



Bull's Run Newsletter Spring 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.



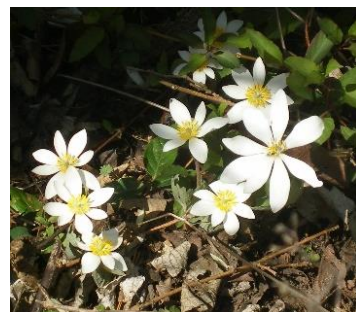
Spring has finally arrived!

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum is reawakening to a new growth season. The spring



Forest understory in early spring

wildflowers are beginning to show their colors as they use the early spring sunshine to start their brief lifecycle before the tree canopy spreads a green roof for the summer. The forest floor is once again showing spots of white as bloodroot and spring beauty bloom. Splashes of yellow show where celandine poppy and trout lily are spreading their petals.



bloodroot

A closer look along the trails reveal purple violets and grape hyacinth. The pink buds and blue flowers of Virginia bluebells are easy to find along the trails. Other flashes of color are flitting among the still bare tree branches as red cardinals and yellow goldfinches molt into their brighter summer plumage.

GOT STUFF? WE'RE RAISING FUNDS FOR A SHELTER ROOF!

Please consider setting aside some items for our **Annual Garage Sale Fundraiser**. We will kick-off our **collection days** at the Grau house on Earth Day, **Sat. April 22 from 10-2, then April 29 and May 6**. Contact Rose Grau, 513-424-1969, or Debbie Grant, 513-425-7250, for assistance or to schedule a drop-off that is convenient for you.

We are able to sell appliances, jewelry, antiques, collectibles, gardening items, toys, linens, dishes, bikes, furniture, plants, tools, books etc. No clothing, TV's or large exercise equipment, please.

The sale takes place May 12 and 13 from 8-4 at the Grau house, 4312 Walton Ct., Middletown.

Please help us to get the request out by asking friends and neighbors to donate. By sharing your goods with others, you are keeping them out of the landfill and raising funds to preserve Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum for our community.

The Garage Sale is our main fundraiser.

Please join us in this effort!

Debbie Grant
Rose Grau
Marge Kochunas
Dianne Gerber



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

Memberships

Loren E. Ackerman
David Adams
David and Barbara Balsmeyer
Douglas Bean
Elizabeth Birch
Chuck and Betty Bost
Tom and Sally Brickey
Tom and Chris Buchert
Carl and Shirley Butts
Daryl and Nancy Clark
Larry and Carol Colclasure
Richard Davies
Rachel Diver
John Dupps
Don and Betty Elworth
Margaret Fiora
Louis and Carolyn Gaker
Bob and Mary Alice Gast
John Dupps
Ann Geddes
LaVerne Hopper
Steve and Nanette Hess
Sandra Jewel
Brad and Marge Kochunas
Lois LaFayette
Joseph Lyons, Jr.
Russell, Jr. and Ann Malcolm
David McCauley-Myers
Mary Lou McCormick
Michael and Katie McNeil
Richard Munson
Larry and Marsh Orcutt
Richard and Virginia Palmer
Kenton Pate
Elizabeth Patterson
Bruce and Glenda Peters
Melinda Reid
Elizabeth Rogers
Jack Schaeffer
Jim and Lynette Schluter
Tom Scott
Judy Shillinglaw
Glen and Joan Shivers
Greg and Jeannie Siewny
Debbie Simpkins
Sean and Erin Skimming
Ann Stoutenborough
Julie Thomas

Damon and Katharine Titus
Dennis and Suzi Vitori
Amy Wenzel
Mary Lou Williams
Ron and Joyce Williams
Miranda Wilson
Wilson-Schramm-Spaulding Funeral Home

Additional Contributions

Douglas Bean
Larry and Carol Colclasure
Ann Geddes
Joseph Lyons, Jr.
Larry and Marsha Orcutt

Bridges and Facilities

Loren E. Ackerman
John Dupps
Lois LaFayette
Russell, Jr. and Ann Malcolm
Debbie Simpkins
Mary Lou Williams

Education

John Dupps
Bruce and Glenda Peters
Jim and Lynette Schluter
Glen and Joan Shivers

Land Stewardship

John Dupps

Honorariums

Sandra Jewel
In honor of Debbie Grant
Bruce and Glenda Peters
In honor of Ruth Marie Hackney

Memorials

LaVerne Hopper
In loving memory of Dick Hopper
Lois LaFayette
In loving memory of Deborah LaFayette
Kenton Pate
In loving memory of Cathy Pate
Jim and Lynette Schluter
In loving memory of Phyllis DeWeese
Julie Thomas
In loving memory of Joe Thomas

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum Contributions *continued*

Tree ID Class

Savannah Ballweg
Nancy Clark
Michelle Collins
Brad and Marge Kochunas
Linda Mull

Jackson Raze
Ann Stoutenborough

In Kind Donations

Christine Parker

These memberships were received between 12/31/2016 and 3/31/2017. 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.

2017 Spring Nature TOTS

Child centered, hands-on exploration of nature for children ages 6 months to 6 years (and their caregivers)!



5-week program, on Mondays 10:00 - 11:30 am

April 10, 17, 24 & May 1 & 8

(Summer and Autumn Sessions to follow later in year!)

Spring Sessions are going to explore Bull's Run, as the forest starts its growing season, with all of our senses.

Call BRNSA naturalist, Erin, at 513-515-3746 or email

naturalist@bullsrn.org to register!

BRNSA 2017 family membership required to participate in this FREE program. To become a member, visit www.bullsrn.org



Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum is partnering with Keep Middletown Beautiful to Celebrate Earth Day

Saturday, April 22 from 8 a.m. – noon

Volunteers will meet outside of City Hall in the plaza to check in or register for Earth Day. Light refreshments will be served (doughnuts & coffee) in the morning during check in. Volunteers will be assigned gloves, bags, and other supplies / tools required to perform the duty they are assigned. Site locations will also be assigned to volunteers who have not made a decision where they would like to volunteer at. Lunch (hot dogs, chips, & cookies) will be provided to volunteers at City Hall after the cleanup. Prior to serving lunch, a ceremony will be held to plant a tree for Arbor Day.

Prescription Drug Drop Off

If you or anyone you know has prescription drugs that are expired or that needs to be disposed of, bring them with you to Earth Day. Prescription drugs may be disposed of at the lower level of City Hall at the Police Station during the event.

Document Shredding

Document Destruction will be providing on-site document shredding services available for Earth Day so that participants and community members can shred their unwanted documents. Please bring any document that needs to be recycled. Any paper-based document can be shredded, please no X-Rays. Staples, paperclips, and hanging folders can all be shredded, three-ring binders cannot.

Volunteer Locations and How Many Needed

- **City Hall, One Donham Plaza**: The main site for the community cleanup—prune the shrubs and trees, paint signs and benches, edge plant beds, rake leaves, bag and remove debris and mulch beds (50)
- **Bicentennial Commons**: Clean up along the river bank (10)
- **Main Street from Old South Park to Smith Park**: Trash removal, paint signs (10)
- **Central from Bicentennial Commons to University**: Plant bed cleanup, trash removal (10)
- **Smith Park**: Trash removal around pond, plant bed clean up, mulching (20)
- **Sunset Park**: Trash removal at basketball court and around perimeter, bed cleanup at signs/lilac beds (6)
- **Lefferson Park**: Trash removal (2-4)
- **Douglass Park**: Trash removal, pick up sticks (5)
- **Douglass Park Garden**: Weeding and mulching a community vegetable garden (10)
- **Gardner Park**: Trash removal along tree line (5)
- **Bull's Run**: Work with staff to clean up throughout the nature preserve (20)
- **Armbruster Nature Preserve**: Trash removal end of Autumn Dr., pick up sticks along trail and at left side of road, plant bed cleanup at sign, honeysuckle removal (20)
- **Rt. 122 and I-75**: Trash removal along sides of road and in the medians on the on/off ramps (not on the Interstate) (15)
- **Jacot Park**: Trash removal along entrance at Breiel Blvd. along guardrail (2)
- **Wilson Park**: Trash pick up, stick removal (2)

A Look at Future Plans at Bull's Run

The coming year will see continued improvements to the trail system. The shelter is showing its age and is in need of a facelift, as well. We are currently accepting bids to replace the roof on the shelter. Proceeds from the Garage Sale on May 12 & 13 will be used toward this project.

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.

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!

Seed Lending Program is available at Midpoint Library

Midpoint Library is offering more than books this spring! Visit the Midpoint Library information desk to discover a new program of sharing seeds. The seed lending library allows you to check out seeds to start in your green house or plant directly into your garden for this growing season. On the honor system, you then agree to return seeds from the plants you nurture and harvest later in the year. The lending brochure outlines seed collecting techniques to ensure they will be viable for the next growing season. Check out some seeds and grow your own vegetables this year!

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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 14+ 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 be Saturdays from 10am – 2 pm on April 22, 29 and May 6 or contact Rose Grau at 413-424-1969 to set up a time. More information is available 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!*

Interested in Nature Tots

Summer _____

Autumn _____

Mondays 10am – 11:30 dates to be announced

free with 2017 family membership

Names *Parent* _____ *Tot/age* _____ *Tot/age* _____

Phone# () _____ e-mail _____

Interested in Summer Junior Naturalist Program for elementary-age children

Names *Parent* _____ *Student/age* _____ *Student/age* _____

Phone# () _____ e-mail _____

Summer Tree Identification Class June 24, 10:00am – 12:00pm \$10/person (half price with 2017 membership) _____

Name _____

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 offering to once again mowing the prairie to stimulate new growth.
- ❖ 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, felling dead ash trees and hauling off honeysuckle branches and bags of winter creeper after work days.
- ❖ Thanks to Debbie Grant and Marge Kochunas for creating the bulletin board displays monthly.
- ❖ Thanks to Josh Proffitt for assisting with technical assistance getting the new office wi-fi ready.
- ❖ Thanks to the Dr. Carolyn Keiffer for donating butternut seedlings.

❖ 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 Brad and Marge Kochunas, Sara Neu and Melissa Proffitt for filling the bird feeders throughout the winter months.
- ❖ 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 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 Board members for their enduring support!
- ❖ To everyone who has already made Bull's Run part of their 2017 giving and those who plan to contribute in 2017, we truly appreciate your support!



Volunteers for work days come in many sizes and ages

2017 Membership Form is included in this mailing at the bottom of page 5 and is also available on the website. Please fill out the interest survey on page 6, too.

Together we are making a difference!

Mark Your Calendars For Upcoming Events

April Mondays 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 and senses. See page 5 for more details.

Saturday, April 22 **Earth Day 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. Part of the Keep Middletown Beautiful Earth Day Project.

Saturday, April 22 & 29 – begin **gathering donations** for May 12 & 13 Garage Sale at 4312 Walton Ct., Middletown, 45042. Drop off items from 10 – 2 or call Rose Grau at 513-424-1969 to set up a time.

Sunday, April 23 **2 Spring Wildflower Walk** 2pm at Bull's Run and 4pm at Armbruster Nature Preserve located at the end of Autumn Dr. Join others for a closer look at the colorful carpet of wildflowers on the forest floor.

May Mondays, 1 & 8 **Spring Nature Tots** 10:00 – 11:30 am Reservations recommended for this series of hands-on exploration of nature through your child's eyes and senses. See page 5 for more details.

Saturday, 6 **Garage Sale Drop-Off** 10-2

Sunday, May 7 **Wildflower Walk** 2pm

Garage Sale on Friday, May 12, & Saturday, May 13, from 8am – 4pm at 4312 Walton Ct., Middletown, 45042.

Saturday, 20 **Work Day** 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

June Saturday, June 24 **Summer Tree Identification Walk** 10 am

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



Color along the trails as
spring wildflowers
bloom.

Virginia Bluebells

Celandine Poppy



Spring Work Day removing Winter Creeper



Winter Nature Tots