

Bull's Run Summer Newsletter

June, 2013



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.



Two Bridges are Being Reconstructed!

This spring Bull's Run received grants from both the Miriam G. Knoll Foundation and the Middletown Community Foundation to add to the funds the Arboretum has raised over the past 5 years to finally accept a bid to reconstruct 2 aging bridges along our trail system.



Work begins this week on removing two old bridges at the northeast corner of the red trail. Neal Excavating will be managing the project and should complete the work no later than mid-July.

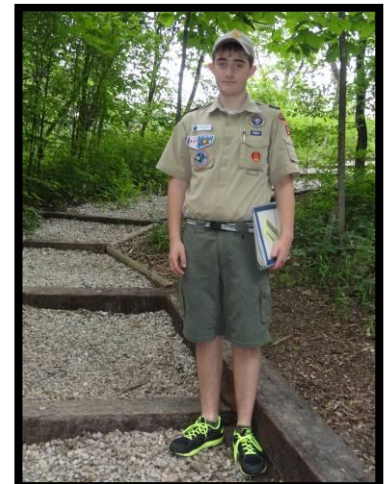


There are still more bridges that will need attention in the near future, so please consider donating to the bridge fund as the work continues.

Thank you for your support and patience.

Bull's Run Benefits from another Eagle Scout Project!

Casey Mooney of Boy Scout Troop 829 chose Bull's Run Arboretum as the site for his Eagle Project. He decided to tackle the steps up to the prairie, no small feat. Together with members of the troop, both youth and adults, Casey managed the project of removing the old steps and railroad ties, cutting newer donated RR ties, placing them for steps and filling in with gravel. The project took three days and many man-hours to complete.



Congratulations on a job well done!

Watch for a new event in September – Treasures in the Trees

We have already contacted vendors from such companies as Origami Owl, Scentsy, Tastefully Simple and Thirty-One Gifts and several home-crafters and bakers who will participate in a direct sale event at the shelter. Join us on Saturday, September 21 between 2 and 4 pm for some fun.

Color your Garden with Butterflies

As a kid I would find a caterpillar, put it in a jar, and give it a leaf to eat. But caterpillars, which later turn into butterflies and moths, are very picky eaters! Each variety of caterpillars likes specific plants called “host plants.” The adult butterfly will seek out these plants to deposit her eggs on, so that the newly hatched caterpillar can feast properly. Adults can sense where these plants are through receptors in their feet.

Plant dill, parsley, or fennel to attract the Eastern Black Swallowtail butterflies. Hollyhocks are the host plant for Painted Ladies. Try some Pipevine for the Pipevine Swallowtail.

I like to include milkweed for my favorite, the Monarch butterfly. Plants in the milkweed family are the only plant the Monarch will lay her eggs on. The toxic “milk” inside the leaf the caterpillar eats makes him taste bad. So birds, after tasting their first monarch caterpillar, won’t eat another.

The experience of seeing a caterpillar turn into a butterfly is an amazing one! When I find the young monarch caterpillar or even the egg, I cut off the milkweed, put it in a vase of water and place it inside a covered aquarium. This will protect the little guy from spiders, parasitic flies and wasps, or that bird having his first taste!

During the approximate 10 days of eating, the caterpillar goes through five moltings, where his skin gets too tight and he has to crawl out of it. When the caterpillar becomes fully grown, it wanders off the plant, frantically looking for a good place to hang out. Sometimes it will settle on the aquarium screen and other times it returns to the plant to hang under a leaf.



A strange spider-web-like material comes out of the back of the caterpillar attaching it to a small chosen area. The caterpillar then looks back and lets go, hanging down in the shape of a “J.” The tiny stem where it is attached, at the top of the “J,” is called the cremaster.

beautiful shiny golden dots.

We must patiently wait 10 more days for the butterfly but we are given a clue! On the day of emergence, the outer shell of the chrysalis is clear, with the black and orange butterfly showing through. Cracking through the thin outer shell pops the adult Monarch butterfly! At first, the body is very fat and the wings are small and crinkled. The butterfly must hang freely from the empty clear shell of the chrysalis, pumping the fluid from the newly emerged swollen body into the wings. This takes about half an hour, and then the full size adult must hang and dry.

When the butterfly is completely dry, it will explore around the bottom of the aquarium. You can pick up the monarch by pinching the top of the closed wings. Monarchs are most resilient! Culminating all of your efforts, it is very thrilling to see their first flight! The Monarchs that emerge in Ohio in late summer will migrate to Mexico. If all goes well on their journey, they may live 8 or 9 months.



Bull's Run Arboretum Amur Honeysuckle Eradication

This past winter Linda Mull submitted the following article to Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener for volunteer and service award and Bull's Run was recognized in Butler County as the Master Gardener Project of the Year!

Invasive *amur* honeysuckle has overrun Bull's Run for over 15 years. Due to the receipt of a Natural Resources Conservation Services EQIP grant obtained by Master Gardeners, a concentrated effort has been made to remove honeysuckle from the eleven-acre arboretum over the past three years. This work was all done by hand, either by pulling young honeysuckle or cutting down and daubing the stump. Last fall the densest three acres were addressed. Over an acre of honeysuckle was cut down, stumps were treated, volunteers hauled the brush uphill to be removed, and the remaining two acres of honeysuckle were treated with a foliar spray. This massive undertaking would not have been possible without the help of volunteers over the years, including Butler County Master Gardeners who have cleared honeysuckle, hauled brush, and transplanted native wildflowers into cleared areas, the EQIP grant which paid for labor and materials, and Terry Lavy, who provided his expertise in eradication.



For years volunteers have come into Bull's Run, including scout troops, garden clubs, botany students from Miami University, and local school groups. All have been taught about the need for diversity and the negative impact that invasive honeysuckle has had on the Arboretum. Neighbors whose property abuts the Arboretum have been contacted and educated about the invasive nature of honeysuckle. Walk throughs with community members and displays at National Night Out and other community events have also been used to educate the community at large. Before the final eradication effort this past fall, every neighbor whose property touched the Arboretum was hand delivered material about

the project and was offered the opportunity to have any honeysuckle on their property near our fence line treated with the foliar spray at no cost.

Since the three-acre area was too dense to be hand treated, the Bull's Run Board initiated a search for assistance. Terry Lavy, The Conservationist, offered the best plan, proposing a least invasive program of removing and treating the stumps of honeysuckle in the high visibility areas and using a foliar spray to kill the remaining honeysuckle. This would still provide cover for smaller trees and shrubs that are struggling to emerge and would give us an opportunity to replant the area gradually while preventing other invasives from overrunning the acreage. Terry cut and treated, and a volunteer cadre hauled massive amounts of honeysuckle uphill so city workers could remove it from the Arboretum. Paths had to be created through some of the densest honeysuckle, and grape vine that had overgrown the honeysuckle was cut so it would wither. Special care was taken to ensure that the desirable trees in the area had already gone dormant before the foliar spray was applied. As native trees dropped their seeds last fall, a tremendous effort was made to gather them and distribute them into the recently treated area. The nursery area at the Arboretum has been gradually expanded, and small seedlings and understory shrubs have been started in it. They will be transplanted as they mature. Master Gardeners have been instrumental in all aspects, including replanting and transplanting. These volunteer hours have also counted towards Middletown's Tree City Award.

The honeysuckle removal positively impacts the Arboretum and the community in several ways. People who have not been in the Arboretum in the past few years notice immediately, commenting that things are "opened up." The understory of the Arboretum is healthier. Native plants have an opportunity to survive as the invasive monoculture is eliminated. The Arboretum is safer for community members as they are able to see through the Arboretum when they come to visit. The native wildflowers that have been transplanted into the Arboretum are better showcased. With an emphasis in responsible land stewardship in the Arboretum, hopefully community members will begin to see the benefits of native planting as opposed to encouraging invasives on their own properties.

Over the past three years, many people have been responsible for the efforts in honeysuckle removal. Community volunteers, scout troops, school groups, botany students from Miami University, naturalist Barb Reuss, former land steward Jeff McMullen, Master Gardeners, and Terry Lavy have all collaborated in the ongoing efforts to achieve this massive undertaking. Efforts continue to remove the small patches of honeysuckle that remain and to eradicate regrowth from honeysuckle that still stands on some neighbors' properties. Without the EQIP grant, we would not have been able to pay for Terry's service and chemicals.



Through continued work days, educational Nature TOTS program, wildflower walks, tree identification classes, club visits, and Master Gardener diagnostic programs such as we hosted last year, we hope to continue to educate the community regarding the importance of removing invasive plants from Bull's Run Arboretum and Armbruster Nature preserve in the future as our non-profit budget allows.

Linda Mull

Congratulations to Bull's Run and THANK YOU to everyone who made this project a success!

Fifth 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 volunteer and "backyard naturalist", John Whittington will again lead our fifth annual prairie tour on Sunday, August 18, beginning at 2 PM. (John most recently co-presented our second Winter Tree Identification Class.) Meet in the shelter for an entertaining Prairie Seminar, to be followed by a tour of the Bull's Run Prairie. Cameron and John have visited many SW Ohio prairie sites and will share their observations. Bull's 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 at 513-423-2081.

John Whittington

Memberships and Memorials for 2013 received since the March Newsletter

Thank you to everyone who has supported Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum in 2013. As of June 11, 2013

Loren E. Ackerman	Debbie McGuire <i>In loving memory of Andy and Marian Kopp and Ed Simpkins</i>
Jan and Laird Becker	
W. Joyce and Gerald L. Bradley	Ted and Marcia Miller
Alice Bradshaw <i>In loving memory of Jill Marie Taylor</i>	Middletown Garden Club <i>In loving memory of June Haller</i>
Wilbur and Miriam Cohen	Richard and Virginia Palmer
Corbett Cox	Kenton Pate
Joe and Carolyn DiStaola	Pamela Pearson
Bernard and Glenna Fisher <i>In loving memory of Jacob Beachy</i>	Bruce and Glenda Peters <i>In loving memory of Bandit</i>
Gene and Jane Fisher	Thomas and Angela Retzios <i>In loving memory of Lazaros</i>
Tom Fye	Mark and Colleen Richards
Gary and Lynn Getter	Neil and Betty Richmond
Scott and Cindy Grau <i>In loving memory of Virginia Christy</i>	Frances Sedge
Richard Haller <i>In loving memory of June Haller</i>	Dorothy Sherron
Mary Hensel <i>In honor of Barb Reuss</i>	Glen and Joan Shivers
LaVerne Hopper <i>In loving memory of Dick Hopper</i>	Gary and Jennifer Shupe
Katherine Lawson	Nancy Strait
Steve and Rose Longworth	Heath E. Valentine <i>In loving memory of Mary Valentine</i>
David and Barbara Martin	Mary Lou Williams
	Steve and Lisa Wilson
	Wilson Schramm Spaulding

Additional Contributions

Facilities/Bridges

Loren E. Ackerman
Debbie McGuire
Mary Lou Williams

Education

Bruce and Glenda Peters

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.



Another Great Garage Sale!

What do you get when you mix fantastic volunteers, a great crowd (despite the wet weather), antiques, plants, books, linen, prints, household items and bicycles? An excellent way to make new friends and some funds to support Bull's Run Arboretum. 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 nearly \$2500!

"Wow, what a garage sale!" Thank you to the Graus for their longtime confidence and generous support and to all

the participants, donors, buyers and volunteers!

Kroger Community Rewards

You can help Bull's Run by enrolling in Kroger's Community Rewards program at www.kroger.com/community/Pages/community_rewards.aspx. Please type in Bull's Run or our organization # 83005. This will not affect your fuel rewards. If you enrolled prior to April, please renew on-line today for the current annual cycle that began May 1. Your participation is making a difference and Bull's Run is receiving checks quarterly from this program. Thank you.

Nature Tots

Spring Nature Tots explored the arboretum as it woke up from a long winter nap. The early sessions turned out to be warmer than some of the later sessions, and enjoyed all the more.

For those families that have participated in Nature Tots throughout the past years, please join me for a reunion once a month during the summer to see the changes the season brings. Bug repellent and water bottles are strongly recommended. (See Calendar of Events on pg. 8)

Nancy Clark

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

- James Mays of Sunbelt Rentals for the bobcat arrangements to make trail mulching easier.
- Ernie Sturgill for his ideas, support and re-siding the shed.
- Rose and Ed Grau for hosting the garage sale, our biggest fundraiser event, 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!
- Everyone who donated items for the Garage Sale!
- All of the Garage Sale workers and helping to make the garage sale a huge success!
- Bob and Gibby Wise, Marge Kochunas, Barb Reuss and Ann Stoutenborough for plants for our garage sale
- Jeff McMullen of Denny Lumber for providing a large tent for our plant sale.
- Miami University Bachelor of Integrated Studies students for their dedicated efforts.
- Nature TOTS and land stewardship volunteers for time, effort and cheerfulness.
- Jennifer Chen for many volunteer hours dedicated to writing the grants for the bridges.
- The Middletown Garden Club for caring for the entrance planter.
- Board members, neighbors and visitors 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 20 Thursday 10:30 am. **Nature TOTS Reunion.**

July 18 Thursday 10:30 am. **Nature TOTS Reunion.**

August 6 Tuesday 5-9 pm. Join us for **National Night Out** at Sunset Park

Visit our booth for a close-up look at nature

August 15 Thursday 10:30 am. **Nature TOTS Reunion.**

August 18 Sunday 2:00 – 3:00 pm **Fifth Annual Prairie Seminar & Tour**

September 14 Saturday 9:30 am – 1pm Work Day

September 21 Saturday 2-4 pm **Treasures in the Trees** – A wide variety of direct sale vendors will have their wares, homemade crafts and food items for sale at the shelter

September 28 Saturday 9:30 am – 1pm Work Day

October 2 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**. 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!

Bull's Run Photo Gallery



Work Day Volunteers



Seedling Nursery



Fringe Tree



Spring Nature TOTS



Eagle Scout Project