



Bull's Run Summer Newsletter

June, 2012

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.



Wow! What a Garage Sale!

What do you get when you mix fabulous volunteers, great crowds, antiques, plants, frogs, linen, prints, pottery and bicycles? An excellent way to make new friends and some funds to replace the bridges!! Ed and Rose Grau once again opened their home providing us the opportunity to invite people to visit Bull's Run and bring in some needed money. Proceeds from the sale were over \$3000!



Scott Grau appreciated everyone's efforts so much that he matched our sale, bringing the grand total to over \$6000! **"Wow, what a garage sale!"** Thank you to the Graus for their longtime confidence and generous support and to all the participants!

Consider a Donation to the BRNSA Endowment Fund

In 2010, a generous donation to honor Ed and Rose Grau's 50th wedding anniversary established the Bull's Run Endowment Fund, managed by the Middletown Community Foundation. Since then, several contributions, either as donations or end-of-life decisions to include Bull's Run in their will, have added to the fund. With these generous gifts we are inspired, energized, and committed to continue to teach children and the community at large, protect and enhance wildlife habitat through land stewardship, and make the public aware of the importance of the work at hand. Many have made memorial contributions that have benefited Bull's Run, either realized as plantings, memorial benches or toward the bridge rebuilding project.

Please consider Bull's Run in your future plans. Thank you.



Family members on Marilyn Brewer's bench.

Over 100 Volunteer Hours – and Counting!

Actually, volunteers have officially logged 114.5 hours of labor taking care of Bull's Run this past spring!

We had help from young, old and in between ages, master gardeners, MUM students, board members and folks who just believe in the importance of taking care of the land and the value of volunteering. All showed up on one or several of our 5 spring workdays to lend a hand and a smile to the effort, whether picking up litter, transplanting native plants, mulching trails or trees, weeding, or waging the battle against invasive species. My thanks go out to Linda, Gloria, John, Cam, Brian, Kevin, Ernie, Nancy, Chris, Debbie, Marge, Lisa, Tom, Beverly, Katherine, Toni, Maddie, Susan, Richard,



Araceli, Jesus, Charles, Elaine, and Sharon. Special thanks to the Kohl's Cares Community Service program and to James Mays at Sunbelt Rentals for the use of a bobcat. And to the bobcat driver... you know who you are... thank you so very much!



If you missed out this spring, the workdays start up again on Saturday, September 15. Future autumn dates include September 15 & 29, October 13 & 27, and November 10, closes out the 2012 public workday season.

In addition, there is a small group of lively, laughing folks who help out as needed and as their weekday schedules permit. If you would be interested in joining us for a couple of hours during the week, please let me know and I will get in touch with you in September. This is a good opportunity for Master Gardeners to log their required service hours and it helps the park too! You don't need to be a gardener, you just need to be interested, willing, and able. Contact Barb at bjreuss@yahoo.com . Thank you! Have a GREAT summer!

Barb Reuss



A Skipper Butterfly Experience

You may recall how last year one of these little giants took exception to me sitting in the middle of his territory, buzzed by me repeatedly, and eventually resorted to bouncing off my head several times. This spring I was thinking about how that butterfly became bolder over time, letting me and my camera get within about ten feet at first, then five, then three, then practically right on top of him. I wondered if I could take it one step closer???

I started with a fairly active and aggressive Skipper, one which constantly harassed other butterflies, dragonflies, bees, wasps... and me. I figured out his five favorite landing sights, all on tall plants where he had a clear view of his section of prairie. Then I picked up a broken stem and held it near, and slightly higher than, one of his roosts. Sure enough, after a few seconds he came over to investigate, landed nearby, came back, circled my head a few times, and landed atop the stem in my hand. From there it was just a matter of patience, as I gradually shortened the stem, and eventually there was only my outstretched arm. Surprisingly, he started landing on my hand even if my arm wasn't outstretched, and at one point he sat and studied me for several minutes while I snapped about a hundred pictures. Next step is to attach a little platform to the front of my camera and see if he will learn to land on it.

Aldo Ross

“Like” us on Facebook to see more of Aldo’s pictures.



New Bug in Town?



By now, we are all familiar with the Emerald Ash Borer and the devastation to our ash trees throughout Ohio. Damage is already seen in Bull's Run. If you have ash trees in your yard that have not yet been damaged, treatment is available. The cost of protection may be a determining factor as you decide whether to treat your ash trees or replace them. More information can be found at <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>.

Ohio is the fifth state to report outbreaks of Asian Longhorned Beetle. Its large size and blue feet make it much more visible than the EAB, and its damage is much greater. At present there are no known predators for this invasive insect that came to the U.S. in packing pallets. ALB attacks and destroys our hardwood trees:

Acer (maple), Aesculus (horse chestnut), Albizia (mimosa), Betula (birch), Celtis (hackberry), Cercidiphyllum (katsura), Fraxinus (ash), Koelteria (golden raintree), Platanus (sycamore), Populus (poplar), Salix (willow), Sorbus (mountain ash), and Ulmus (elm). At this time, ALB has been eradicated in Illinois and New Jersey, and is being controlled in New York and Massachusetts. ALB has been reported in Clermont County. More information about ALB in Ohio can be found at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/2011/06/adult_detection_ALB.shtml. On Tuesday, June 19 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. the Ohio Asian Longhorned Beetle Cooperative Eradication Program will host an informational forum to provide current information on eradication activities and answer questions. The forum will be held at the Clermont County Fairgrounds in the OSU multi-purpose building, 1000 Locust Street, Owensville, Ohio.

Linda Mull

Nature TOTS!

I love summer! BUT, I will miss Nature TOTS which currently runs only three seasons, winter, spring and autumn. This program introduces young children, ages 6 months to 6 years, to nature in a hands-on, unstructured way which promotes curiosity and learning that, though hard to quantify, is phenomenal. And it is PHUN! Just ask a participant!



Winter TOTS had 7 adults and 12 tots with a total of 59 participant hours during one session on 5 Wednesdays.

Spring TOTS had 16 adults and 23 tots with a total of 129 participant hours during two sessions on 5 Wednesdays.

Autumn TOTS will begin on October 3, run for 5 consecutive Wednesdays and end on Halloween, October 31.



There will be a morning session from 10-11 and an afternoon session from 12:30-1:30. 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 2012 family membership or \$25 per family for the 5 week session. Registration begins in late August.

My heartfelt thanks to Rita, Susan, Gisele, Carolyn and Chris for your volunteer assistance with winter and spring Nature TOTS. And thanks to Christine and Zoe for the finale cupcakes!

Barb Reuss

Do You Want Your Little Ones Outside this Summer?

Some TOTS participants have expressed an interest in meeting during the summer for Nature TOTS. The board discussed the possibility and came up with the idea of a Nature TOT Reunion. If a "reunion" of previous TOTS participants appeals to you, please contact Nancy Clark, 424-0332 or Naturalist@bullsrn.org and express your interest. Nancy will be at Bull's Run at 10:30 a.m. on the third Thursdays of June, July and August to hostess the event. Keep in mind that summer, like winter, needs special preparations to be safe and comfortable while exploring nature. Sunscreen, hats, sunglasses, insect repellent and WATER are as necessary as mittens, coats and boots in January!

Barb Reuss & Nancy Clark

Spring Open House Rained Out



The spring open house scheduled for April 14 was cancelled due to the extremely wet weather that greeted the event planners. The shelter would not have held the wide variety of activities planned for the day, and few ventured out on the soggy day. Many thanks go out to the board members and MUM students who put time and effort into the many details that were involved in planning the event. Some of the educational displays were exhibited on MUM campus. Look for the Fall Family Fest in October and another Open House next spring.

Memberships and Memorials for 2012 received since the March Newsletter

Thank you to everyone who has supported Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum in 2012. As of June 1, 2012

Loren E. Ackerman

William and Debby Akers

Dr. Peter Ammentorp

Dr. Bruce Barnes

Richard Munson and Libby Birch

Alice Bradshaw

In loving memory of Jill Marie Taylor

Tim and Marcia Brown

Tom and Chris Buchert

Crissy Carpenter

Wilbur Cohen

Don and Judy Dixon

David and Mary Enochs

Katie Finney

Margaret Fiora

Gene and Jane Fisher

Heather Flack

Pam Garchow

Kelly Garrity

Bob and Mary Alice Gast

Dr. Greg and Dianne Gerber

Cindy and Scott Grau

Steve and Nannette Hess

Diane Hileman

In loving memory of George and Marie Rigas

Dr. Ray and Jean Anne Kiefhaber

Brad and Marjorie Kochunas

Lois LaFayette

Jim and Maria Langendorf

Katherine Lawson

Joe and Rosemary Lyons

David and Barbara Martin

Mary Lou McCormick

Ted and Marcia Miller

Kevin Mills

Charlene and Patrick Newman

Larry R. and Marsha Orcutt

Walter and Elizabeth Pague

Pamela Pearson

Bruce and Glenda Peters

In loving memory of Bandit

Gregory and Patty Pratt

John and Nadine Raiche

Melissa Reeves

Bernard and Bonnie Riesbeck, II

Ed and Ginger Seamon

Frances Sedge

Glen Shivers

Joan Shivers

Shovel and Hoe Garden Club

Gary and Jennifer Shupe

Suellyn Shupe

Charles M. Stone, Sr.

Nancy Strait

Casaundra Taylor

Julie Thomas

Heath E. Valentine

In loving memory of Mary Valentine

David and Susan Voyles

Ron and Joyce Williams

Sue H. Wright

Additional Contributions

Facilities/Bridges

Loren E. Ackerman

Tim and Marcia Brown

Scott and Cindy Grau

Dr. Ray and Jean Anne Kiefhaber

Casaundra Taylor

David and Susan Voyles

Undesignated

William and Debby Akers

Larry & Marsha Orcutt

Land

Libby Birch and Richard Munson

Barney and Bonnie Riesbeck

Education

Bruce and Glenda Peters



Arbor Day Walk

Joe Boggs and Cindy Meyer with the Ohio State University Extension office visited the arboretum April 27 for a diagnostic walk-through. Over 20 participants joined Joe and Cindy as they walked us through diagnosis on several plants. One of the memorial crab trees was diagnosed with a decline in its vascular system that became apparent as we studied the roots. That tree has since been removed. The lace bark pine inside the pedestrian entrance has decline similar to white pine decline. Due to its location near the trail, it is a safety hazard to visitors and will be

removed. The boxwoods have boxwood *psyllids*, which cause the tips to cup. No lasting damage is done to them. Some of our ash seedlings and saplings have "lion's tails". Joe diagnosed this effect as ash flower gall, caused by an *eriophyid* mite. This is cyclical, and the trees may not show the effect next year (assuming the emerald ash borer does not find them first). The invasive multi-flora roses have rose rosette disease. It is caused by a mite, and can be transmitted easily by contact with infected plants. Proper cleaning of tools using alcohol was emphasized to decrease spread of any diseases. Alcohol was recommended over bleach, since the 10% bleach solution commonly used loses its antibacterial effect after 10 minutes of being mixed. Thank you, Joe and Cindy, for an informative day!

Linda Mull

Arboretum in Distress

Sometime between 7 pm and 8 pm on May 29, vandals struck at Bull's Run. The thoughtless act of breaking down a young sweet gum tree is very disturbing. It is all the more heartbreaking since the tree was planted just last year in memory of a beloved pet that walked the trails for many years with his owner, a long-time supporter of Bull's Run. Later, another young tree was discovered along another trail, intentionally damaged in a similar manner, bent over until the trunk splintered. In a separate incident, trash cans and recycling bins have been marred by graffiti. All of these incidents have been reported to the Middletown Police Department by concerned board members. We, as a board, would much rather focus our efforts toward maintaining this natural area for the citizens of the greater Middletown area, rather than cleaning up after the undesirable acts of a few thoughtless individuals. Please join us in an effort to keep this unique resource family-friendly and safe. We would appreciate any information of damage to this city property reported to the police. Thank you.



Nancy Clark

Fourth Annual Prairie Plant Seminar and Tour

HOT! HOT! HOT! Don't miss this year's "Bulls Run Tall Grass Prairie" tour. See, smell and touch our prairie grasses and wildflowers. Local volunteers and "backyard naturalists", John Whittington and Cameron Everage will again lead our fourth annual prairie tour on Sunday, August 19, beginning at 2 PM. (John most recently co-presented our Winter Tree Identification Class.) Meet in the shelter for an entertaining Prairie Seminar, to be followed by a tour of the Bulls Run's Prairie. Cameron and John have visited many SW Ohio prairie sites and will share their observations. Bulls Run has an impressive collection of prairie plant species...right here...that you might otherwise have to travel to in order to see.



Learn a little, see a lot and have a fun afternoon at the prairie. Dress for the weather. In August, prairie weather is supposed to be HOT! A hat, sunglasses, insect repellent and a water bottle are good ideas. Cameras are welcome! Rain or shine, the tour goes on, but not in a storm. Join our "backyard naturalists" and learn a little nature at Bulls Run. Questions: call John or Cameron at 513-423-2081.

Recently on the WLW Ron Wilson radio show, "Buggy" Joe Boggs described Bull's Run as a "beautiful little park in Middletown." Come and take a look with us. *John Whittington*

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

- John Dupps for the donation and installation of three bluebird houses for the prairie.
- James Mays of Sunbelt Rentals for the bobcat arrangements to make trail mulching easier.
- Ernie Sturgill for his ideas and support.
- Rose and Ed Grau for receiving garage sale items and phone calls at all hours as well as cleaning up donations. Displaying everything as you would find it in a store. Writing and delivering the newspaper ad and putting up and taking down all the signs. Pleasantly greeting everyone both days of the sale, while having their yard looking immaculate!
- The 38 families who donated items for the Garage Sale!
- Gibbie Wise for her extraordinary efforts at rounding up Garage Sale goods.
- Thanks to Garage Sale workers: Ed and Rose Grau, Gibbie Wise, Kimberley Greenman, Gisele Matthiesen, Ron and Barb Conley, Debbie Grant, Betty Patterson, Marge Kochunas, Nancy Clark, Judy Dixon, DeAnna Shores, Linda Mull, Nathan Grant, and Krissy Reeves for helping to make the garage sale a huge success!
- Scott and Cindy Grau for their incredible confidence and support of Bull's Run.
- Miami University Bachelor of Integrated Studies students for their dedicated efforts.
- Bruce Peters for the new office paper cutter.
- Nature TOTS and land stewardship volunteers for time, effort and cheerfulness.
- Kohl's for their financial support as well as providing volunteers.
- Ted's Rental for the use of a brush cutter at no charge.
- The Stones: Guy, Chuck Sr. and Chuck Jr. for cutting the hazardous pipe out of the ground from the Fresh Air Camp days.
- Thanks for Arbor Day trees donated by Bruce Peters, Jennifer Chen and Donna Williams More.
- Wes Duren, of Marvin's Organic Gardens, for his consultation on erosion control.
- Thanks to Josh Liles at Apex Engineering for advice and guidance on the bridge design.
- Thanks to Jim Swisshelm, David Beck and Jennifer Chen for many volunteer hours dedicated to the bridges.
- Thank you to the Middletown Garden Club for caring for the entrance planter.
- To board members and neighbors who report damage to the natural and man-made resources at the arboretum.
- 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!

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming Events at Bull's Run

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

June 21 Thursday 10:30 am. **Nature TOTS Reunion.**

July 19 Thursday 10:30 am. **Nature TOTS Reunion.**

August 7 Tuesday 5-9 pm. Join us for **National Night Out** at Dowling Park (near Central Academy)
Visit our booth for a close-up look at nature

August 16 Thursday 10:30 am. **Nature TOTS Reunion.**

August 19 Sunday 2:00 **Fourth Annual Prairie Seminar & Tour**

September 15 Saturday 9:30 – 1 Work Day

September 29 Saturday 9:30 – 1 Work Day

October 3 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. 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: Nancy Clark, President; Debbie Grant, Secretary; Jerry Schunk, Treasurer; Katherine Lawson, Education; Jennifer Chen, Facilities; Nancy Clark, Newsletter; Linda Mull, Land Stewardship; DeAnna Shores, member-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, **please** fill out the enclosed form and let us know of your interest. THANK YOU!

Bridge Update: The engineering plans for the two new bridges will be finished this week, and we will enter the bidding process immediately. Over \$12,000 has been raised for the project through individual donations and the garage sale. The goal: new bridges by Annual Meeting!

Bull's Run Photo Gallery

