

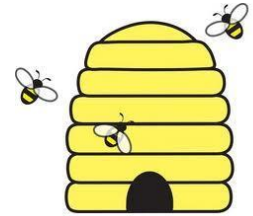
Bull's Run Fall Newsletter

September, 2015



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.



You are Invited to Bull's Run's Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will again be held at Verity Lodge on MUM campus, and is free and open to the public. The meeting will be held on Thursday, October 15 starting at 7pm, with special guest speaker, Alex Zomchek, followed by refreshments. Alex is a passionate advocate of pollinators, especially honey bees. Alex is a beekeeper from Oxford, member of the Butler County Beekeepers Association, director of the Ohio Beekeepers Association, and 2015 recipient of the Beekeeper of the Year Award. He is currently doing research at Miami University's Ecology Research Center, a 175-acre field site located near campus, dedicated to research and education in ecology and environmental science. Alex will share his love for bees, that began when he was 12, and concerns for their future.



Come join us for more FREE fun at Fall Family Fest at Bull's Run on Sunday, October 18, from 2-4pm

A guided nature walk to take a closer look at fall colors, scavenger hunt, crafts, and snacks are just some the activities planned for all ages!



Cash, Community and Connections

The Bull's Run Garage Sale has established a reputation as one of the best sales in town. The response to our plea for volunteers and goods was fabulous! Forty-five families brought items to sell. Thirty-two people volunteered their time pricing and working the days of the event. We had a wonderful selection this year including the kitchen sink, (which we sold)! Our profit was \$3311!

The sale provides an opportunity to talk about the park. It is always a surprise that people in our neighborhood still do not know about Bull's Run. Workers handed out 100 newsletters and gave personal invitations to many folks.

We all have something of value we no longer use. The pre-school supplies from a teacher at the YMCA went to the pre-school at John XXIII. A complete camera set was surrendered by a member and purchased by the lady who takes our Nature Tot pictures! It is very satisfying to see the connections made.

A special thank you to Ed and Rose Grau for once again inviting us to fill up their home. Their gracious hospitality is appreciated.



Co-chair Chris Buchert & volunteer Gibbie Wise

Debbie Grant and Chris Buchert, co-chairs

The Flight of the Monarch

The beautiful black and orange monarch butterfly is perhaps the most well-known and charismatic summer resident of Ohio's butterflies. This species occurs throughout North and South America and has been recorded in all 88 Ohio counties. Monarchs occur in open habitats including fields, roadsides, prairie remnants, gardens, and urban yards. In Ohio, this species has been found and reared on common milkweed, swamp milkweed and butterfly-weed. Milkweeds are the primary hosts of this butterfly, meaning it is where they most commonly lay eggs.



Male Monarch (note spots on lower wings)



Very young Monarch larva

The larvae of this species feed on milkweeds, which usually possess poisons known as cardiac glycosides. These chemicals, which are extremely toxic to most vertebrates, are incorporated into the bodies of the larvae and adult monarchs. Predators, like birds, become very ill from eating a monarch, which will discourage them from eating another. The bright color patterns found on larval and adult monarchs are thought to be an aposematic reminder to the predator. These easily recognized patterns serve as warnings which are quickly learned by potential predators, because they can associate the striking appearance of this insect with the bad experience of eating one. Milkweed is a native plant that has been devastated by the use of herbicides, making it harder for Monarchs to maintain enough toxicity to deter hungry predators.

Other native plants that provide energy to adult monarchs in addition to milkweed include red clover, alfalfa, Indian hemp, wild carrot, Canada thistle, thistles, horseweed, tall ironweed, spotted Joe-Pye weed, common boneset, goldenrod, asters, teasel, lilac, and numerous garden flowers. These energy sources help the monarchs successfully complete and recover from long migrations each year.



Older Monarch larva with adult



Monarch pupa

Every autumn, before the cold winter climates of the north set in, an estimated 3 million monarch butterflies will travel around 3,000 miles to inhabit the mountains of central Mexico or small groves of trees along California's coast. Southbound Monarchs have the longest lifespan and are born sexually immature, unlike the northbound ones, so they don't breed until after the winter. It is their offspring that somehow know they must return north and how to do so. According to Monarch Watch, a University of Kansas site dedicated to the education, conservation and research of the Monarch, overwintering sites are dependent on where the butterflies migrate from. Butterflies west of the Rocky Mountains will return to the California coast. Millions of monarchs east of the Rockies will migrate to the Transverse Neovolcanic Mountain Belt in central Mexico. Ohio specimens are primarily the result of annual migrations northward from central Mexico. Incredibly impressive, considering the migration takes place over 3-4 generations and is a distance of over 3,000 miles. For Middletown, Ohio, the largest number of migrating Monarchs headed to Mexico typically occurs between September 14th and 26th. So keep your eyes open!



Female Monarch

The Monarch population has dropped by 90% in the last 20 years, caused by habitat loss and overuse of herbicides along their migration path, as well as the effects of climate change and logging at their overwintering site in Mexico. In 2014 they were added to the threatened species list. You can help Monarchs locally by creating safe harbors for them. By planting milkweed for eggs to be laid along with the other flowers listed above to attract adults you are helping to boost the population, one garden at a time. You can then witness the full life cycle of a Monarch in your own yard. Check out www.MonarchWatch.org for tips on collecting milkweed seeds, how to get your yard designated as a

Monarch Waystation and even get free milkweed for a school or non-profit garden! You can also learn more about Monarchs and additional ways to help with conservation at the site. We will be planting more milkweed at Bull's Run this fall and hopefully we'll be seeing more Monarchs in and around the park.

-Melissa Proffitt, M.A (photos by Debbie Grant)

MONARCH BUTTERFLY QUICK FACTS FROM THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

- Scientific name: *Danaus plexippus*
- Wingspan: 3 3/8 - 4 7/8 inches
- Life span: takes a month to become an adult; dependent on season pupa emerges; longest is nine months
- Description of egg: spherical, ridged and white; of caterpillar: banded with cream, black & yellow stripes; of adult: bright orange with black wings; white spots on outer margins with three orange patches on top; body is black with white spots
- Differentiation between sexes: females thicker, black wing margins; males have small claspers on body, distinguishing black spot on its wings
- Habitat: found in open areas - meadows, marshes, pastures and fields
- Migration: some fly over 3,000 miles to overwinter in southern California coasts or to the mountain regions of central Mexico; some will stay in one place for all their life
- Diet: caterpillars - own shell, then only consumes the poisonous milkweed; an adult uses its proboscis to sip the nectar of various flowers
- Predators: insects, spiders, birds, small vertebrate; viruses & bacteria are more likely killers of Monarchs
- Defense: poisonous - poison is built-up from milkweed eaten during the larval stage; coloration of bold colors is used as a warning to predators

(The Nature Conservancy, 2015).

Website Links

Native Plant Sale at EcOhio Farm, 2210 Mason Montgomery Road, Lebanon, OH 45036, Sept. 26, 9AM-3PM: Choose from a diverse and difficult to find selection of well grown native plants from our Native Plant Program, then enjoy numerous other activities at the Zoo's farm and restored wetland. Great family activity held in conjunction with the Green Umbrella's Great Outdoor Weekend. Registration and more information available here:

http://cincinnatizoo.org/horticulture/horticulture_events/



Bull's Run Marched in 2 Parades

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum was represented at the very wet Memorial Day Parade by four of the Board members carrying our new banner, plus the one the Spring Nature Tots created. The weather was much better at the July 4th Parade, when 3 board members, plus our naturalist, Erin, and her infant son, marched from Woodside Cemetery to Smith Park.

NATURE TOTS!



At Bulls Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum

A 5 Week program in Fall 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, October 5, 12, 19, 26 and November 2

10:00 to 11:30 AM

Space is Limited!

Contact Bull's Run at naturalist@bullsrn.org

**Child Centered Hands-on
Nature Exploration!**

Nature Tots

Spring Nature Tots explored the arboretum as it woke up from a long winter nap. Preschool-aged children, along with their caregivers, joined Melissa Profitt, BR board member and animal handler from Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, and Nancy Clark, former naturalist, for a closer look at birds, spring wildflowers, salamanders, tadpoles and frogs. Erin Skimming, our current naturalist, was busy having a baby, and brought Colin along on the last two outings to be the youngest Nature Tot in attendance. The final session concluded with the tots helping to make a banner for the Memorial Day parade.

Summer Nature Tots moved to a slightly earlier time slot in an effort to beat the heat. Erin led the tots on explorations of insects, bees, butterflies, spiders, and worms.

More fun is planned for Fall Nature Tots in October!



Bull's Run Went to the Butler County Fair!



Erin Skimming, Debbie Grant and Nancy Clark were invited to share some of their knowledge and love of nature with visitors to the Butler County Farm Zone Building on July 26. Children were invited to guess what natural objects were hidden in a feely box, create their own pollinator (butterfly) and just have a grand time.

We had so much fun so we went to National Night Out, too!

The weather was perfect this year at Lefferson Park for the event. Board members shared many of the items from the Butler County Fair exhibit with those attending, plus temporary tattoos with the many students who visited the booth.



Kroger Community Rewards

You can help Bull's Run by enrolling in Kroger's Community Rewards program at <https://www.kroger.com/account/update?hash=communityRewardsEnrollNow>. 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.

Contributions for 2015 received since the Spring Newsletter

Thank you to everyone who has supported Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum in 2015.

Memberships

Loren E. Ackerman
David and Janice Adams
Bill and Debby Akers
Bruce and Neila Barnes
Alice Bradshaw
Tom and Chris Buchert
Wilbur Cohen
Shana Colwell
Ron and Barbara Conley
Jane Denlinger
Rachel Diver
Pete and Peggy Dobrozsi
Nita Driscoll
Mary Enochs
Gene Fisher
Louis and Carolyn Gaker
Don and Elaine Garver
LaVerne Hopper
Sandra Jewell
Kohl's
Lois LaFayette
Megan Laubach
Joseph Lyons
Gisele Matthiesen
Debbie McGuire
Dennis and Karen Meyer
Terri Mulhall
Tonya Patt
Bruce and Glenda Peters
Melissa Proffit
Elizabeth Rogers
Jim and Lynette Schluter
Michael Scorti
Glen and Joan Shivers
Ann Stoutenborough
Julie Thomas
Katharine Titus
Charles Turner
Mary Lou Williams
Ron and Joyce Williams

Facilities and Bridge Support

Jane Denlinger
Lois LaFayette

Land Stewardship

Loren E. Ackerman

Memorials

In loving memory of Samuel Parks

Clark, Schaefer and Hackett

In loving memory of Robert Driscoll

Nita Driscoll

In loving memory of Marilyn Brewer

Sandra Jewell

In loving memory of Mrs. Stanley Watkins

In loving memory of Mrs. Wilson Breiel

Middletown Garden Club

In loving memory of Lazarus

Thomas and Angels Retzios

In loving memory of Joe Thomas

Julie Thomas

Honorariums

In honor of Thane and Mary Doellman

Doug Bean

In honor of Bruce Peters

Sandra Jewell

In honor of Chris Parker

Terri Mulhall

Additional Contributions

Ron and Barbara Conley
Don and Elaine Garver
Kohl's
Gisele Matthiesen
Debbie McGuire
Jim and Lynette Schluter
Ann Stoutenborough
Charles Turner
Mary Lou Williams
Ron and Joyce Williams

Education

Bruce and Glenda Peters

In Kind Donations and Services

Ed and Rose Grau
Ernie Sturgill

We rely on your generosity to keep this unique natural area, a valuable resource to the community.

Thank you!

Consider a Donation to the BRNSA General or Endowment Funds

With each generous gift 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 as plantings, memorial benches or toward the bridge rebuilding project. In 2010, Bull's Run Endowment Fund was established and is managed by the Middletown Community Foundation. Since then, several contributions, either as donations or decisions to include Bull's Run in their will, have added to the fund. Please consider Bull's Run in your future plans. Thank you!

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

- Rose and Ed Grau for hosting our annual garage sale.
- To Randy Wilson for planting the replacement Arrowwood Viburnum given in honor of Sara B. Graham. *(pictured at right)*
- Everyone who donated items for the Garage Sale!
- All of the Garage Sale workers who helped to make the garage sale a huge success!
- The Kohl's workers who added their time and strength on Work Days.
- The members of Sunset Park Volleyball League who helped scatter seeds in the prairie.
- Dr. Carolyn Kieffer for donating the blue tree tubes and aqua gel for planting the seedlings.
- Jeff Michel for his support of Bull's Run as a work sight for Keep Middletown Beautiful's Earth Day Project.



- Ernie Sturgill for installing the new steps up the hill from the Memorial Benches near the new bridge.
- Donna Beauregard and city workers for clearing fallen and dangerous tree limbs along the trails.
- Land stewardship volunteers for time, effort and cheerfulness.
- 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!
- Marge Kochunas and Debbie Grant for giving the shelter a major clean-up over the summer.

Together we are making a difference!

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming Events at Bull's Run

September 26 Saturday, 9:30 am – 1pm **Work Day** Bring work gloves and a water bottle, we will provide the tools and snacks! Summer growth needs to be cut back from along the trails.

October 5 Monday, 10-11:30 am **Nature TOTS!** – Fall session begins

October 10 Saturday, 9:30 am – 1pm **Work Day**

October 15 Thursday, 7pm **Annual Meeting** at Verity Lodge on MUM campus

October 18 Sunday, 2-4pm, **Fall Family Fest** at the shelter

October 24 Saturday, 9:30 am – 1pm **Work Day**

November 7 Saturday, 9:30 am – 1pm **Work Da**

Contact Erin Skimming, Naturalist, to speak to your organization or for a program at Bull's Run.

Contact her at naturalist@bullsrun.org. Visit our website, www.bullsrun.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



Spring Nature Tots taking a break on the trail



National Night Out



Butler County Fair