiffer, Deb Simpkins and MUM students for workday labor.
- New guides Mike & Margie Perkins, Rita Robbins and Katie Gerard for helping with spring tours.
- Carolyn Keiffer for a very generous donation of native trees
- Marvin's Gardens for plant discounts and donations
- Micki Robinson for plant donations and elbow grease!



- John Whittington, Brian Shumard and Elaine Caldbeck for their support and energy
- To all the visitors who notice and compliment the land stewardship efforts at Bull's Run
- Bill Tipton for propagating and donating native plants for us
- Sunshine and Geckeler Preschools for promoting the Nature Tots program
- Cox Arboretum Wildflower Group for wildflower donations
- All who helped with the tool sale and the Mother's Day flower sale fund raisers
- Meg Melampy of Meg's Organic Gardens for improving and maintaining the butterfly garden.
- Denny Lumber for the tool sale fundraiser donation
- Bob Millan- granite for memorial bench legs, Jeff McMullen & Deb Simpkins for help moving granite
- Greg Pratt for gate access and helping to move granite
- Duke Energy/Asplundh for massive clearing of problem trees and honeysuckle
- Dave Adams for wheelbarrow maintenance and trail mulching
- To Cindy Grau for donating native plants from her garden
- 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!**

Ramblings.... Nature in the Backyard

Want to solve a puzzle? Can you be Sherlock Holmes?

What is 18-22" tall, is brownish-gray with white spots on its back and white stripes on its front, and brown instead of yellow eyes? It has no visible ears. It is thought to live in 83 of Ohio's 88 counties but can also be found from southern Canada to Florida and west to Texas and Montana and even down in Mexico (it will have no trouble crossing a border fence). Got a guess?

Okay, more clues. Even though it prefers large chunks of deciduous forest, it has raised its young behind our condo not more than 30 feet from our deck, listening to classical music and overhearing many a dinner conversation. Usually 2-3 young are raised but this pair only raised one youngster. The youngster is now in plain sight from our deck having climbed up a maple tree. They probably chose their nursery thanks to Hurricane Ike damage (that's a subtle but good clue! Oh, aren't I having fun)! We and the neighbors have thoroughly enjoyed watching this reproduction process since March but it is drawing to a close. When the 5-6 week old youngster reaches 8-9 weeks old, it will move faster and farther and will be hard to observe.

Are you still guessing? It moves silently but seems to loudly speak English, often about the question of who is on cooking duty! (That sounds strange but it is a clever clue, if I do say so myself)! However, the preferred menu is certainly not to my liking: voles, mice, chipmunks, insects, snakes, snails, slugs, spiders, bats, crayfish, song birds and rabbits. Yum!

Are you there yet? Ok, how about this clue. Several hours after eating, it pukes. Well hey, look at the menu! I am so tempted not to give the answer so here is my resolution. The answer, in Latin, is found elsewhere in the newsletter! (Picture on the website) Happy sleuthing!

Barb Reuss, Naturalist



Bull's Run Photo Gallery

