



Bull's Run Summer Newsletter

July, 2011

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 GARAGE SALE – A REASON TO REDUCE, RELATE, REJOICE!



The journey to GARAGE SALE can be fraught with frustration, disappointment, and many an aching back. On the contrary, the trek to the Bull's Run Garage Sale April 29th and 30th provided learning curves, growing friendships, and a delightful passel of new friends. From Beanie Babies and birdfeeders, to tomatoes and telephones, we had it all at the sale! Over thirty families generously donated to the fundraising event. People streamed through the door for two days; giving us the opportunity to invite them to visit Bull's Run, while making many new friends and valuable contacts. Our first garage sale was deemed a huge success with close to \$3000 raised and a table and chairs for the office. Much thanks to Ed and Rose Grau for opening their home to us!

FLOWERS GALORE!

It is always a pleasure to be around the beautiful flowers that Armbruster Florist drops off in front of Bull's Run for the Mother's Day Plant Sale. The geraniums this year were really spectacular! Tom Temple, new owner of the Jug, generously allowed us to set up there, giving us a second site. Thanks to the volunteers with flowers on their heads, who greeted our faithful supporters and met some new friends!



A Tale of Two Trees

I've known Bruce Peters since my eighth grade year at Roosevelt Junior High. It was an exciting science class full of live animals, snakes, gerbils, turtles, and mealworms. The class was life changing for me. I was his assistant, someone who stayed after school and fed the animals. I want you to know that I actually held the yellow rat snake! Then there was the time the gerbil bit me and drew blood! I'll never forget when the Blue Racer got loose in the classroom and Bruce, Mr. Peters, reached for it under the radiator and it bit him, there was more blood! Ugh! A few years later, Bruce laid out the original trails at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum in 1979. Forty years have passed since our paths first crossed. I am now the President of the board and he continues to be an invaluable resource.



For years he and his dog, Bandit, have walked the trails at Bull's Run birding and picking up litter. They are the ones that spotted the chicken in the woods! Today there is a Sweet Gum tree planted in honor of Bandit's memory along the maintenance road. Out front there was an American Beech tree planted by Bruce's father in honor of him. The tree met its demise due to mower damage, termites, and finally, Hurricane Ike. This year a new American Beech was planted. The tree came with a bird nest! Recently, I checked on the tree to see if it needed water. There is a gator bag, which is a green plastic water bag installed at the bottom of the tree allowing for slow watering. I lifted the bag to see if it had any water in it

and lo and behold a snake! The young garter snake had found a safe cool place to live!



Garter snake at Beech tree

How appropriate for a Bruce Peters' tree! Nature and its connections continue to abound at Bull's Run!

Debbie Grant



Matthew Michalek (center with shovel) with family and friends worked to clear the Bandit Memorial area.



Bandit Memorial area with benches and Sweet Gum tree.

Storm Damage Raises Urgency of Bridge Repairs

The record-breaking rains this spring have taken a toll on our 5 already stressed 32-year-old bridges and the banks of Bull's Run Creek. The Facilities Committee is preparing short-term and long-term plans to improve the infrastructure of the park. Previous plans to begin with the drainage issues at the front of the park have to be scaled back. The water damage to the bridges has created an immediate concern.



In 2006, the Bull's Run Board applied to the Middletown Community Foundation for money to repair the bridges. The estimate at that time was about \$76,000. The Middletown Community Foundation generously offered to cover 20% of the cost of repairs, provided we received other grant money for the balance. When another grant application failed, we were unable to raise the rest of the money needed, and the project stalled.



In 2009, we received a grant from the Miriam Knoll Foundation of \$9,618.53. This money was set aside by the Board in a restricted account to be used as matching funds (a percentage of the project cost) for capital improvement projects. Many grantors require that organizations contribute matching funds (cash or in-kind services or materials) as a requirement for grant approval. The Facilities Committee is meeting with contractors and exploring solutions to the bridge and road issues in the park. We hope to begin applying for grants this fall.



If you would like to be involved in this project or if you have suggestions or contacts, please contact Facilities Chair, Jennifer Chen, at 513-422-8092. If you would like to contribute to our capital improvement fund, please use the enclosed donation form. Contact President, Debbie Grant at 513-425-7250, or Treasurer, Jerry Schunk at 513-423-8225, if you have any questions about donations.

Jennifer Chen

Wish List for the Office

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum has been in our office at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension on McGee Avenue for almost a year. We netted a work table and chairs from the Garage Sale, but we could still use a saddle stapler and a paper cutter. Remember, when shopping at Staples to say, "Put it on the Bull's Run Rewards." It will be listed under Bulls Run, 45044. Thank you!

Nature Tots and School Tours and Mud!



Spring Nature TOTS was full with 10 tots in the morning and afternoon sessions. It filled quickly. Unlike our school field trips, which are tied to the state education standards, Nature Tots encourages free exploration, interaction and discovering the joy of nature. There are many new participants and all but one winter participant returned. This child-centered, experiential nature education is geared to preschoolers and their accompanying adult. Please contact Naturalist@bullsrn.org for more information.

Spring school tours had to dodge a lot of rain drops. On occasion, the naturalist and a volunteer took the Arboretum (and meal worms) to the school. But, when the students made it to Bull's Run, everyone had even more fun!



Fall Nature Tots

Take a moment **now** to sign up for the fall session of Nature Tots. The naturalist plans to hold morning and afternoon sessions at 10 AM and 12:30 PM for 5 Wednesdays: September 28- Oct 26. A few families from previous sessions are already signed up, so leave a message at Naturalist@bullsrn.org if you are interested, and you will be contacted early in August. Free with family membership or \$25 per family for the 5 week session.

MONTHLY DOG WALK at 2:00 PM on THIRD SUNDAYS



Gather them up.



Get the leash.



Be prepared.



Dogs come to sniff and frolic.



Owners come to meet and greet.

Memberships and Donations for 2011 received since the March Newsletter
Thank you to everyone who has supported Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum in 2011. As of June 10, 2011

David K. Adams	Scott and Cindy Grau	Jo-Annette Perry <i>In memory of George, Elaine and Gary Perry</i>
Johnie & Angela Adams	Ed and Rose Grau	Bruce and Glenda Peters
Dr. Peter Ammentorp	William Hall	<i>In honor of Debbie Grant and Barb Reuss</i>
Will and Marcia Andrew	June and Richard Haller	Margaret Newton Phillips
Bill and Jennifer Becker	Lew and Marilyn Hamilton	Kari Plageman
Laird and Jan Becker	Steve and Nannette Hess	Noah and Peggy Powers
Alice Bradshaw	LaVerne Hopper	Lee Reed
<i>In memory of Jill Marie Taylor</i>	Maryann Howard	Mark and Coleen Richards
Stephanie Brenot	<i>In memory of Phillip A. Howard</i>	Fred and Jane Ruscher
Ric and Cheryl Brewer	Dr. Ray and Jean Anne Kiefhaber	Glen Shivers
Marcia Brooks Brown	Katie Kirchner	Joan Shivers
<i>In memory of Ladd Brown, Marilyn Bunn Brewer, Jeff Jewell, and Mrs. Marie Woodruff</i>	Bill and Ellen Kukuk	Suellyn Shupe
Christine Brunner	Cameron Lacy	Nicki Slivinski
Tom and Chris Buchert	Michael and Priscilla Lane	Eric and Susan Sotzing
Carl and Shirley Butts	Dorothy Lawson	Shovel & Hoe Garden Club
Robert and Ruth Ann Charles	Jason and Stephanie Lawson	Charles M. Stone, Sr.
George and Virginia Christy	Mary Lord	Heather Street
Daryl and Nancy Clark	David and Barbara Martin	Donna Switzer
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Cohen	Gregg and Michelle McDonough	Hope Taft
Janet Collinsworth	Robert E. and Midge McMullen	Bill and Raetta Teager
Ronald and Barbara Conley	Robert Q. Millan	Treva L. Thurman
Richard S. Davies	Ted and Marcia Miller	Heath E. Valentine
William and Marcella Donahue	Les and Phyllis Mills	<i>In memory of Mary Prentice Valentine</i>
David and Mary Enochs	Edith Mulhall	Hamilton and Linda Watkins
Gene and Jane Fisher	Martin and Terri Mulhall	Nancy Wells
Sheila Fletcher	Larry and Linda Mull	<i>In memory of Bob and Reese Wells</i>
Mike and Gloria Freeman	Patricia Myers	Ronald and Joyce Williams
Thomas Fye	Bob and Diane Mysonhimer	Steve and Lisa Wilson
Patti Gage	Christine Naber	Baker-Stevens-Parramore Funeral Home
<i>In memory of G. Robert Gage</i>	Boo Norton-Schmiedt	Wilson-Schramm-Spaulding FH
Dr. Louis and Carolyn Gaker	Larry R. & Dr. Marsha Orcutt	
Jane Gold	Dr. Kenton and Cathy Pate	
	Pamela Pearson	

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

Wildlife in Distress

“Let go! Let go!” So I was awakened on a recent morning. At first, I thought someone was being mugged, but then I thought of the baby raccoon I had been monitoring. It had been alone for a couple of days, and I worried that it was an orphan. A quick look out the window confirmed my fears; a dog had gotten a hold of it. After a quick rescue, I put it in a closed box with a bottle of warm water for it to snuggle against. A search of the internet brought me into contact with a network of wildlife rehabilitators in Butler County. I was referred to a local vet to treat its wound, and a berth was found with a local rehabilitator. My “baby” was soon in good hands and, when well, will join a group of foster “siblings” to be rehabilitated for release in a safe area.

If you find a wild animal that you think is injured or orphaned, the “Experiencing Wildlife” link on the Ohio Division of Wildlife website (www.odnr.state.oh.us/wildlife) has some information that can help you decide what to do. You can also find a list of local wildlife rehabilitators through the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (www.nrawildlife.org). The links to these websites can be found on our website (www.bullsrn.org).

If the animal is not injured, secure your pets and search for a nest or den. If the animal is a bird without feathers, look for a nest and place the bird back in the nest, or if the nest is damaged, make a substitute nest out of a small container with drainage holes filled with dry grass or the old nest and place it securely in a tree or shrub. If the bird has feathers, it is a fledgling and the parents are probably nearby. Watch from a distance until the parents return. If you are certain that the parents are not visiting the nest or fledgling, call a wildlife rehabilitator for instructions.

If you find a baby mammal, chances are good that its parent will return. Many mammals are raised by only one parent and that parent may leave the baby for quite a while to search for food. Look for a nest or den near the baby. If you find one, place the animal back in it, or if the animal is in a dangerous situation or if the weather is inclement, place the baby in a shallow, sheltered box close to where it was found. Keep it warm, but out of the sun. Stay out of sight and watch for the mother for 4-6 hours. If the mother doesn’t return in that time, call a wildlife rehabilitator for instructions.



Finally, if you find a turtle, DON'T take it home unless it is obviously injured. Turtles reproduce slowly, so please leave any turtle in its natural environment. If it is injured contact a wildlife rehabilitator. If it is in a dangerous situation (crossing a road), move the turtle to the side of the road it was heading towards, and release it there or a safer place near where you found it. Turtles are self-sufficient and don't need help unless injured.

You can help prevent orphaned and injured animals by taking steps to protect nests and dens as well as protecting parent animals. The following are some ways you can help:

- Wait until fall to clear brush and cut trees or check carefully for nests before starting work.
- Place caps on chimneys, vents, and window wells.
- Keep pets under control.
- Watch the sides of the road for animals as you are driving.
- Be especially vigilant when driving through natural areas.
- Place hawk decals on large windows.

Jennifer Chen

Third Annual Prairie Plant Seminar and Tour

If you missed it last year, you can participate this year! Please join naturalist, Barb Reuss and youth volunteer, Cameron Everage, as they lead our third tour of the prairie meadow at Bull's Run. The date is Sunday, August 14th at 2 PM. Meet in the shelter for a **Prairie Seminar**, to be followed by a tour of Bull's Run's prairie. Cameron has visited many prairie sites in Ohio and will share his findings. Last year we learned that Bull's Run has an extensive collection of prairie plant species that you would have to visit several places in Ohio to see, but we have them right here at Bull's



Run!

Dress for the weather... in the meadow that usually means you should include a hat, water bottle, and sunglasses! Cameras are welcome! The tour is rain or shine but not in a storm. Enjoy expanding your nature knowledge at Bull's Run!

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

- Everyone who donated items to or made purchases at the Garage Sale
- Armbruster Florists and the Jug for their part in the Flower Sale
- Everyone who bought potted flowers or hanging baskets at the Flower Sale
- The Volunteers who helped at the Flower Sale
- Bob Wise for propagating native butterfly-weed for the prairie
- Nathan Grant for taking down the birdfeeders for summer storage
- Steve Lewis for cutting down the spruce and the city for clearing it up
- Jeff McMullen and Barb Reuss for countless hours of honeysuckle removal!
- John Wittington for putting signs at the spring wildflowers
- Rita Robbins for her outstanding support of the education program
- Sunshine Preschool for access to their laminating equipment
- The guides who helped with TOTS and field trips
- Jung-Han Chen for fixing the office door
- Master Gardener, Linda Mull, for her help with transplanting wildflowers
- Rose and Ed Grau for hosting the Garage Sale
- The Volunteers who came to the Work Days to help clear honeysuckle, pull garlic mustard or *vinca*, spread mulch, or pick up trash to prepare the trails for spring and summer tours.
- Everyone who has contributed to Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum with their time, resources, and monetary donations. We truly appreciate your support!



Guy & Chuck Stone filling the bird feeders

Together we are making a difference!

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming Events at Bull's Run

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

July 17 Sunday 2:00 **Dog Walk**

August 2 Tuesday 5-9 pm. Join us at **National Night Out** (check our website for location)

Visit our booth for a close-up look at nature

August 14 Sunday 2:00 **Third Annual Prairie Seminar & Tour**

August 21 Sunday 2:00 **Dog Walk**

September 10 Saturday 9:30 – 1 Work Day

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

September 28 Wednesday, 10-11 AM or 12:30-1:30 PM **Nature Tots!** – Fall session begins

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

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum is one of Middletown's green jewels. The organization responsible for maintaining the 11-acre natural area is led by a volunteer **Board of Directors**, including: Debbie Grant, President; Chris Parker, Vice-President & Education Committee; Jennifer Chen, Secretary & Facilities Chair; Jerry Schunk, Treasurer; Nancy Clark, Newsletter Editor; Jeff McMullen, Land Stewardship; Abby Ison and Debbie McGuire, members-at-large. Barb Reuss is the part-time, paid naturalist, funded in part by your membership, education donations and grants. If you are interested in joining us in keeping Bull's Run a jewel, either as a potential board member, a volunteer tour guide, a work-day volunteer, grant writer, or have fundraising ideas, **please** fill out the enclosed form and let us know of your interest. THANK YOU!

Bull's Run Photo Gallery



*Scarlet Tanager
visiting Bull's Run*



*School tours
▶ journaling along the trail
▶ using hand lenses*



▶ looking for salamanders

