



Bull's Run Winter Newsletter Winter 2017

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.



A SUMMARY OF YOUR ARBORETUM THROUGH 2016

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 deepest appreciation of numerous volunteer workers!

The educational opportunities ranged from the fourth annual Winter Tree Identification Class, to 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 for late-March through late-May, depending on the weather conditions. The free Fall Family Fest moved from October to September this year and the 90+ visitors enjoyed outdoor activities on a perfect autumn day. The pay-to-participate educational programs (discounts given with paid memberships) include the Nature Tots program in each of the four seasons (6-12 Tots/session) and the Winter Tree Identification Class held in January. Groups from schools, scouts and civic organizations can also schedule tours with the naturalist throughout the year and participated in a wide variety of service projects. The highlight of the educational programs was the annual meeting in October at Verity Lodge on MUM campus, with Dr. Dick Munson, a retired botany professor from MU as the guest speaker sharing his knowledge of native plant propagation.

Members of Bull's Run's board of directors, the naturalist, Erin Skimming, and volunteers participated in the 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 Extensions Master Gardener program. Another educational exhibit was available at National Night Out, with hands-on activities and free temporary tattoos for the children. The Fall Family Fest combined educational and creative activities in a free family oriented event open to the entire community.

Improvements to the 11-acre park were made throughout the year. Work days and numerous volunteers planted seedlings protected by blue tubes to add to the diversity of the woods, taking advantage of the openings in the forest canopy left by the felling of several dead ash trees. The fall workdays saw the main red trail mulched, thanks to Mike Wertz driving a bobcat and several groups removing invasive plants.

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 fund raisers at various times during the year when volunteers help at functions at community events and 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 to our budget. Our own fund raiser, the Garage Sale, is held each spring through the generous donations of time and items for sale. While Bull's Run does not charge school groups for educational programs, donations from any group are always appreciated.

Changes are coming to the Newsletter

You will notice that this newsletter is again later than usual. We are considering changing the format of the newsletter and seeking a new editor. For the past 13 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 2017 membership form on page 5. Please clip it out and use the enclosed envelope to mail to BRNSA, P.O. Box 425, Middletown, OH 45042-0425.

New Items needed for the New Office Space!!!

Bull's Run office currently in the basement of Evangelical Church of the Ascension is moving to the third floor of the church. However, the new, drier space lacks the shelving the previous space had for storing the educational materials we have accumulated over the years. If you are in a position to offer some sturdy shelving, please contact us through our Facebook page or e-mail naturalist@bullsrn.org.

Annual Bird Christmas Bird Count



The 2016 Christmas Bird Count was held at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum on Saturday, December 17. Five Bird watchers hiked the arboretum trails recording the winter visitors to the woods. We were fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of a three brown creepers, along with the usual assortment of woodpeckers, sparrows, titmice, finches and chickadees. You will find the full list of results of the walk on the website, www.bullsrn.org and our facebook page. We would enjoy comments on what you are seeing at your bird feeder in your yard and on your treks through the Arboretum this winter.

Our Sixth Annual Winter Tree Identification Class!

John Whittington, Erin Skimming and Nancy Clark lead the informational and fun afternoon learning basic terminology for using the extensive list of identification pointers in the course materials with practical pictures for reference you can return to often to review and use in your own backyard. Join us on Saturday, February 4, from 1:30 – 4:30pm, beginning in the Little Hall at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension.

In three hours the participants will learn to recognize distinctive characteristic of more than 20 common trees at Bull's Run and southwest Ohio. We will spend over an hour inside in the Little Hall at Church of the Ascension reviewing the informational material, and then move outside to Bull's Run for field experience and apply the new-found terminology in the woods. Walking in the woods or even driving along the roadways will never be the same!



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

Memberships

Loren Ackerman
Laird and Janet Becker
Erica Blakeman
Cherri Carpenter
Betsy Cole
Ron and Barbara Conley
Katie DeVilling
Joe and Carolyn DiStaola
Pete and Peggy Dobrozsi
Marcella Donahue
Carl and Margaret Fiora
Dr. Louis and Mrs. Carolyn Gaker
Bob and Mary Alice Gast
Ann Geddes
Jane Hobbs
Dr. Carolyn Keiffer
Ellen and Bill Kukuk
Joseph Lyons
Eddie and Julie Mansu
Mary Lou McCormick
Jeff McMullen
Les and Phyllis Mills
Martha Oches
Dr. Kenton Pate
Melinda Reid
Barney and Bonnie Riesbeck
Thomas Ritter
Judge Kathleen Dobrozsi Romans
Michael and Kimberly Scorti
Glen and Joan Shivers
Shovel and Hoe Garden Club
Nancy Strait
Amy Vitori and Kevin Kimener
Amy and Gary Wenzel
Mary Lou Williams
Ron and Joyce Williams
Bob and Gibbie Wise

Bridges and Facilities

Bob and Gibbie Wise

Memorials

Loren Ackerman

In loving memory of Mrs. Darlene Thompson

Betsy Cole

In loving memory of Guernsey Cole

Dr. Kenton Pate

In loving memory of Cathy Pate

Honorariums

Middletown Garden Club

In honor of:

Mrs. Debbie Hazelbaker

Mrs. Helen Stevens Gleason

Mrs. Suzi Vitori

Mrs. Patti Gage

Mary Lou Williams

In honor of Margaret

Education

Glen and Joan Shivers

Bob and Gibbie Wise

Land Stewardship

Jeff McMullen

Bob and Gibbie Wise

Additional Contributions

Ron and Barb Conley

Ron and Peggy Dobrozsi

Ann Geddes

Dr. Carolyn Keiffer

Barney and Bonnie Riesbeck

These memberships were received between 8/26/2016 and 12/31/2016. 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.

Links for more information

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

Bird feeding and watching: www.dnr.state.oh.us or www.birdingpal.org/oh.htm



Winter Nature Tots



**5 week program beginning
At the end of January**

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

Child-centered hands-on exploration!

On Mondays January 30, Feb 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 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@bullsrun.org

***with 2017 Bull's Run Family membership**



BULL'S RUN
NATURE SANCTUARY
AND ARBORETUM

Nature TOTS in Every Season!

During our fall Nature Tots, we talked about who lives in the prairie, acorns, pumpkins, spiders, and different leaf shapes. This fall we had a little Halloween party for our Tots. Some of our tot moms brought in some very tasty treat to share with us. Thank you moms. We are looking forward to Winter Tots this coming January 30th and all who can join us. There is a lot to learn even in the cold winter. A few topics that I hope to talk about are: hibernation, winter birds, ice, and snow. I cannot wait to see all of our past tots and the new ones too. -Erin

The program is free with your 2017 family membership of \$25 paid in advance of your first session. The annual family membership entitles you to free Spring, Summer and Autumn Nature TOTS, too! For more information and reserve your spot, contact Erin at naturalist@bullsrun.org.





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 accepting bids to replace another bridge on the trail. The shelter is showing its age and is in need of a facelift, as well.

Erin has plans to expand educational programming into the summer months, in addition to the highly successful Nature Tots. With the enthusiasm generated by last fall's Fall Family Festival, we are exploring new programming. We mounted 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, and are anxiously awaiting spring to see if any bats take up residence.

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 welcomed.

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 – tell 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!

Save the Dates for Future Events

**March 18 First Work Day of Spring –
9:30 am – 1:00 pm**

**April 2 & 23 Spring Wildflower Walks
2pm**

**April 10, 17, 24 & May 1 & 8
Spring Nature Tots 10 am**

May 12 & 13 – Garage Sale fundraiser

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Membership Form 2017

Tax deductible

Our Mission Statement

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.

____ \$35 Family (printed newsletter) ____ \$25 Family (e-newsletter)
____ \$25 Individual (printed newsletter) ____ \$15 Individual (e-newsletter)
____ \$ _____ Additional Contribution

____ \$ _____ Contribution: Education Outreach/Other _____
____ \$ _____ Contribution: Facilities Improvement/Bridges _____
____ \$ _____ Contribution: Land Stewardship _____
____ \$ _____ Contribution to the Endowment Fund with Middletown Community Foundation
____ \$ _____ Contribution in Honor/Memory of: (Name) _____

Please send an acknowledgement of this donation to: Name _____
\$ _____ **Total Enclosed** Check # _____ Address _____
Membership also payable on website

Name _____
Address _____
Phone# () _____ e-mail _____

To volunteer, schedule a program, tour, or speaker for your group, contact Erin Skimming, naturalist@bullsrun.org, or President, Nancy Clark at 513-368-3233. For event information visit www.bullsrun.org

Mail to Bull's Run Arboretum, P.O. Box 425, Middletown, OH 45042-0425

We thank you for your contribution that supports our mission.

More Ways to Help Bull's Run

Serve on the volunteer Board of Directors as:

Treasurer stepping off the board after 10+ years of volunteer service. Please consider filling this very necessary position for our organization. Responsibilities include monthly reports, processing payroll for one part-time employee, filing financial reports with bank and government. Training provided, experience helpful, but not required.

Newsletter Editor Current editor hoping to hand over responsibility for quarterly publication after 13+ years of volunteer service. Writing skills with ability to compile articles submitted with photos into three newsletters and one summer postcard.

Member at Large Serve as general board member, offering suggestions for programming and helping to execute the various events held throughout the year.

Contribute time, talent or materials:

Volunteer on a Work Day with your own yard tools, or using some of ours, to help prepare the trails for spring tours, control invasive species or add to the diversity of plants. Individuals and groups welcomed.

Take pictures of your visit to Bull's Run and post them on our Facebook page. Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum is still one of Middletown's little know gems of nature. Help us spread the word.

Donate sturdy shelving for new office – please email the office brnsaa@gmail.com

Collect household items for the Annual Garage Sale on May 12 & 13, as you do your Spring Cleaning. Drop-off dates will begin in April and be announced in the next newsletter, on our website www.bullsrn.org and on our Facebook page. Thank you, in advance.

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Program Interest Form 2017

*Use this form to let us know what you want to
do at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and
Arboretum this year!*

Winter Tree Identification Class February 4, 1:00 – 4:00pm \$20/person (half price with 2017 membership) _____

Name _____

Phone# (____) _____ e-mail _____

Winter Nature Tots Mondays 10am – 11:30 Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27 free with 2017 family membership

Names Parent _____ Tot/age _____ Tot/age _____

Phone# (____) _____ e-mail _____

Interested in Nature Tots Spring _____ Summer _____ Autumn _____

Mondays 10am – 11:30 dates to be announced free with 2017 family membership

Interested in Summer Junior Naturalist Program for elementary-age children

Names Parent _____ Student/age _____ Student/age _____

Phone# (____) _____ e-mail _____

Interested in scheduling a guided tour or work day for a community organization

Name _____ Possible date _____

Phone# (____) _____ e-mail _____

Interested in serving on the Board of Directors as Member at Large Treasurer Newsletter editor *circle one*

Name _____

Phone# (____) _____ e-mail _____

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

- ❖ Thanks to Mike Wertz of Wertz Tree Farm for operating the rented bobcat to haul mulch for the trails on the October Work Day.
- ❖ Thanks to Kohl's employees who have volunteered on many Work Days.
- ❖ Thanks to all the workday volunteers, both individuals and groups!
- ❖ Thanks to John Whittington for leading the Annual Winter Tree Identification Class.
- ❖ Thanks to the City of Middletown for mowing, supplying mulch for the trails and hauling off honeysuckle branches after work days.
- ❖ Thanks to Debbie Grant and Marge Kochunas for creating the bulletin board displays monthly.
- ❖ Thanks to the Miami University Middletown Botany Department and Dr. Carolyn Keiffer for providing Verity Lodge for the annual meeting.
- ❖ Thanks to everyone who assisted with preparations and refreshments for the annual meeting.
- ❖ Thanks to the Butler County Master Gardeners for their partnership Bull's Run to eradicate honeysuckle, work on the Native Plant Garden and help on Work Days. Education and volunteerism is flowing both ways!



- ❖ 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 Bob Wise for refurbishing the bird feeders and also to Nathan and Debbie Grant for installing them.
- ❖ Thanks to Chris Parker for donating nature books, games, and educational material as she downsized.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ To the City of Middletown for arranging MTZ tree trimming service to clear out dangerous dead ash trees in October. Sorry for any inconvenience as the park was closed for safety reasons.
- ❖ Thanks to everyone who “likes” us on Facebook and shares events.
- ❖ Thanks to the Episcopal Church of Ascension for their all-around support.
- ❖ Thanks to Aaron Grant for maintaining our website.
- ❖ Thanks 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 2016 giving and those who plan to contribute in 2017, we truly appreciate your support!



2017 Membership Form is included in this mailing at the bottom of page 5 and is also available on the website.

Together we are making a difference!

Mark Your Calendars For Upcoming Events

January

Monday, 30 Winter Nature Tots 10:00 – 11:30 am Reservations requested by Jan. 25

February

Saturday, 4, Winter Tree Identification Class; 1:30 – 4:30 pm Church of Ascension & Arboretum

Mondays, 6, 13, 20 & 27 Winter Nature Tots 10:00 – 11:30 am

March

Saturday, March 18 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, 10, 17, 24 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.

Sunday, April 2 & 23 Spring Wildflower Walks 2pm. Join others for a closer look at the colorful carpet of wildflowers on the forest floor.

Saturdays – begin gathering donations for May 12 & 13 Garage Sale

**For more information please visit our website www.bullsrn.org or Facebook page
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



Volunteers for work days come in many sizes and ages



Fall Family Fest Fun

