



Bull's Run Newsletter Spring 2016



Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum

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.

2015 in Review

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum celebrates another year as an environmental center in Middletown, one of its best, if little known, gems. The Arboretum hosted numerous educational opportunities, participated in a wide variety of community events, and worked hard on improvements. All of this was accomplished under the guidance of a volunteer Board of Directors and one part-time naturalist, and with the dedicated support of many volunteers!

The educational opportunities ranged from several free wildflower walks in the spring through the Christmas Bird Count walk the Saturday before Christmas. Bull's Run boasts over 30 species of spring wildflowers with a wide range of spring color in bloom from late-March through late-May. The pay-to-participate educational programs (discounts given with paid memberships) include the Nature Tots program exploring each season and the Winter Tree Identification Class held in January. The highlight of the educational programs was the annual meeting in October at Verity Lodge on MUM campus, with Alex Zomchek from MU Environmental Center as the guest speaker sharing his passion for and knowledge of honeybees.

Members of Bull's Run's board of directors, the naturalist, Erin Skimming, and volunteers participated in the Keep Middletown Beautiful Earth Day Work Day on site cleaning up the trails and preparing them for the busy spring and summer seasons. Several members marched in Memorial Day and Fourth of July parades to share our presence with the community. Erin, Nancy Clark and Debbie Grant (present and past presidents of BR board) were present at the Butler County Fair with an educational exhibit at the invitation of the Ohio State Extension's Master Gardener program. Another educational exhibit was available at National Night Out with hands-on activities. The Fall Family Fest combined educational and creative activities in a free family event.

Improvements to the 11-acre park were made throughout the year. Numerous volunteers planted seedlings, protected by blue tubes, to add diversity to the woods, taking advantage of the openings in the forest canopy left by dying ash trees. New steps were installed by Ernie Sturgill on the slope leading from the creek up to the maple tree grove. Removal of invasive species like honeysuckle and euonymus are an ongoing task.

Financial support for Bull's Run Arboretum comes from a variety of sources. First and foremost are the volunteers, friends and neighbors who send in donations and memberships throughout the year. There are fundraisers throughout the year fueled by volunteers' help including functions at community events for which Bull's Run receives compensation, such as Denny Lumber's Tool Sales and Light Up Middletown. Donations to the Endowment we have established with the Middletown Community Foundation also yields interest for our budget. Our own fundraiser, the Garage Sale, is held each spring through the generous donations of time and items for sale and last year generated a significant part of our operating budget.

Bull's Run has grown since it was organized in 1977, with your help. Please help us continue to grow by supporting this unique community resource – share with others about what Bull's Run has to offer: a retreat into nature to sooth the spirit, inspire exploration and appreciate the beauty around you. Come visit and enjoy!

Please remember that troops from schools, scouts and civic organizations can also schedule tours with the naturalist throughout the year! Contact Erin at naturalist@bullsrun.org.

Changes are Coming to the Newsletter

You will notice that this newsletter is later than usual. We are considering changing the format of the newsletter and seeking a new editor. For the past 12 years, Nancy has compiled the newsletter for Bull's Run, and since 2012 has also served as president of the board of directors and recording secretary. The time has come to pass the newsletter torch on to another, so if you are interested in volunteering for this position, please contact us through the website or Facebook page.

We are considering switching to an e-newsletter in an effort to save paper (and trees) and printing expenses. As we explore this avenue, we are still offering a printed newsletter that will be mailed, but at a new membership pricing. The family and individual membership price will remain the same for those choosing the e-newsletter option, but those preferring to receive a print copy will see an annual increase of \$10 per membership. These options are reflected on the new 2016 membership form enclosed.

New Office Space Needed!!!

Bull's Run currently rents office space in the basement of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension. The naturalist and board members use the space for meetings, storing educational materials, activity supplies, signs, and general office equipment. While we are very grateful to the church for use of the space, the building has had some water issues, compromising the office and its contents. The board is now seeking a new space to relocate for a minimal monthly rental fee. If you are in a position to offer such a space, or know of a space we could use, please contact Nancy Clark, BRNSA president (513-368-3233), or Erin Skimming (naturalist@bullsrun.org).

Annual Christmas Bird Count



The 2015 Christmas Bird Count was held at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum on Saturday, December 19. Five bird watchers hiked the arboretum trails recording the winter visitors to the woods. We were fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of a red-tailed hawk and several brown creepers. You will find the full list of results of the walk on the website, www.bullsrun.org and our Facebook page. We would enjoy comments on what you are seeing at your bird feeder this winter.

Start Collecting for Garage Sale Drop-Off Days

Downsizing? Making space? Moving? Consider donating to our annual Garage Sale Fundraiser. In preparation of the event, volunteers will be on site receiving goods from 10-2 on Saturdays, April 16, 23 and 30. This sale, to be held May 6 and May 7 from 8:00 to 4:00 is close to Bull's Run at the Grau residence, 4312 Walton Ct. Appliances, jewelry, antiques, toys, bikes, collectibles, gardening tools, furniture, tools, linens, dishes etc. No clothing please. We appreciate your support of our main fundraiser! Contact Rose Grau 424-1969 or Debbie Grant 425-7250.



Our Fifth Annual Winter Tree Identification Class was a Success!

John Whittington and Nancy Clark led the informational and fun afternoon learning identification pointers and tools for tree identification that work in all seasons. In three hours, participants learned how to recognize distinctive characteristic of more than 20 common trees in Bull's Run and southwest Ohio. Walking in the woods or even driving along the roadways will never be the same!

A Look at Future Plans at Bull's Run

The coming year will see improvements to the trail system with plans to widen the prairie trail, and redesign the walkway from the parking lot to the shelter. We are currently working with a Miami University Middletown Basic Integrated Studies student, to develop a grant proposal to replace another bridge on the trail. The shelter is showing its age and is in need of a facelift, so additional resources to make this possible are being sought as well.

Erin has plans to expand educational programming into the summer months, in addition to the highly successful Nature Tots programming. With the enthusiasm generated by last fall's annual meeting on beekeeping, we are exploring a partnership to set up a beehive for educational purposes at Bull's Run. We will also be mounting two bat houses donated to Bull's Run from the American Heritage Girls from Trenton in appreciation of the educational program presented to the group.

Please keep the Arboretum in mind for speaker or service opportunities for your civic or scout group. Contact Erin at naturalist@bullsrun.org to schedule an educational program at your meeting or, better yet, come visit Bull's Run for a guided tour. Volunteers are always welcome!

Save the Dates for Future Events



**Saturday, March 12 First Work Day of Spring –
9:30 am – 1 pm**

Mondays in April 11, 18, 25 Spring Nature Tots 10 am

Saturday, April 9 Work Day 9:30-1 pm

Sunday, April 17 & 24 Spring Wildflower Walks 2 pm

Saturday, April 23 Earth Day Work Day 9:30 am-1pm

Sunday, May 1 Spring Wildflower Walk 2 pm

Mondays, May 2 & 9 Spring Nature Tots 10 am

Friday, May 6 - Saturday, May 7 – Garage Sale fundraiser

Saturday, May 14, Work Day 9:30am - 1 pm

Saturday, May 21, Last Spring Work Day, 9:30 am – 1 pm

Mondays in July 11, 18, 25 Summer Nature Tots 10 am

Mondays in August 1, 8 Summer Nature Tots 10 am

Tuesday, August 2 National Night Out 5-8pm

(location has not been announced yet)

Sunday, September 25 Fall Family Fest 2-4pm

Saturday, December 17 Christmas Bird Count 9 am



Middletown Recycling Program

Middletown's revised recycling program was unveiled a year ago. We want to revisit the guidelines and remind everyone that the red cartons and green bins are collected every other week, on the same day as your normal trash collection.



PLEASE RECYCLE THESE ITEMS

Acceptable Items for Recycling

Rumpke Recycling offers residential customers a convenient, comprehensive recycling program to enhance the recycling effort and reduce the amount of material sent to the landfill.

While the full list of acceptable materials may vary slightly in some locations, residents can typically recycle the following:

- Glass Bottles & Jars (all colors)
- Metal Cans: Aluminum cans, steel cans and lids, empty aerosol cans with the lids and tips removed
- Plastic Bottles (empty, crush, reattach lid): Bottles and jugs that have a small mouth and wider base, such as milk jugs, soda bottles, laundry detergent bottles, water bottles, shampoo bottles and contact solution bottles
- Paper: newspaper, magazines, cardboard, mixed office paper and envelopes, paperboard (cereal boxes), pizza boxes free of food debris and grease, telephone books and catalogs
- Cartons: food and beverage cartons, such as milk, juice, soup, wine, broth and other cartons.

Recycling Tips

- Mix all items together – no separation required
- Empty all bottles, jugs and cans
- No need to remove labels
- For plastic bottles, empty, crush and reattach lids
- For cartons, remove plastic caps and straws
- NEVER place medical sharps or needles in the recycling
- DON'T use plastic bags
- NOT for Recycling
No plastic bags, cassette tapes, bed sheets, hangers, metal chains, garden hoses, batteries, needles, syringes, electronics, polystyrene foam, buckets, butter tubs, car parts, food, yard waste, light bulbs, drinking glasses, ceramics, pots, pans, and scrap metal

Recycling Calendar for Middletown in Red

March 2016	April 2016	May 2016	June 2016
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5	1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18
20 21 22 23 24 25 26	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25
27 28 29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30
July 2016	August 2016	September 2016	October 2016
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3	1
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	2 3 4 5 6 7 8
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	9 10 11 12 13 14 15
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	16 17 18 19 20 21 22
24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28 29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29 30	23 24 25 26 27 28 29
November 2016	December 2016	January 2017	February 2017
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18
20 21 22 23 24 25 26	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25
27 28 29 30	25 26 27 28 29 30 31	29 30 31	26 27 28



**5 week
program
beginning
April 11,
18, 25 &**

Spring Nature Tots



May 2, 9, 2016

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

Child-centered hands-on exploration!

On Mondays 10:00 - 11:30 am
Something new each week!

At Bulls Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum
3909 Rosedale Road in Middletown

Space is Limited - Reserve Now!!

Call Erin at 513-515-3746

or email Erin: naturalist@bullsrn.org



BULL'S RUN
NATURE SANCTUARY
AND ARBORETUM

Free with 2016 Bull's Run Family membership
Or \$5 per session



Spring Nature TOTS Starts in April!

Hey ho, the winter winds did blow, but spring is on the way! The Winter Nature Tots session is already under way on Mondays in February with a full complement of preschoolers, so we are planning on adding an afternoon session, or additional morning session for Spring, if the numbers keep increasing. The program is free with your 2016 family membership of \$25 or you can pay \$5 per session. The membership entitles you to free Spring, Summer and Autumn Nature TOTS, too! For more information and to reserve your spot, contact Erin at naturalist@bullsrn.org. or call 513-515-3746.



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

Memberships

Lola Lowry-Allen
John and Sue Bennett
Cherri Carpenter
George Christy
Daryl and Nancy Clark
Ron and Barbara Conley
Paula Dickerson
Rachel Diver
Joe and Carolyn DiStaola
Pete and Peggy Dobrozsi
Ruby Elam
Mary Enochs
Helen Stevens-Gleason
Forest and Debbie Grant
Meghan Heater
Maryann Howard
Ami Kiminer
Brad and Marge Kochunas
Bill and Ellen Kukuk
Herb Landmann
Orie and Elinor Loucks
Joseph Lyons
Julie Mansu
Connie Mathias
Jeff McMullen
Les and Phyllis Mills
David McCauley-Myers
Chris Parker
Kenton Pate
Steve and Tonya Patt
Josh and Melissa Proffitt
Ruth Sauer
Glen and Joan Shivers
Shovel and Hoe Garden Club
Gregory Siewny
Doug Troy
Dennis and Suzi Vitori
Amy Wenzel
Mary Lou Williams
Ron and Joyce Williams
Amanda Wilson
Miranda Wilson
Curry Winters
Bob and Gibbie Wise

Education

These memberships were received between 9/1/2015 and 2/29/2016. 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.

Bob and Gibbie Wise

Land Stewardship

Loren Ackerman
Bob and Gibbie Wise

Facilities and Bridge Support

Loren Ackerman
Ron and Barbara Conley
Ruby Elam
Bob and Gibbie Wise

Memorials

In loving memory of Bob and Midge McMullen

Jeff McMullen

In loving memory of Lazarus

Tom and Angela Retzios

In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. R.D. Stevens, Jr.

Helen Stevens-Gleason

Honorariums

In honor of Debbie Hazelbaker

In honor of Mrs. Avinne Kiser

In honor of Melissa Fraley

In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Scorti's marriage

Middletown Garden Club

In honor of David Floering

Shovel and Hoe Garden Club

Additional Contributions

George Christy
Denny Lumber
Forest and Debbie Grant
Kohls
Orie and Elinor Loucks
Joseph Lyons
Chris Parker
Ruth Sauer
Glen and Joan Shivers
Dennis and Suzi Vitori
Mary Lou Williams
Ron and Joyce Williams

Middletown Community Endowment Fund

Bob and Gibbie Wise

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

- ❖ Thanks to all of the Master Gardeners who volunteered at Bull's Run this year to eradicate honeysuckle, work on the Native Plant Garden and help on Work Days.
- ❖ Thanks to John Whittington for leading the Annual Winter Tree Identification Class.
- ❖ 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 the City of Middletown for mowing, supplying mulch for the trails and hauling off honeysuckle branches after work days.
- ❖ Thank you to Brad and Marge Kochunas, Melissa Profitt and Corbett Cox for filling our feeders.
- ❖ Thanks to Debbie Grant and Marge Kochunas 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 the Miami University Middletown Botany Department and Dr. Carolyn Keiffer for providing Verity Lodge for the annual meeting.
- ❖ Thanks to Bob Wise for refurbishing the bird feeders and also to Forest and Debbie Grant for installing them.
- ❖ Thanks to all the workday volunteers!
- ❖ 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 3752755599.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ To all the volunteers who helped greet at Light Up Middletown.
- ❖ Thanks to all Board members for their enduring support!
- ❖ To everyone who made Bull's Run part of their 2015 giving and those who plan to contribute in 2016, we truly appreciate your support!

**2016 Membership Form is included in this mailing and is also available on the website.
Together we are making a difference!**

Links for more information

Recycling in Middletown: www.rumpke.com or www.cityofmiddletown.org/trash

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming Events

March

Saturday, March 12 Work Day – 9:30 am – 1:00 pm Volunteers can come for an hour or more to help prepare for the spring tours, spreading mulch and trimming along the trails. Bring your own work gloves and garden tools or use those we supply. Light snacks and water provided to keep you energized.

April

Mondays, April 11, 18, 25 Spring Nature Tots 10:00 – 11:30 am Reservations recommended for this series of hands-on exploration of nature through your child's eyes. See page 5 for more details.

Saturdays, April 16, 23 and 30. 10 am – 2 pm Garage Sale Drop-Off Days at 4312 Walton Ct. Midd.

Sunday, April 17 & 24 Spring Wildflower Walks 2pm. Join others for a closer look at the colorful carpet of wildflowers on the forest floor.

May

Friday & Saturday, May 6 & 7 Garage Sale – 8:00 am – 4:00 pm 4312 Walton Ct., Middletown

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

Contact Erin Skimming, Naturalist, at naturalist@bullsrn.org or 513-515-3746, to speak to your organization or for a program at Bull's Run

Bull's Run Photo Gallery in Every Season

