



Bull's Run Newsletter

Spring, 2015

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.



Spring is coming to Bull's Run

It seemed like winter would never end, but March 20th marked the spring equinox, the official beginning of spring. Activities at Bull's Run will increase as the days continue to lengthen. Throughout spring we will host land stewardship workdays and nature walks, highlighting spring wildflowers, flowering trees, and birds as we find them.

Work days are open to the public and any interested group or organization, and anyone is welcome to join in any time between 9:30 am and 1pm. The remaining dates include April 18, 25 and May 16 and 23.

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

Please consider attending the Keep Middletown Beautiful Earth Day Festival on April 18, 8AM-5PM. More information can be found on page 5. Check out their website at www.keepmiddletownbeautiful.com to see how you can get involved!



Spring Migration

To many of us, spring is a time of awakening when the cold of winter finally starts getting shrugged off to make room for the warmth which accompanies new growth in the natural world. For birders, it is the exciting time when we can focus our binoculars on the returning migratory spring birds! From songbirds to shorebirds and even some waterfowl, about 200 species of neotropical migratory birds annually make this incredible trip that spans continents. Final destination nesting grounds for these birds vary widely throughout the United States and north into Canada, but all require stopover sites where they may rest and refuel for the next leg of their trip. Many of the migratory birds witnessed in Ohio are doing just that; fueling up to continue farther north. Dozens of birds found nesting or resting in Ohio have traveled over 1,500 miles from Central America where they spend their winters in countries like Belize. Many bird populations migrate long distances along a flyway, narrow belts of migration that are established as traditional routes. The most common pattern involves flying north in the spring to breed in the temperate or Arctic summer and returning in the fall to wintering grounds in warmer regions to the south. These routes typically follow mountain ranges or coastlines, and may take advantage of updrafts and other wind patterns or avoid geographical barriers such as large stretches of open water. The specific routes may be genetically programmed or learned to varying degrees. The routes taken on forward and return migration are often different.

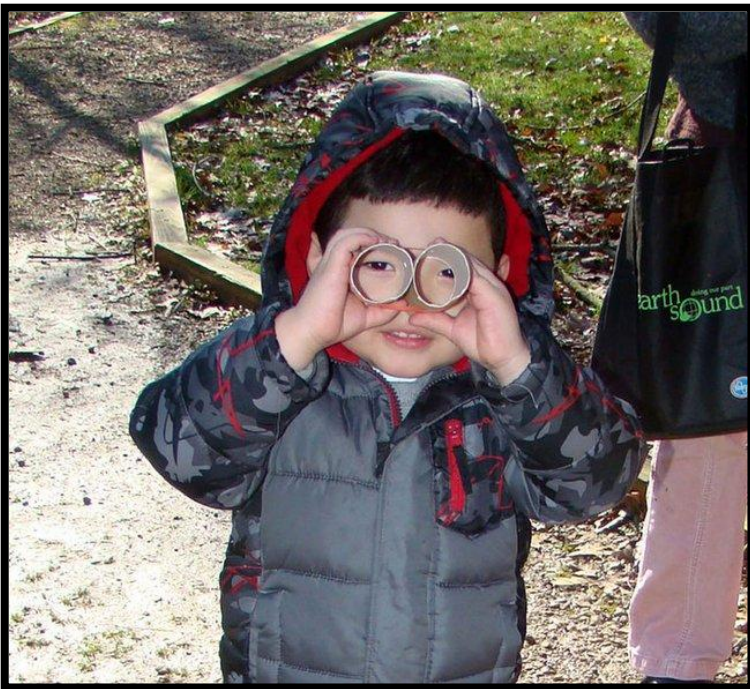
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Spring Migration (continued)

The primary advantage of migration is conservation of energy. The longer days of the northern summer provide greater opportunities for breeding birds to feed their young. The extended daylight hours allow diurnal birds to produce larger clutches than those of related non-migratory species that remain in the tropics year round. As the days shorten in autumn, the birds return to warmer regions where the available food supply varies little with the season.

These advantages offset the high stress, physical exertion costs, and other risks of the migration. Predation can be heightened during migration, and the higher concentrations of migrating birds at stopover sites make them prone to parasites and pathogens, which require a heightened immune response.

While the calendar date of March 20th marks the first day of spring for us, birds must rely on natural cues that encourage them to move to their breeding grounds. Weather patterns impact the timing of spring migration for many species, with long and harsh winters potentially delaying migration and milder winters triggering earlier migration. Seasonal light change of longer days is also a migration cue. Reliable food availability is an essential factor affecting timing and migration route for spring migratory birds. The birds will follow the insects and plants that provide sustenance for them. However, distance can be an important factor for when migration begins for different species. For instance, many warblers and hummingbirds migrate later than shorebirds that nest in Arctic regions.



For our local birders, understanding the factors that affect spring migration can help you anticipate the arrival of your favorite birds. If you like watching local birds year after year, either in your own backyard or at Bulls Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum, think about starting a birding journal where you can track dates of returning migrants' arrivals at feeders and bird houses. What you will find is that many species of birds arrive during the same week each year. Shorebirds and ducks are some of the earliest migrating birds, and yellow-rumped warblers are one of the earliest migrating warbler species. When you begin to see these birds appear, you will know more spring migrants will not be far behind. New growth and budding on local trees and flowers is a good indicator that it is time for spring migration to begin

as well.

While spring migratory birds are a large focus at this time of year, we should not overlook our resident birds. When we observe nesting behavior and courtship displays from our year-round residents, this is a strong signal that spring has arrived. If you want to help all of these birds in their spring preparations, consider bird-friendly landscaping that includes native, early-blooming trees, shrubs and flowers with colors that attract birds. This will make your yard a haven for birds, attracting them right to your birdhouses, feeders and birdbaths!

NATURE TOTS!



At Bulls Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum

A 5 Week program in Spring of 2015

FREE to Members of the park, or only \$15* for all 5 sessions!!

*\$15 fee can be credited towards a full Family Membership at a later date. Family Memberships are only \$25 and guarantee FREE entrance to later Nature Tots sessions and other Bull's Run events!

For Preschoolers (age 6 months to 6 years) & Caregivers!

Mondays, April 13, 20, 27 and May 4 and 11

10:30 am - 11:30 am

Space is Limited!

Contact Bull's Run at naturalist@bullsrun.org

Child Centered Hands-on Nature Exploration!

2015 Memberships and Donations—December 15, 2014 - March 5, 2015

Loren E. Ackerman	Jim and Jeanne Kraft	Barbara Schmiedt
Chuck and Betty Bost	Steve and Rose Longworth	Jerry and Barbara Schunk
Tom and Sally Brickey	Orie and Eleanor Loucks	Ed and Ginger Seamon
Chris and Tom Buchert	Joseph Lyons	Glen and Joan Shivers
Carl and Shirley Butts	Don and Mary Lou	Shovel and Hoe
Cherri Carpenter	McCormick	Garden Club
Daryl and Nancy Clark	Michael and Katie McNeil	Suellyn Shupe
Larry and Carol Colclasure	Dorothy Morehead	Dr. Greg and Mrs. Jeanne
Richard Davies	Peter and JoAnn Moroz	Siewny
Madeline Dunfee	Linda Mull	Tom and Susan
Frank Fisher	Mary Nuck	Stephenson
Thomas Fye	Larry and Marsha Orcutt	Ernest and Margaret
Bob and Mary Alice Gast	Omogene Orts	Sturgill
Ann Geddes	Dr. Richard and Mrs.	Lance Thomas
Cissi Glickfield	Virginia Palmer	John Whittington and
Forest and Debbie Grant	Dr. Kenton Pate	Beth Everage
Ed and Rose Grau	Dr. Elizabeth Patterson	Amanda Wilson
Steve and Nannette Hess	Jo-Annette Perry	Miranda Wilson
Jane Hobbs	Bruce and Glenda Peters	Steve and Lisa Wilson
Dr. Ray and Mrs. Jean	Tom Ritter	Mary Lou Williams
Anne Kiefhaber	Ruth Sauer	Ron and Joyce William
Brad and Marge Kochunas	Jack and Linda Schaefer	

Other Contributions and Memorials

Additional Contributions

Chris and Tom Buchert
 Larry and Carol Colclasure
 Ann Geddes
 Cissi Glickfield
 Ed and Rose Grau
 Orie and Eleanor Loucks
 Joseph Lyons
 Dorothy Morehead
 Peter and JoAnn Moroz
 Mary Nuck
 Larry and Marsha Orcutt
 Dr. Kenton Pate
 Ruth Sauer
 Barbara Schmiedt
 Jerry and Barbara Schunk
 John Whittington and Beth
 Everage

Mary Lou Williams
 Ron and Joyce Williams

Education

Omogene Orts
 Bruce and Glenda Peters
 Glen and Joan Shivers

Donations in Kind

Marge Kochunas

Bridges

Loren E. Ackerman
 Dr. Ray and Mrs. Jean Anne
 Kiefhaber

Tree ID Class

Nancy Clark
 Conelia Dixon
 Sharon Feldstein

Kay Mock
 Linda Mull
 Tom and Susan Stephenson

Memorials

*In loving memory of Bill Berry
 by Debbie and Forest Grant*

*In loving memory of George,
 Elaine and Gary Perry
 by Jo-Annette Perry*

*In loving memory of Gwenn
 Lewis
 by Ed and Ginger Seamon*

*In loving memory of Gary K.
 Shupe
 by Suellyn Shupe*

Garage Sale “Drop-Off” Days

The space is ready and waiting for your donations! Please call Rose, 424-1969, to make arrangements to drop-off your items at 4312 Walton Ct. (near Bull's Run) **any day** of the week at a time that is convenient for you. If you need a deadline, volunteers will be on site working from 10 to 3 on Saturdays, April 11, 18 and 25. Appliances, costume jewelry, antiques, toys, bikes, collectibles, gardening tools, linens, dishes, etc. *No clothing please.*

All donations are appreciated!

Middletown EARTH DAY Festival 2015!

Volunteers Report: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Education Series: 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m

LOCATION:

One Donham Plaza Middletown (Main lobby)
Middletown, OH.45042
513-425-7750

The education series will take place in the lower level police training room and Council chambers.

This year's event will focus on education and cleaning up Middletown's downtown area.

The festival will feature exhibits and educational activities. On hand will be community groups and environmental organizations to answer questions and offer fun and exciting hands-on activities for all ages.

Volunteer Information

All volunteers working that day will be given a shirt when registered. Gloves and garbage bags will be given to volunteers (sign in at One Donham Plaza Middletown main lobby). Dump trucks and dumpsters will be in strategic locations and volunteers can put bags in the trucks.

All volunteers (with a KMB shirt) are welcome to join KMB in the lobby of the city build to eat lunch immediately following the community clean up @ 12noon. All guest speakers are also welcome to the luncheon.

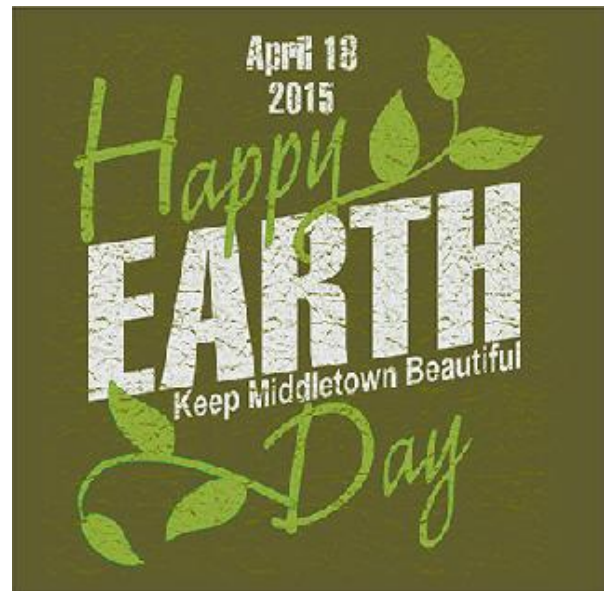
Also, you may organize a group before the day of the event to clean up anywhere throughout the greater Middletown area. Please contact executive director Jeff Michel at 513-465-2675 or email jeffmi@cityofmiddletown.org. Please have volunteer registration sheets filled out for participating volunteers and provide volunteer shirt size for each member of your group. Please take photographs of the group working that day or a group photo. Tally the total number of volunteers and roughly how many hours they all worked.

Earth Day Community Clean up

The Middletown Earth Day Festival offers opportunities to learn, volunteer and recycle!

GO INTO THE COMMUNITY and pick up litter, recycle, paint, landscape, and clean up the parks. The main site for clean up is One Donham Plaza. KMB is asking for 50 volunteers to prune the shrubs and trees; paint signs and benches; edge plant beds; rake leaves; bag and remove debris; and mulch beds.

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum will be one of the locations in the community for this event. Join us anytime between 9:30 and 1pm on Rosedale Road.



THANK YOU!

- Thanks to Bob Wise for refurbishing all the feeder stations.
- Thanks to faithful feeder fillers: Debbie Grant, Melissa Proffitt, Corbett Cox, Marge & Brad Kochunas.
- Thanks to John Whittington for helping to lead the Winter Tree ID class.
- Thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who helped to greet people at Light Up Middletown.
- Thanks to Ed and Rose Grau for hosting our fourth garage sale on May 8 and 9.
- Thanks to everyone who plans to contribute to or shop at the Garage Sale.
- 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 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 2015 membership and additional contributions allowing us to move forward with the mission of Bull's Run. PayPal is now available on our website.

BULL'S RUN GARAGE SALE **Clean your place and make some space!**



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, games, toys, books, pictures, gardening items, and potted plants.
NO ADULT CLOTHING PLEASE.

This sale will take place
FRIDAY and SATURDAY

May 8th and 9th 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 to make arrangements to drop-off your items **any day** of the week at a time that is convenient for you. If you need a deadline, volunteers will be on site working from 10 to 3 on Sat., April 11, Sat., April 18 and Sat., April 25.

Guided Nature Walks at Two Locations

Spring might not be as early as last year, but it is on its way! Yards around town are sporting snow drops, speedwell, henbit, and crocus in bloom. And the wildflowers at Bull's Run are beginning to show as well, so join us for whatever is blooming, and note the seasonal changes.



April 26 Interpretive Nature Walk 2:00-3:00 pm at Bull's Run. Explore the beautiful spring wildflowers at Bull's Run and bring your binoculars for viewing any feathered visitors.

April 26 Interpretive Nature Walk 4:00-5:00 pm at the Armbruster Nature Preserve on Autumn Dr. Join the naturalist for a look at this extraordinary display of wildflowers. Turn off of Manchester Rd. on to Autumn Dr. and park at the dead-end near the water tower.

May 3 Interpretive Nature Walk 2:00-3:00 pm at Bull's Run.

May 17 Interpretive Nature Walk 2:00-3:00 pm at Bull's Run.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS!

Supporting Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum with an annual membership is more than just supporting a small nature escape within city limits. This unique 11-acre natural area offers free nature walks several times each season, plus free tours to school groups and civic organizations. The Nature Tots program is included in a membership, offered for 5 weeks in each season. **Yes, we plan to add a Summer Nature Tots this year!** An annual membership also gives you a discount on any training sessions offered. So far this year, that included the Winter Tree Identification Class. Membership funds help pay our part-time naturalist for planning and leading guided tours for school groups, scouts, and clubs. The funds also help feed the birds in winter, purchase seedlings to add to the diversity of plants in the area, pay the rent on the port-a-potty, and the mailings. Memberships and donations ARE important to Bull's Run, and thank you!

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.

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.

Spring Calendar of Upcoming Events

April

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

13 Spring Nature Tots Monday from 10:30 – 11:30 am, meet at the shelter

18 Earth Day Festivities at Donham Plaza 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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

19 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.

20 Spring Nature Tots Monday from 10:30 – 11:30 am

26 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.

26 Interpretive Nature Walk 4:00-5:00 p.m. Off-site at Armbruster Nature Preserve. Join us for a look at this extraordinary display of spring wildflowers. Turn off Manchester Rd onto Autumn Dr. and park near the water tower.

27 Spring Nature Tots Monday from 10:30 – 11:30 am



May

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

4 Spring Nature Tots Monday from 10:30 – 11:30 am

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

11 Spring Nature Tots Monday from 10:30 – 11:30 am

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

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

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

Bull's Run Photo Gallery



Collage of Spring Wonders.

Upper right: Volunteers at Display at MUM

Lower right: Visitor observing Bull's Run resident raccoon

