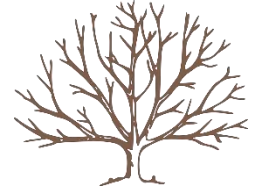




## **Bull's Run Newsletter**

### **Winter 2017/2018**

**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 2017**

Another eventful year is drawing to a close at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum. The Arboretum offered a wide variety of educational opportunities, participated in community events, and continually made 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 to numerous dedicated volunteer workers!

The educational opportunities are available in all four seasons. The pay-to-participate educational programs (discounts given with paid memberships) include the Nature Tots program in all four seasons (6-12 Tots/session) and the Winter Tree Identification Class. The free programs include spring wildflower walks, early summer tree walk, late summer prairie walk, and a Christmas Bird Count. We were also able to offer a unique experience with the Solar Eclipse in August. The free Fall Family Fest in September entertained visitors with face painting, crafts and outdoor activities on a perfect autumn day. Groups from schools, scouts and civic organizations can also schedule tours with the naturalist throughout the year free of charge and participate 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 Carl and Amy Wilms, from the Indiana Audubon's Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary, as the guest speakers sharing their knowledge and experiences banding hummingbirds.

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. An 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.

Our biggest change this year came when our naturalist, Erin, announced she would be stepping down to be a full-time mom with the birth of her second son shortly after the last Spring Nature Tot session. She has remained involved as a participant in Nature Tots and continues to attend workdays and events to support Bull's Run. The board began the search for a new naturalist and, after interviewing several qualified applicants, hired Sarah Meadows in late October.

Improvements to the 11-acre park were made throughout the year. Spring workday 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 involved removing invasive plants and collecting seeds on the prairie, all preparing for another growing season next year.

Financial support for Bull's Run Arboretum comes from memberships, donations and fund raising events. First and foremost are the volunteers, friends and neighbors who send in donations and memberships throughout the year. The fund raisers happen annually when volunteers help at community events and Bull's Run receives compensation, such as Denny Lumber's Tool Sales and Light Up Middletown. Donations to the Endowment established with the Middletown Community Foundation also yields interest applied toward our budget. Our major fund raiser, the Garage Sale, is held each spring on Mother's Day weekend through the generous donations of time and items for sale. This year's sale raised enough money to cover the cost of replacing the roof on the shelter. Thank you to everyone for supporting this unique community resource.

## Letter from the (new) Naturalist



Hi! My name is Sarah Meadows. I am excited to be the new Naturalist at Bull's Run! I am a graduate of Northern Kentucky University, and am a native 'Cincinnati'. The non-profit Ohio River Foundation has employed me for five years as an educator, youth conservation team crew leader, and restoration program manager. Growing up with parents who made careers with the Great Parks of Hamilton County, I developed a great appreciation for the natural world.

I can already see that Bull's Run is a unique organization with several well-established programs, dedicated volunteers and engaged community members. I am looking forward to becoming familiar with Bull's Run programs and people, as well as hosting public hikes and volunteer days to keep the community engaged. I am excited to

continue and build upon relationships with Middletown High School, Master Gardeners, and other community groups. Monthly hikes, a 5k fun run, and using the land as an outdoor classroom are just a few potential opportunities to continue expanding what Bull's Run can offer the community of Middletown!

## Birdfeeders

Bob Wise has been sharing his woodworking skills with us since retiring from Armco in 1993. The handcrafted seed and corn feeders are distributed throughout the park, to the delight of our wildlife! A dedicated team of volunteers keeps the feeders replenished during the winter months, after which they come down for Bob to repair, patch, paint and rebuild again!



## Annual Christmas Bird Count



The 2017 Christmas Bird Count will be held at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum on Saturday, December 16, beginning at 10 am. All interested bird watchers can join us to walk the arboretum trails recording the winter visitors to the woods. You will find the full list of results of the walk on the website, [www.bullsrn.org](http://www.bullsrn.org), and our Facebook page after the walk. 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.

## Blue Moon Hike!

Jan. 30, 2018 at 6:30pm. (Cloud date: Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>)

The modern (and current) meaning of a 'blue moon' is the second full moon in one calendar month. This use did not originate until sometime in the early 1980s. There were several other meanings and phrases associated with the term 'blue moon', including a moon that literally appeared blue! Come take a special night hike under the light of the full moon and learn about the history and lore of the 'blue moon'. Then take a close-up look at the moon through one of our telescopes while warming up with some hot chocolate. — Sarah Meadows

## **Our Seventh Annual Winter Tree Identification Class!**

John Whittington will again lead the informational and fun afternoon, with help from Sarah Meadows and Nancy Clark. Attendees will be 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, January 20, from 1:30 – 4:30pm, beginning in the Little Hall at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension. Fill out the Program Interest Form on page 6 to register and mail with payment to P.O. Box 425, Middletown, OH, 45042.

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 newfound 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**

#### **Memberships**

Loren E. Ackerman  
David and Janice Adams  
William and Debby Akers  
Dericka Bielecki  
Joe and Carolyn DiStaola  
Warren and Ruby Elam  
Bill and Ellen Kukuk  
Lois LaFayette  
Herb Landmann  
Daniel and Brittany McIntyre  
Kenton Pate  
Loring and Pamela Pearson  
Michael and Kim Scorti  
Glen and Joan Shivers  
Ron and Joyce Williams  
Steve and Lisa Wilson  
Bob and Gibbie Wise

#### **Education**

Bill and Ellen Kukuk  
Glen and Joan Shivers

#### **Additional Contributions**

Warren and Ruby Elam  
Jan. 30, 2018 at 6:30pm. (Cloud date: Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>)  
Kohl's  
Kenton Pate  
Shovel Hoe Garden Club  
Ron and Joyce Williams  
Bob and Gibbie Wise

#### **Land Stewardship**

Loren E. Ackerman

#### **Memorials**

Nita Driscoll  
*In loving memory of Robert Driscoll*  
Lois LaFayette  
*In loving memory of Lucy Evans*

#### **In Kind Donations**

Robert and Gibbie Wise  
Roger Harding

*These memberships were received between 9/11/2017 and 11/30/2017. 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.*

### **Links for more information**

Recycling in Middletown: [www.rumpke.com](http://www.rumpke.com) or [www.cityofmiddletown.org/trash](http://www.cityofmiddletown.org/trash)

Bird feeding and watching: [www.dnr.state.oh.us](http://www.dnr.state.oh.us) or [www.birdingpal.org/oh.htm](http://www.birdingpal.org/oh.htm)

Ohio River Foundation: <http://www.ohioriverfdn.org/>





# Winter Nature Tots



**5 week program beginning  
In late January and throughout February  
For Preschoolers (ages 6mth-6 yrs) & Caregivers**

*Child-centered hands-on exploration!*

**On Mondays January 29, Feb 5, 12, 19 & 26 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 Sarah at 513-332-7982

or email Sarah: [naturalist@bullsrn.org](mailto:naturalist@bullsrn.org)

**\*with 2018 Bull's Run Family membership**



BULL'S RUN  
NATURE SANCTUARY  
AND ARBORETUM

## Nature TOTS in Every Season!



The summer Nature Tots sessions were led by a variety of volunteers, including Nancy Clark, Debbie Grant, and Erin Skimming. The Tots explored the creek, learned about camouflage, and saw butterflies in every stage of development. During our fall Nature Tots, we measured the height of tots and plants, explored colors at Bull's Run, investigated how seeds get around, looked at different leaf shapes, and learned about bats. We even had a little Halloween party for our Tots, with some very tasty treats supplied by the moms. Thank you moms. We are looking forward to Winter Tots this coming January 29th with our new naturalist and all who can join us. There is a lot to learn even in the cold winter. - Nancy Clark

The program is free with your 2018 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 to reserve your spot, contact Sarah at [naturalist@bullsrn.org](mailto:naturalist@bullsrn.org).

**A Look at Future Plans at Bull's Run**

As part of our efforts to strengthen the biodiversity of Bull's Run we planted almost 100 native trees and shrubs throughout the park this year, with at least 17 different varieties represented. We have spread seeds and planted donated native varieties over the years. We have been increasing plantings dramatically over the last 3 years as we reclaim areas from invasive plants. These plantings will help restore the canopy and understory in the coming decades, while providing food and shelter for wildlife. The city has removed more dead ash trees, opening up areas for new seedlings. A full canopy blocks sunlight, making control of invasive honeysuckle and euonymus vine more manageable. All of this has been possible through the hard work of volunteers and member donations, thank you for your support!

*Randy Wilson – Land Stewardship*

Bull's Run has grown since it was first 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 10 & 24 First Workdays of Spring – 9:30 am – 1:00 pm**

**March 25, April 8 & 22 Spring Wildflower Walks 2pm**

**April 16, 23, 30 & May 7 & 14 Spring Nature Tots 10 am**

**May 11 & 12 – Garage Sale fundraiser**



**Membership Form  
2018**

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 Sarah Meadows, [naturalist@bullsrn.org](mailto:naturalist@bullsrn.org), or President, Nancy Clark at 513-368-3233. For event information visit [www.bullsrn.org](http://www.bullsrn.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 seasonal 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.

**Collect household items for the Annual Garage Sale** on May 11 & 12, 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](http://www.bullsrn.org) and on our Facebook page. Thank you, in advance.



**Program Interest Form  
2018**

***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** January 20, 1:00 – 4:0pm \$20/person (half price with 2018 membership) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Winter Nature Tots** Mondays 10am – 11:30 Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26 free with 2018 family membership

Names *Parent* \_\_\_\_\_ *Tot/age* \_\_\_\_\_ *Tot/age* \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Interest in Nature Tots** Spring \_\_\_\_\_ Summer \_\_\_\_\_ Autumn \_\_\_\_\_ Winter \_\_\_\_\_

Mondays 10am – 11:30 dates to be announced free with 2018 family membership

**Interest in Summer Junior Naturalist Program for elementary-age children**

Names *Parent* \_\_\_\_\_ *Student/age* \_\_\_\_\_ *Student/age* \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Interest in scheduling a guided tour or work day for a community organization**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Possible date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Interest 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 Donna Beauregard and City Workers for painting the shelter and picnic tables and felling 5 dead ash trees to keep the trails safe.
- ❖ 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 the Memorial tree area and hauling off honeysuckle branches after work days.
- ❖ Thanks to Debbie Grant and Marge Kochunas for creating the bulletin board displays monthly.
- ❖ Thanks to Roger Harding for creating unique wooden name badges for Sarah, board members and Nature Tots.
- ❖ 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 with 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 Forest 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 Mags tree trimming service to clear out dangerous dead ash trees in October. We are 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 2017 giving and those who plan to contribute in 2018, we truly appreciate your support!



**2018 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

### December

Saturday, 16 Christmas Bird Count 10:00 – 11:30 am Dress for the weather, field guide and binoculars recommended, but not required

### January

Saturday, 20, Winter Tree Identification Class; 1:30 – 4:30 pm Church of Ascension & Arboretum

Monday, 29, Winter Nature Tots 10:00 – 11:30 am Reservations requested by Jan. 26

Tuesday, 30, 6:30 pm, Blue Moon Hike (cloud date on Wednesday, 1/31)

### February

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

### March

Saturday, March 10 & 24 Work Days – 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.

For more information please visit our website [www.bullsrn.org](http://www.bullsrn.org) or Facebook page  
Contact Sarah Meadows, Naturalist, at [naturalist@bullsrn.org](mailto:naturalist@bullsrn.org) or 513-332-2982, to speak to your organization or for a program at Bull's Run

## BULL'S RUN PHOTO GALLERY



*Fall Family Fest  
Refreshment volunteer*



*Fall Colors*



*Bird Feeders attract  
Squirrels, too*

*Hummingbirds were the  
Annual Meeting topic*



*Nature Tots graduate and alumni*



*Workday Master Gardener*

