



## Bull's Run Newsletter Spring 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.



### Spring seems slow in coming this year, but it will come!



*Forest understory in early spring*

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum is reawakening once again. The spring wildflowers are slowly showing their colors as the early spring sunshine battles the low temperatures and snow dustings. The forest floor is showing spots of white as bloodroot and spring beauty bloom. Leaf clusters of shooting star and trout lily are poking up through the snow.



*bloodroot*

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

### Garage Sale Fundraiser

We are raising funds for Bull's Run! Please 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 21, 28 and May 5. This sale is close to Bull's Run at the Grau residence, 4312 Walton Ct. Do you have extras?

- Appliances
- Gardening items
- Jewelry
- Dishes
- Antiques
- Linens



- Tools
- Sports equipment
- Collectibles
- Plants
- Toys
- Furniture

PLEASE: No clothing, computers, TVs or large exercise equipment.  
Not this year? Share with a friend! We appreciate your support of our main fundraiser!

**Sale takes place May 11 and 12 from 8-4. Bring a friend to shop.**

Contact Debbie Grant 513-425-7250 or Marge Kochunas 513-422-1270 for assistance or to schedule a time that is convenient.

## Notes From the Naturalist

Sarah Meadows has already planned three educational programs, presented free to the public at Bull's Run, as well as continuing the Nature Tots Program. Here are summaries of these events.

### Blue Moon Hike



After a series of cloudy days, a few thin lingering clouds and mostly clear skies made way for the Blue Blood Supermoon on January 30<sup>th</sup>. We gazed in awe at the halo around the bright moon as we easily hiked without flashlights after dark. Our evening concluded with hot chocolate and taking a closer look at the moon through a telescope. Thanks to all who joined us, it was a large group for a Tuesday evening!

### Winter Nature Tots

The end of February marked the end of the Winter Nature Tots season. We had a lot of fun exploring the arboretum together, and made lots of crafts and friends! We followed animal footprints in the fresh snow, learned about how animals hibernate and keep warm, and put the fur on a fluffy polar bear! We ended the season learning how birds' beak shapes match what they eat, and taking home our very own bird feeder pine cone.



### Maple Sugaring Hike

The first maple sugaring hike at Bull's Run was so much fun! We had two sugar maple trees tapped along the trail this year. As we hiked the trail to check our taps, we learned about the origins and history of maple sugaring. It has taken centuries and multiple modern developments to reach the efficiency of today's methods, but the concept is still the same. Collect the sap and boil and boil and boil... until you get maple syrup! It takes 40 gallons of sap to make just 1 gallon of syrup. After learning about how maple sugaring is done, we sampled some sap, 'fake' syrup, two different grades of maple syrup, and maple sugar candy. It was delicious, and something anyone with a maple tree can do in their backyard.

### Composting Program



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle... and Compost! America is one of the top food waste countries in the world, throwing away nearly 40% of our food! While reducing our food waste to begin with is the best method, we inevitably have to discard the inedible parts that end up in our landfills. Anyone can start composting. On St. Patrick's Day, those who attended learned about how to start composting at home using a variety of methods, based on the amount of green waste each household produces. You can find out more visiting the following

websites: <https://www.butlerswcd.org/compost>

Worm Bin Composting Workshop, April 26, 6 - 8 pm at Butler SWCD Registration deadline: April 19, call the office 513-887-3720. Join us to learn how to compost indoors with worms during this hands-on workshop. Participants will receive all the equipment, including worms, that they will need to start composting at home. Cost: \$25 per worm bin

For more information about recycling:

- Butler County Recycling & Solid Waste District's website:  
[www.butlercountyrecycles.org/index.cfm?page=recatHome](http://www.butlercountyrecycles.org/index.cfm?page=recatHome)
- Ohio EPA Website: <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/recycling.aspx>
- Rumpke's website: [www.rumpke.com/for-your-home/recycling](http://www.rumpke.com/for-your-home/recycling)
- Cincinnati Recycling Facility: [www.rumpke.com/education/recycling-videos](http://www.rumpke.com/education/recycling-videos)

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

These contributions were received before 3/12/2018. If our records do not reflect your records, please notify us and we will be sure to include you in our next newsletter. Thank you for your support.

### **Memberships**

Loren E. Ackerman  
Chuck and Betty Bost  
Wilson Breiel  
Tom and Chris Buchert  
Carl and Shirley Butts  
Cherri Carpenter  
George Christy  
Daryl and Nancy Clark  
Larry and Carol Colclasure  
Johanna Cooke  
Rachel Diver  
Kathleen Dobrozsi Romans  
John Dupps, Jr.  
Don and Betty Elworth  
Cissi Glickfield  
Ed and Rose Grau  
Ray and Jean Anne Kiefhaber  
Brad and Marge Kochunas  
Joseph Lyons  
Giselle and Heinz Matthiesen  
Michael and Katie McNeil  
Josh & Melissa Proffitt  
Melinda Reid  
Barney and Bonnie Riesbeck  
Ruth Sauer  
Tom Scott  
Judy Shillinglaw  
Glen and Joan Shivers  
Suellyn Shupe  
Greg and Jean Siewny  
Sean and Erin Skimming  
Ann Stoutenborough  
Julie Thomas  
Amy Wenzel  
Ron and Joyce Williams  
John Whittington and Beth Everage  
Thomas and Sharon Williamson  
Randy Wilson  
Mary Lou Williams  
Steve and Lisa Wilson  
Wilson-Schramm-Spaulding Funeral Home

### **Honorariums**

#### ***Middletown Garden Club honors***

Patricia Gage  
Suzie Vitori  
Lynn Zollett

### **Land stewardship/Bridges**

Loren E. Ackerman  
John Dupps, Jr.  
Ray and Jean Anne Kiefhaber  
Randy Wilson  
Mary Lou Williams

### **Additional Contributions**

Wilson Breiel  
Tom and Chris Buchert  
Larry and Carol Colclasure  
Ed and Rose Grau  
Joseph Lyons  
Giselle and Heinz Matthiesen  
Ruth Sauer  
Glen and Joan Shivers  
Suellyn Shupe  
Greg and Jean Siewny  
Randy Wilson  
Steve and Lisa Wilson  
Wilson-Schramm-Spaulding Funeral Home

### **Memorials**

#### ***In loving memory of Larry Boring***

Edward and Susan Combs  
Joe and Carolyn Distaola  
Terri Morris  
Steve and Lisa Wilson

#### ***In loving memory of Dick Hopper***

LaVerne Hopper

#### ***In loving memory of Joe M. Thomas***

Julie Thomas

### **In Kind Donations**

Ruth Sauer

### **Tree ID Class**

Nancy Clark  
Pat Hudson  
Danny Lanham  
Jim Mack  
Linda Mull  
Judy Shillinglaw  
Shirley Swiech  
Randy Wilson

### **Middletown Community Endowment Fund**

John Dupps, Jr.  
Barney and Bonnie Riesbeck

## Arboretum Etiquette

The forest is waking up from winter dormancy and many are enjoying a stroll along the trails. Please observe the rules common to all nature centers and parks to ensure that everyone has a pleasant experience with the maximum opportunity to see all nature has to offer.

- Clean up after your leashed pet. *No one wants to step around or on animal waste. Pets allowed to go off trail can damage tender wildflowers, pick up burrs, and startle other visitors.*
- Leave plants intact. *Photographs last longer than picked flowers. Once a flower is picked, it loses the ability to make seeds for the future and begins to wilt before you can get to your car.*

- Bicycles may be chained to the fence while you walk the trails. *Soft trail surfaces and steps along the trails make riding through the park an unsafe choice.*
- Please stay on the trails. *Human traffic off the trail compacts the soil and inhibits the natural growth of wildflowers and young plants.*

## 2018 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 16, 23, 30 & May 7 & 14

*(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 or Text BRNSA naturalist, Sarah, at (513)279-8958 or email

[naturalist@bullsrn.org](mailto:naturalist@bullsrn.org) to register!

\*BRNSA 2018 family membership required to participate in this FREE program. To become a member, visit [www.bullsrn.org](http://www.bullsrn.org)\*

### **Upcoming Monthly Events with the Naturalist:**

**Spring Migratory Bird Hike** Saturday, April 28. 10:00am

With every spring comes rain, flowers, and migratory birds! Come see who's passing through, and who's returning to the area for the season.

No experience necessary! Binoculars recommended.



**What's In Your Watershed?** Saturday, May 26. 1:00pm

*Come creeking with us and find out how your yard could have an impact on Bull's Run Creek!*



## What are the Blue Tubes?

This question is asked by many visitors to the Arboretum. The plastic tubes are placed around seedling trees as they are planted on Work Days to serve several purposes. Their primary function is to protect the tender shoots from hungry animals, deer and rabbits in particular. They also serve as a mini-greenhouse (or blue-house) to create a favorable growing environment for the young tree. The tubes are held in place with a pair of stakes to keep the tube upright. The pantyhose placed over the top opening allows rain in, but keeps small birds or other animals from falling in and getting trapped. Please leave the tubes in place as we strive to increase the diversity of native trees by giving the seedlings a head start and roothold in the areas we have cleared of invasive plants and replace the dead ash trees.

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

Please keep the Arboretum in mind for speaker or service opportunities for your civic or scout group. Contact Sarah at [naturalist@bullsrun.org](mailto: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!



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

**Current Board Members:** Nancy Clark – president & newsletter editor; Randy Wilson – land stewardship; Marge Kochunas – recording secretary/treasurer; Debbie Grant – membership; Melissa Proffitt – member at large/education; Naturalist – Sarah Meadows

*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 be Saturdays from 10am – 2 pm on April 21, 28 and May 5 or contact Debbie Grant 425-7250 or Marge Kochunas 422-1270 for assistance or to schedule a time that is convenient.

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### 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!*

**Interested in Nature Tots** Summer \_\_\_\_\_ Autumn \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mondays 10am – 11:30 dates to be announced free with 2018 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 23, 10:00am – 12:00pm  
 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 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, felling dead ash trees and hauling off honeysuckle branches and bags of winter creeper after work days.
- ❖ Thanks to Sarah Meadows for creating the educational bulletin board displays monthly.
- ❖ 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 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. If you haven't signed up yet, please do. It does not affect your fuel points.
- ❖ Thanks to everyone who “likes” us on Facebook, posts photos 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 2018 giving and those who plan to contribute in 2018, we truly appreciate your support!



*Randy, Volunteer & Sarah on 1<sup>st</sup> work day*

**2018 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 16, 23, 30 **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 21 **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 21 & 28 – begin **gathering donations** for May 11 & 12 Garage Sale at 4312 Walton Ct., Middletown, 45042. Drop off items from 10 – 2 or call Debbie Grant, 513-425-7250, to set up a time.

Sunday, April 22 **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.

Saturday, April 28 **Spring Migratory Bird Walk** 10 am Join us to view feathered visitors & residents.

**May** Mondays, 7 & 14 **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, May 5 **Garage Sale Drop-Off** 10-2

Sunday, May 6 **Wildflower Walk** 2pm

**Garage Sale** on Friday, May 11, & Saturday, May 12, from 8am – 4pm at 4312 Walton Ct., Middletown, 45042.

Saturday, May 19 **Work Day** 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Saturday, May 26 **What's in Your Water Shed?** 1:00pm – hike the creek

**June** Saturday, June 23 **Summer Tree Identification Walk** 10 am

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)279-8958, 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.

← Yellow Trout Lily

Virginia Bluebells →



Spring Work Day removing Winter Creeper



White-breasted Nuthatch