



Bull's Run Newsletter Spring, 2014

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum

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.



Time Marches On

Profound, eh? The time has come when I bid adieu as your Naturalist of the gem of a park, Bull's Run. It has been more than ten years since I blurted out at a Board meeting, where I was a visitor, "Oh my gosh, I'll train your guides!" Yes, that is how I so gracefully took on the job as Bull's Run Naturalist! Now it is time for me to move on to new adventures. If not now, when?

I have loved the land of Bull's Run and translated that emotion into the actions of stewardship and education. Together with a cadre of volunteers, we have fought the good fight with invasive honeysuckle removal. That battle is not over; invasive species, like gravity and rust, never sleep. Please help continue that battle. We have planted thousands of native plants including trees, shrubs, flowers and, my favorite, the prairie. Please help continue the planting. We have given programs, led fieldtrips, worked hard at Amanda Elementary, mentored MUM students, and five years ago began Nature TOTS, in an effort to educate all ages of people within the greater Middletown community about nature, sustainable living, ecology and caring for the Earth. Please continue to support those education efforts.



The park needs your love. Please give it.

I thank the loyal people who have served on the Board of Directors; the students whom I hope learned facts, skills, environmental appreciation and values; the gardeners and other tree huggers who sweated, laughed and learned with me in the woods and prairie; and the network of delightful resource people who have given so generously of their time, advice, skills and, well, material goods like, food, keys, paint, photos, bobcat, chainsaw, seeds and plants. Along with the fond memories, I will cherish a dose of your inspiration and dedication. Thank you.

The Search Begins

As you have just read, the Arboretum is currently looking for a new naturalist to fill the void Barb's decision has left. We wish her every success as she begins a new chapter. It is our desire to have someone in place by mid-April, so that Barb can pass at least some of her accumulated knowledge on to her successor.

Toward that end, the BRNSA Board of Directors is accepting applications for the part-time position of Naturalist at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum. The current responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- environmental education- programs for all ages, throughout the four seasons
- land stewardship-coordinating trail maintenance, managing invasive species removal, and propagating native plantings
- administration-organizing work days, field trips, public nature programs, training sessions

Please visit our web-site, www.bullsrn.org, for a complete job description and application. We will be accepting applications through April 7.

RUMBLINGS from the NATURALIST

Last night I watched the documentary “A Fierce Green Fire, the Battle for a Living Planet”. I would highly recommend everyone who suspects the world has environmental problems see it and confirm your suspicions; I would recommend everyone who thinks environmental problems are the imaginations of hippie tree huggers to see it and consider the science and statistics.

Sometimes I am overwhelmed by the issues. I feel powerless and swept along with the cultural tide of overconsumption. Catchy phrases stick in my head and haunt me: “Be the change you want to see.” “A different world cannot be made by indifferent people.” I can’t save the world, but I can and YOU can make small changes that add up to big shifts; and it doesn’t have to be painful.

I didn’t buy the DVD; I didn’t rent the DVD; I borrowed it free from the Public Library.

I also picked up a DVD about growing enough vegetables for a family of four (yeah, I do have an issue with portion control!) and I want to learn to grow and “put up” food. Organic, toxin free food that isn’t shipped thousands of miles and is grown with our home generated compost. (Read “The Omnivore’s Dilemma” or “Animal, Vegetable, Miracle”).

Are you concerned with health care cost? Why not do the BEST you can to get healthy and stay healthy? Pick up almost any women’s magazine, check the “self help” selections at the library, search on line; there are vast resources to help each of us be our best.

Take a discerning look at your needs and wants. I think the truth is, needs are pretty basic and relatively simple; it is the “wants” which masquerade as “needs” that can cause the enormous environmental degradation. I don’t know of a person on earth who doesn’t need clean air, clean water and carcinogen free food. But I know lots of people who fight against safeguarding those necessities. Such encounters often fuel a lively discussion about personal rights, corporate profits and dysfunctional politics. I still argue for the environment. After all, it supports all humans regardless of race, creed or financial accounts. A healthy environment even supports non-human life! Go figure!

So, there is my rumble. Each of us can do better by the earth. Why not start today. Remember, if you are headed in the wrong direction, continuing is not the solution.

Ways to Join the Battle for our Living Earth

The Bull’s Run calendar of events is posted on our website, www.bullsrn.org. Check our Facebook page for announcements as well.

Please support the global celebration of Earth Hour on March 29, sponsored by the World Wildlife Foundation. Turn off your lights for one hour, from 8:30-9:30PM along with millions of people worldwide. For more information, go to www.earthhour.org.



This year’s Keep Middletown Beautiful Earth Day event will focus on education, cleaning up Middletown parks, and celebrating the beautiful downtown campus of Cincinnati State. The festival will feature exhibits, activities and a campus tour introducing the public to Middletown’s newest campus. Bull’s Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum will be one of the environmental organizations there to answer questions and offer fun and exciting hands-on activities for all ages. Bull’s Run will also be one of the clean-up sites around town where you can volunteer.

To participate, contact Jeff Michel at 513-425-7750 or visit [the Middletown Earth Day Festival page at www.keepmiddletownbeautiful.com](http://www.keepmiddletownbeautiful.com).

**Clear your clutter
and support the park!**

DONATE to the GARAGE SALE NOW!



Our main fundraiser supports many park improvements!

ITEMS TO CONSIDER DONATING: Small kitchen appliances, dishes, bed linen, towels, bikes, sporting items, tools, buttons, fabric, purses, jewelry, shoes, children's clothing, games, toys, books, pictures, gardening items, and potted plants.
NO ADULT CLOTHING PLEASE.

This sale will take place

FRIDAY and SATURDAY

May 9th and 10th from 8:00am to 4:00pm

4312 Walton Court Middletown, OH 45042

(Located close to Bull's Run off Curryer Rd.)

TO DROP OFF ITEMS OR TO VOLUNTEER WITH PRICING AND SALES

Call Rose Grau at 424-1969 or Debbie Grant 425-7250

Guided Nature Walks at Two Locations.

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary on Rosedale Road and Armbruster Nature Preserve on Autumn Dr., as well as other natural areas around Butler County, will offer a wide variety of wildflowers that bloom in April and May. Guided tours every few weeks at Bull's Run will showcase over twenty different spring wildflowers as they emerge, bloom, go to seed, and then wither away to make way for summer annual wildflowers. Come see the colorful array that blanket the forest floor for a brief time each year to use the most of the spring sun before leaves reach their full potential and shade the ground. See the calendar on page 8 for days and times.

NATURE TOTS

At Bulls Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum

A FREE* 5 week program in April 2014

*with \$25 2014 Bull's Run Family Membership

For Preschoolers (ages 6mth-6 yrs) & Caregivers

Child-centered hands-on Nature exploration!

Wednesdays April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

Two sessions: 10:00a.m.-11:00a.m. or 12:30p.m. - 1:30p.m.

Space is Limited Call Barb at 513-422-5063 or naturalist@bullsrn.org



BULL'S RUN
NATURE SANCTUARY
AND ARBORETUM



Spring Nature TOTS

We are looking forward to Spring Nature TOTS! This past winter was a challenge for our little ones and big ones alike. Cold and windy weather kept us from beginning TOTS in January. But unlike the last two winters when we did not have snow during TOTS, this February the tots got to build with snow, make snow angels and slide on their bottoms or bellies. We made tracks, followed tracks, fed the birds, looked at tree buds, studied liquid and solid water, climbed on logs and boulders and played hide-and-seek in the prairie; and then we drank hot chocolate! Winter Nature TOTS was wonderful!

Now we are all looking forward to warmer weather and the first signs of greenery and flowers in the woods. Spring Nature TOTS will meet on Wednesdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30th. If there is enough interest, we will open a morning session from 10-11 and an afternoon session from 12:30-1:30. Pick the time that fits your schedule and come explore Bull's Run from the perspective of a pre-schooler. Call Barb at 513-422-5063 for more information and to register. See you in the woods!

2014 Memberships and Donations—December 12, 2013 - March 3, 2014

Memberships:

Loren E. Ackerman
David Adams
Douglas Bean
Kathleen Bender
Chuck and Betty Bost
W. Joyce and Gerald Bradley
Ric and Cheryl Brewer
Carl and Shirley Butts
Cherri Carpenter
Daryl and Nancy Clark
Wilbur Cohen
Larry and Carol Colclasure
Ron and Barbara Conley
Richard Davies
Joe and Carolyn DiStaola
Don and Judy Dixon
John and Pat Dupps
Don and Betty Elsworth
Chris and Linda Fiora
Gene Fisher
David and Jayne Floering
Thomas Fye
Bob and Mary Alice Gast
Ann Geddes
Cissi Glickfield
Jane Gold
Forest and Debbie Grant
Stephen and Nan Hess

Jane Hobbs
Laverne Hopper
Maryann Howard
Leonard Kahny
Lois LaFayette
Herb Landmann
Dorothy Lawson
Bill Lindauer
Steve and Rose Longworth
Robert Lorenzen
Joseph Lyons
Heinz and Gisela Matthiesen
Bernie and Debbie McGuire
Jeff McMullen
Michael and Katie McNeil
Middletown Garden Club
Pete and JoAnn Moroz
Terri Mulhall
Linda and Larry Mull
Julie Nickell
Katie Nuck
Martha Oches
Richard and Virginia Palmer
Kenton Pate
Tonya Patt
Pamela Pearson
Bruce and Glenda Peters
Mike and Marge Perkins
Greg and Patty Pratt

Josh and Melissa Proffitt
John and Nadine Raiche
Robert and Judy Reuss
Barney and Bonnie Riesbeck
Thomas Ritter
Julianne Rudisell
Jim and Lynette Schluter
Jerry and Barbara Schunk
Edward and Ginger Seamon
J. C. and Anita Shew
Glen and Joan Shivers
Gregory and Jeanne Siewny
Eric and Susan Sotzing
Nancy Strait
Ernest Sturgill
Julie Thomas
Charles Turner
John Whittington and Beth
Everage
Mary Lou Williams
Ron and Joyce Williams
Thomas and Sharon Williamson
Miranda Wilson
Steve and Lisa Wilson
Wilson-Schramm-Spaulding
Funeral Home
Bob and Gibbie Wise

HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

Memorials:

*In loving memory of Darlene
Thompson:*

Lorene E. Ackerman

*In loving memory of Joseph
Thomas:*

Chris and Linda Fiora
Robert F. Lorenzen
Greg and Patty Pratt

In loving memory of Peter

Schiller:

Heinz and Gisela Matthiesen

Honorariums:

*In honor of Jeff McMullen
and Barb Reuss:*

Douglas Bean
Julie Nickell

In honor of Debbie

Hazelbaker:

Middletown Garden Club

*In honor of Mrs. Avinne
Kiser:*

Middletown Garden Club

*In honor of Mrs. Mary
Deas Wortley:*

Middletown Garden Club

Additional Contributions:

Larry and Carol Colclasure
Ron and Barbara Conley
John and Pat Dupps
Bob and Mary Alice Gast
Ann Geddes
Bernie and Debbie McGuire
Pete and JoAnn Moroz

Mike and Marge Perkins
John and Nadine Raiche
Robert and Judy Reuss
Barney and Bonnie Riesbeck
Jerry and Barbara Schunk
J. C. and Anita Shew
Glen and Joan Shivers

Charles Turner
Mary Lou Williams
Steve and Lisa Wilson
Wilson-Schramm-Spaulding
Funeral Home
Bob and Gibbie Wise

Additional Contributions (continued):

Education:

Forest and Debbie Grant
Bruce and Glenda Peters
Jim and Lynette Schluter

Land Stewardship:

Forest and Debbie Grant
Jeff McMullen

Facilities/Bridges:

Forest and Debbie Grant
Jim and Lynette Schluter
Ron and Joyce Williams

In Kind Donations and Services

Greg Martin

THANK YOU!



- Thanks to Bob Wise for refurbishing all the feeder stations.
- Thanks to our faithful feeder fillers: Corbett Cox, Melissa Proffitt, Debbie Grant and Brad and Marge Kochunas.
- Thanks to John Whittington and Tom Hissong for helping to lead the Winter Tree ID class with Barb.
- Thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who helped to greet people at Light Up Middletown. We made \$660 for our efforts.
- Thanks to Ed and Rose Grau for hosting our fourth garage sale on May 9 and 10.
- Thanks to Nikki Slivinski and Rita Robbins for assisting with the Nature Tots program and and Eric Haas for photographing sessions.
- Thanks to Aaron Grant for managing and updating our website www.bullsrn.org.
- Thanks to Debbie Grant for managing our Facebook site. "Like" us on Facebook!
- Thanks to everyone who shops at Staples or returns used cartridges and says, "Put it on the Bull's Run Rewards at Bulls Run 45044".
- Thanks to everyone who has linked their Kroger Plus card to our Community Rewards # 83005.
- Thanks to the Episcopal Church of Ascension for allowing us the use of their building.
- Thanks to all who visit the park and keep the litter picked up.
- Thanks for your 2014 membership and additional contributions allowing us to move forward with the mission of Bull's Run. PayPal is now available on our website.

Sustainability Discussion Group

By Marjorie Kochunas

A committed group of Bull's Run and the American Association of University Women members have been meeting to discuss what it means to lead a sustainable life. The group is following a program and syllabus developed by the *Northwest Earth Institute*. The group meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at Midpointe Library, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

They are learning how such things as carbon production, energy demand, water usage, waste, consumerism and more, impact ecological systems. There have been thoughtful and engaging discussions on topics such as environmental crises, sustainable communities, food production and consumption. Individual and community solutions were discussed. There are many simple lifestyle changes we can all make as part of a sustainable lifestyle. Spring is upon us, consider starting a vegetable garden, planting (or saving) a tree, installing a rain barrel, or riding your bike instead of driving for quick errands.

Visit the website www.nwei.org for more information on their many programs and consider ordering their book. We are all in this together!

Spring Work Days March 29, April 26, and May 17 and 24!

Hey Ho, it's off to work we go! Spring is the time that the land of Bull's Run needs our attention. After a long winter, we will resume Saturday workdays and weekday Workers of the Woods (WOW). Public workdays began on March 15th in delightfully warm weather. Additional workdays are scheduled for March 29, April 26, and May 17 and 24. We meet in the shelter at 9:30AM and work until 1PM. The chores we will do include trail mulching, invasive plant removal, planting native species, tidying up the shelter and the grounds, weeding and caring for our nursery area. WOW is a rather spontaneous gathering, as schedules permit. If you would like to get on the workday or WOW email list, let me know at naturalist@bullsrn.org. That way you will receive a reminder and also cancellation notice if the weather is a problem on a particular day. Bring work gloves, elbow grease and a big smile! We will have light refreshments during break-time.

April 12 is a special Earth Day celebration in conjunction with Keep Middletown Beautiful. We will be working at Bull's Run from 9AM until noon on that day. Check out the full schedule of KMB Earth Day events at www.keepmiddletownbeautiful.com Come celebrate the Earth with us!

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT BULL'S RUN

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 are already enrolled, please remember to renew on-line in April for the next annual cycle that begins May 1.

Shopping at Staples

While you are there, consider donating your Staples Rewards monies to Bull's Run! They have made it very easy. Just tell them you want your Rewards to go to "Bull's Run – Zip 45044", and the Bull's Run Board will be able to save money on paper, ink cartridges and much more! And THAT will mean we can use a larger percentage of our funds for education and stewardship! Every ink cartridge recycled with Rewards earns us \$2. THANKS FOR CONSIDERING THIS!

Endowment Fund

Please consider making a contribution to Bull's Run Arboretum's Endowment Fund on your donation form or in your estate planning. The fund is managed by the Middletown Community Foundation. We are building a foundation for the future by continuing to add to the generous donations already made.

ENG 413 PARTNERSHIP WITH MUM

During this semester, we are fortunate to have a student, Debbie Dunfee, from the Miami University Middletown collaborating with us. English 413, taught by Dr. Marianne Cotugno, pairs students with area organizations seriously interested in seeking foundation grant monies. Bull's Run has three projects that have been proposed for the students to consider: the last two small bridges on the trail system, repairs to the aging shelter, and drainage issues from the parking area down to the shelter. Any grant funds received from their efforts will be combined with members' contributions to make these projects a reality.

Spring Calendar of Upcoming Events

March

29 Work Day 9:30-1:00 Volunteers needed to help with mulching the trails and plant care.

April

1 Begin collecting for Garage Sale call Rose Grau 513-424-1969 to arrange dropping off your items.

2 Spring Nature Tots Begin (five Wednesdays, morning and afternoon sessions) Outdoor exploration for parents and young children.

9 Spring Nature Tots Call Barb at 422-5063.

12 Earth Day Festivities at CSU 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

12 Work Day 9:30-1:00 Volunteers needed to help with mulching the trails and plant care.

13 Interpretive Nature Walk 2:00-3:00 p.m. Bull's Run

16 Spring Nature Tots

23 Spring Nature Tots

26 Work Day 9:30-1:00 Volunteers needed to help with mulching the trails and plant care.

27 Interpretive Nature Walk 2:00-3:00 p.m. Bull's Run

Explore the beautiful spring wildflowers and birds at Bull's Run with Nancy.

27 Interpretive Nature Walk 4:00-5:00 p.m. Off-site at Armbruster Nature Preserve

Join the naturalist for a look at this extraordinary display of spring wildflowers. Turn off Manchester Rd onto Autumn Dr. and park near the water tower.

30 Spring Nature Tots

May

4 Interpretive Nature Wildflower Walk 2:00-3:00 Bull's Run.

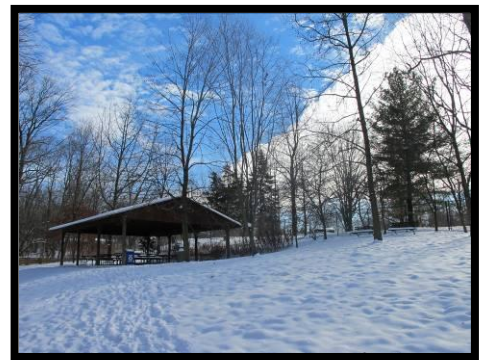
9 and 10 Garage Sale 8:00-4:00 off-site at 4312 Walton Ct.

11 Interpretive Nature Walk 2:00-3:00 Bull's Run. Join Nancy for a look at spring wildflowers and birds.

17 Work Day 9:30-1:00 Volunteers needed to help with mulching the trails and plant care.



Bull's Run Photo Gallery



Winter is over and
Spring is on the way!

