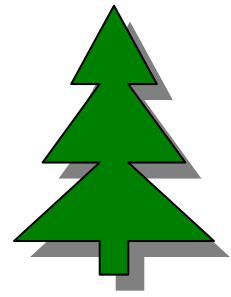




Bull's Run Winter Newsletter December, 2012

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.



THE YEAR IN REVIEW AT BULL'S RUN NATURE SANCTUARY AND ARBORETUM

Each year brings change to Bull's Run, both at the 11 plus acre site and within the Board of Directors that serve to manage and maintain this unique resource in Middletown, along with the help of numerous dedicated volunteers, both one-timers and faithful return workers. The site, like all of nature, is subject to the weather that blows our way here in southwest Ohio. 2012 started with a mild winter, a wet spring, a very hot and dry summer, a colorful autumn, and soon we will officially be in winter again.

This past January, Barb and volunteer John Whittington, conducted our first winter tree identification workshop. Next year's workshop is planned for Sunday, January 20 (see article on page 2). Winter Nature TOTS had loads of fun discovering there's plenty to see and do outside during what many consider nature's down time, but they learned there is still plenty to explore. We will be adding Saturday sessions to the winter Nature TOTS, beginning in January.

The Spring Open House planned for April 14, was totally rained out, much to the disappointment of the Miami Students who had put in many hours of planning. Spring Nature TOTS got to explore the seasonal changes and the creek, and those who returned for the reunions over the summer were a little disappointed that Bull's Run dried up to a few isolated pools during the hot weather.

The prairie endured its 4th summer, thanks to the mowing it got last fall and the wet spring, so while it may have seemed a little less colorful at the Prairie Walk in August, we noted a wide variety of plants, and efforts to cultivate this showcase are on-going, with the help of volunteers under the guidance of the naturalist, Barb Reuss.

We were again able to have an interactive display at National Night Out in August, letting more citizens know about this special resource within Middletown's city limits. We have seen a shift in the educational focus, as well. With fewer field trips, we now have preschoolers (Nature TOTS) and afterschool care groups visiting Bull's Run.

At the 2012 Annual Meeting held in October, we heard from Miami Bachelor of Integrated Studies (BIS) student, Cynthia McCall, about the results of water quality tests run on samples taken from Bull's Run. We also enjoyed colorful and captivating pictures photographed by John Dupps from his trip to Namibia and Botswana. The Fall Family Festival had perfect fall weather for the families who turned out to create memories with crafts, face painting, scavenger hunt, natural artifacts and snacks.



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

We, as a board, and as supporters of Bull's Run, have seen many changes since its creation. The forest that was open when I first saw it in 1981, was invaded by bush honeysuckle and is now falling prey to the Emerald Ash Borer. We are in the last phase of the EQIP grant, a 3-year plan to remove honeysuckle. The last push was completed by Terry Lavy at the end of October. **On November 30, Pat Migliosi, a representative from Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Forestry visited Bull's Run to check the progress on the honeysuckle removal. We are pleased to announce we have passed all 11 acres!!** Pat was full of compliments for Bull's Run and the work that we are doing. He said we have a beautiful park. Over the years, there have been numerous individuals who helped fight the battle. People who have since passed away, students who earned extra credit for Botany, young scouts, determined workday volunteers, master gardeners, the leadership of Jeff McMullen and Barb Reuss, and two previous naturalists, and people who have moved out of the area. The sweat, the mosquito bites, the poison ivy and the back aches! It is an amazing accomplishment, one we should be very proud of!

The memorial trees that were planted over 30 years ago are maturing, some have passed their peak and are declining, due to stress from competition. A few will need to be removed, for a variety of reasons. We are working (albeit slowly) toward creating a memorial reflection area between the parking lot and the gate, to create a new way to commemorate those who have cultivated the love of nature in each of us.

On top of all these plans, is our pressing concern with the safety of the visitors to the park, namely the trees along the trails that are succumbing to the Emerald Ash Borer. With somewhere in the neighborhood of 300 ash trees on the property, there are many in close proximity to the trails, so we will be working with the city to keep everyone safe.

Our other major concern is the bridges. We have had plans drawn up, have consulted several people, and have requested bids so we can submit proposals to receive grant monies to combine with the funds generously given by friends of Bull's Run. But, it is a very slow and frustrating process, so we are asking for your patience and continued support. We are exploring a few different designs that we hope will serve our needs and prove more financially feasible.



HEY, WINTER TREE NUTS! "LET'S GRAB SOME BUDS AND GET OUR BOTANY ON"

Bull's Run Winter Tree Id Class, January 20, 2013

Beginner or refresher, our entertaining second annual 3-hour workshop will give you the basics and some tricks to identify a dozen or more winter trees at Bull's Run. Your new skills will work in any woodland. All materials provided. Dress for the weather. Class is free to Bull's Run members; \$15 for non-members. More info & to register, call Barb Reuss 422-5063 or John Whittington 423-1300, preferably by Tuesday, 1-15-13, to allow us to have enough materials on hand.

Mark the date: **Sunday, January 20th from 1:30-4:30.** We will begin in the Little Hall at the Church of Ascension then travel to Bull's Run for field study.

Come laugh and learn with us!



Another Successful Session of NatureTOTS!

I copied this from 10/24/2012 Children and Nature Network. I think NatureTOTS hits the nail on the head!



"Renowned entomologist E.O. Wilson coined it "biophilia," which basically means that we are hard-wired in our DNA to connect with nature. Our job as adults is to facilitate that connection for every child, to open the way for possibilities to follow—awareness, active play, education, and responsible, caring behavior. We can make these experiences age appropriate, thoughtful, place-based, and relevant. And if as adults we've become disconnected from nature, this is our chance to become part of the story, too."



I had the pleasure of spending many hours in the beautiful autumn woods with excited, inquisitive tots and their supportive caregivers. Life is good! Volunteers Gisele, Carolyn, Jerry, Chris , Rita, Elaine and Coleen assisted with set-up and clean-up as well as guiding, supporting, encouraging and teaching both the tots and the adults. As always the creek was a big attraction. The boulder area gave us many opportunities to balance, climb and jump. The trees invited us to climb their branches and their roots to test our muscles and agility. Logs were flipped and small critters discovered. And the mulch pile, well, every child needs a mulch pile to run up, leap across, dig in and imagine as a nest!

Beginning January 12th and running for five weeks, we will offer both a Saturday and a Wednesday session of NatureTOTS from 12:30-1:30. Choose one or the other and come play in the woods with us! The program is free with a 2013 membership (a nice gift from Santa for a grandchild)! For information and to register contact Barb at 513-422-5063 or bjreuss@yahoo.com



Annual Bird Christmas Bird Count

Nancy Clark



The 2012 Christmas Bird Count will be held at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum on Saturday, December 22, beginning at 10 am (note the new time). New bird watchers are welcome to join seasoned birders as they hike the arboretum trails recording the winter visitors to the woods. The hike usually lasts an hour, sometimes a little longer, if the feathered friends and weather are cooperating. Expect to see the species commonly observed over the past thirty-plus years, the cardinals, chickadees, nuthatches, sparrows and woodpeckers. With quiet patience, you may be fortunate enough to glimpse a brown creeper or a yellow-bellied sapsucker that we spotted last year.. Dress for the weather, bring a bird identification book and binoculars, if you have them, but not required, and join us for a closer look at the birds at Bull's Run. We will post the results of the walk on the website and facebook page. We would enjoy comments on what you are seeing at your bird feeder this winter.



NATURE TOTS



**A FREE* 5 week program in Jan-Feb 2013
For Preschoolers (ages 6mth-6 yrs) & Caregivers**

Child-centered hands-on exploration!

On Wednesdays Jan 16, 23, 30 and Feb 6 & 13

Or Saturdays Jan 12, 19, 26, and Feb 2 & 9

(Reserved for parents who work on Wednesdays)

12:30p.m. to 1:30p.m

At Bulls Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum

3909 Rosedale Road in Middletown

Space is Limited - Reserve Now!!

Call Barb at 513-422-5063

or email Barb: naturalist@bullsrn.org

***with 2013 Bull's Run membership**



**BULL'S RUN
NATURE SANCTUARY
AND ARBORETUM**

National Night Out

On a hot August evening volunteers manned a booth at Dowling Park, sharing hands-on information about the world of nature and the love of the outdoors with countless children and their families. We also picked up some information we would like to share with you (see below). We were especially interested in the new rules concerning plastics. Did you know that if you live in Middletown, you can get a free recycle bin on wheels by requesting one with your water bill payment? There were also informational booths from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, local service groups and law enforcement groups. We invite you to join us this coming August for the next National Night Out at a city park to be announced later. See you there!

What You Can Recycle

PAPER



Office paper, junk mail,
folders



Magazines, catalogs
and telephone books



Newspaper, including inserts



Cardboard
(flattened to fit in your bin or cart)



Paperboard



Clean Pizza Boxes

PLASTICS



Bottles & jugs

NEW Plastic lids are now accepted. To ensure the lids are recycled, please squeeze air out of bottle and screw lid onto container.

GLASS



Bottles & jars

(any color: lids & caps removed)

METALS



Steel, tin, aerosol and aluminum cans

Unacceptable Materials:

- Medical sharps or syringes
- Window or drinking glass
- Plastics that are not bottles or jugs
- Coat hangers or scrap metal
- Plastic bags
- Styrofoam



(800) 582-3107 • 5535 Vine Street, Cincinnati, OH 45217 • www.rumpkerecycling.com

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum Contributions since June Newsletter

Memberships

Jeremy Andress and Sarah Tarbox
Bill and Jennifer Becker
Cherri Carpenter
Janet Collinsworth
Ron Conley
Ruby Elam
Margaret Fiora
Flores Amo Garden Club
Eric and Renae Fossum
Nancy Haney
Bill and Ellen Kukuk
Michael and Priscilla Lane
Allison Lindemann
Bernie and Debbie McGuire
Les and Phyllis Mills
Martha Oches
Mary Ophoff
Margaret Phillips
Neil and Elizabeth Richmond
Ruth S. Farrar Sauer
Glen and Joan Shivers
Janet Turber
Robert and Gibbie Wise

Memorials

Middletown Garden Club
*In loving memory of Kathy
Anness Lowe*
Jo-Annette Perry
*In loving memory of George,
Elaine and Gary Perry*
Bruce Peters
In loving memory of Bandit
Gene and Pat Saylor
*In loving memory of Dodee
Saylor*
Frances Sedge
*In loving memory of Theda
Cassidy's daughter, Linda*
Mary Lou Williams
*In loving memory of Joe, Jeanne,
and Shirley*

Education

Janet Turber
Robert and Gibbie Wise

Facilities

John Dupps

Honorariums

Middletown Garden Club
*In honor of Debbie Hazelbaker,
Suzi Vitori, Judy Schneider*
Fran H. Thomas
In honor of Linda Mull
Andrea Walsh
In honor of John Ruthven

Undesignated Contributions

Ron Conley
Margaret Fiora
Flores Amo Garden Club
Kohls Cares
Noah and Peggy Powers II
Ruth S. Farrar Sauer
Robert and Gibbie Wise

Bridge Support

Ruby Elam
Terri and Martin Mulhall
Ron and Joyce Williams
Robert and Gibbie Wise

These memberships were received between 6/1/2012 and 12/6/2012. 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.

Singing the Prairie Praises

Barb Reuss

I hope you had a chance to tour the prairie back in August with guides John Whittington and Cameron Everage. In the first summer after its first mowing, the prairie put on a show, thick with native forbs and a lot of Queen Anne's lace. Bees, butterflies and other colorful insects danced among the blossoms, adding their beauty and their music to this wonderful part of Bull's Run. This autumn volunteers worked hours removing the seed heads from unwanted European "weeds" in an effort to control their spread. We also collected the seed from desirable native plants. This winter, the native seed will be planted along the edges of the prairie



and in any bare spots, to help out compete the weeds. In October we were able to cut and treat with herbicide quite a bit of grapevine which had survived the initial clearing of the prairie and was overgrowing the brush piles. Brush piles provide important shelter and protection for birds, snakes and rabbits. During winter the tall grasses and flower stems bend under the weight of snow, providing additional protection for little critters that scurry through tunnels at ground level. While the prairie may not look as glorious now, it is still a very active habitat for wildlife. Awareness of that can add to your appreciation of this special landscape. Stop by and enjoy!

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

- ❖ Thanks to Cameron Everage and John Whittington for their help with wildflower labeling and prairie education and leading our fourth annual prairie seminar and tour in August with a record setting attendance!



- ❖ Thanks to Ernie Sturgill for driving the bobcat on workdays moving mulch onto the trails.
- ❖ Thanks to all the guides working with Nature Tots helping to build a bridge to the future where each child learns to love and understand the outside world.
- ❖ Thanks to Kohl's Associates in Action who have partnered with us sending volunteers to help with the facilities.
- ❖ Thanks to Sunshine Preschool at Breiel Church for access to their laminating equipment for the bulletin board displays at the entrance gate.
- ❖ Thanks to Katherine Lawson for creating the bulletin board displays monthly.
- ❖ Thanks to the numerous volunteers who brought craft supplies and food to our fall events!
- ❖ Thanks to Danbarry for popcorn for the Fall Family Fest!
- ❖ Thanks to John Dupps for a colorful and educational photographic presentation at our annual meeting.
- ❖ Thanks to the Miami University Middletown Botany Department and Dr. Carolyn Keiffer for providing Verity

Lodge for the annual meeting.

- ❖ Thanks to the Butler County Master Gardeners for their partnership. Education and volunteerism is flowing both ways!
- ❖ Thanks to Bruce Peters for watering and caring for two new trees this summer and keeping the park free of litter.
- ❖ Thanks to Bob Wise for refurbishing the bird feeders and also to Nathan Grant, Guy and Chuck Stone for installing them.
- ❖ Thanks to all the workday volunteers!
- ❖ Thanks to Richard Johnson for seedlings and labor to plant them.
- ❖ Thanks to those who shop at Kroger and have enrolled in their community rewards program, listing Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum – agency # 83005.
- ❖ Thanks to those who shop at Staples and say to put the Rewards toward Bull's Run 45044.
- ❖ Thanks to everyone who "likes" us on Facebook.
- ❖ 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!
- ❖ To everyone who made Bull's Run part of their 2012 giving and those who plan to contribute in 2013. We truly appreciate your support!

**2013 Membership and Donation form is included in this mailing.
Together we are making a difference!**

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming Events at Bull's Run

December

Sat. 22 Annual Christmas Bird Count 10-11 am

January

Sun. 20 Winter Tree Identification Class 1:30 - 4:30 pm begins at
Episcopal Church of Ascension

Sat. 12, 19, 26 Nature Tots 12:30 – 1:30 pm

Wed. 16, 23, 30 Nature Tots 12:30 – 1:30 pm

February

Sat. 2, 9 Nature Tots 12:30 – 1:30 pm

Wed. 6, 13 Nature Tots 12:30 – 1:30 pm



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

Bull's Run Photo Gallery



Photos clockwise from top left:
Fall Family Fest, father & son;
FFF, Bruce Peters & skulls;
FFF, Barb Conley & puppets;
Autumn Nature Tots, princess;
Nature Tots, new friends;
Nature Tots, hands-on fun.

Photos courtesy of Rita Robbins

