



## Bull's Run Newsletter Winter 2018/2019

**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 2018

2018 is drawing to a close at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum. The Arboretum continues to offer a wide variety of educational opportunities, new community events, and make improvements. All of this is accomplished under the guidance of a volunteer Board of Directors and one part-time naturalist, and with the deepest appreciation to countless dedicated volunteer workers!

The outdoor education 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 for children aged 6 months to 6 years, with an accompanying adult and the Winter Tree Identification Class for adults. The free programs include spring wildflower walks, early summer tree walk, late summer prairie walk, and a Christmas Bird Count. Our Naturalist, Sarah Meadows, added in monthly events this year, as well, including a campfire series during the summer and a night Carved Pumpkin Hike in October. 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 have scheduled tours with the naturalist throughout the year free of charge. Scouts, high school and college students, and Master Gardeners all 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 Penny Borgman, from the Fernald Nature Center, as the guest speaker sharing the transformation for the former Cold War site to a thriving natural area supporting a wide variety of wildlife, including some videos of the mammals that have returned to the area.



Members of Bull's Run's board of directors, the naturalist, Sara Meadows, 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.

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 dead ash trees. The fall workdays involved removing invasive plants, adding new mulch to the trails 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. Thank you to everyone for supporting this unique community resource.

## **Notes from the Naturalist**

### **New 2018 Events**



We have had quite a year in 2018, and have offered many new public events. Early in the year we enjoyed a blue moon hike, and tapped the first maple trees in the arboretum for a maple sugaring hike. By the time summer arrived, we had a new campfire story series, including family oriented stories, animals, songs, games, and of course, s'mores! Thank you to the Middletown Historical Society and the Middletown Library Historians for helping with a special campfire night discussing what it was like to attend the Fresh Air Camp that was on the property before it became a nature sanctuary. We ended the summer by placing the first Geocache in the arboretum. With the arrival of fall, we put on our first pumpkin night hike, with 50 lit jack-o-lanterns along the main trail! Due to the success of many of our new events, if you missed out you'll likely have an opportunity to attend in 2019, so keep an eye out for these great new events!

### **2019 Upcoming Events**

Looking ahead, 2019 is another year full of great events! We hope to continue developing new free public programs and events to offer, and repeat many of our new 2018 events. Bundle up and get outside for a new winter hike series, then warm up with a cup of soup. We are looking forward to working with other local organizations, and inviting more guest speakers to offer the very best knowledge for outdoor enthusiasts. Some events in consideration include a neighborhood 5k race, how to encourage native bees in your yard, and placing an official Ohio Historical Marker. We also look forward to installing a new memorial garden near the entrance, with monuments, native plants, and a memorial bench.

### **Fall Nature Tots**

As always, we had lots of fun exploring together this fall! We learned all about owls in our Halloween costumes, dissected owl pellets, and understood how hard migration can be for animals that don't hunker down for the winter. Of course, we had to play in the leaves, and learned how trees are more similar to us than we might think! One of the crowd favorites was camouflage day, when we had to find hidden animals camouflaged along the trail, made camouflage vests to wear, and played a camouflage game. We welcomed some new faces this fall, and look forward to playing in the snow with everyone for winter tots!





## **Bird Counts at Bull's Run**



The 2018 Christmas Bird Count will be held at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum on Saturday, December 22, beginning at 10 am. This leisurely walk is open to all interested bird watchers can join us on the trails to sight and record 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.

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum will be adding another bird count in 2019 on February 16 at 10am. We will be joining in The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), a free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the four-day event and report their sightings online at [birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org). Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can participate from your backyard, or anywhere in the world.

Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society learn more about how birds are doing, and how to protect them and the environment we share. Last year, more than 160,000 participants submitted their bird observations online, creating the largest instantaneous snapshot of global bird populations ever recorded.

The 21st annual GBBC will be held Friday, February 16, through Monday, February 19, 2018. Please visit the official website at [birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org) for more information and be sure to check out the latest educational and promotional resources.

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

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum will again offer an informational and fun afternoon. 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, February 2, from 1:00 – 4:00pm, 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!

### **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/>

Fernald Nature Preserve: [https://epa.ohio.gov/derr/ACRE/FFS/swdo\\_ffs/fernauld](https://epa.ohio.gov/derr/ACRE/FFS/swdo_ffs/fernauld)

The Great Backyard Bird Count: <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/about-great-backyard-bird-count>

Bat Conservation Plan in Ohio

<http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/portals/wildlife/pdfs/research/Ohio%20Bat%20Conservation%20Plan.pdf>

## **New Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum Contributions** **Received after the Fall Newsletter**

### **Additional 2018 memberships**

Loren E. Ackerman  
Alice Bradshaw  
Don and Judy Dixon  
John Dupps  
Margaret Fiora  
Ed and Rose Grau  
Lois LaFayette  
Steve and Rosemary Longworth  
Loring and Pamela Pearson  
Ruth Sauer  
Jerry and Barb Schunk  
Glen and Joan Shivers  
Mary Lou Williams  
Ron and Joyce Williams  
Bob and Gibbie Wise

### **Land Stewardship**

Loren E. Ackerman

### **Facilities/Bridges**

Jerry and Barb Schunk

### **Memorials**

*In loving memory of Bonnie Scott*

The Middletown Garden Club

*In loving memory of Joe, Jeanne and Shirley*

Mary Lou Williams

### **Honorariums**

*In honor of Katie DeVilling,*

*Debbie Hazelbaker,*

*and Avinne Kiser*

The Middletown Garden Club

### **Additional Contributions**

John Dupps  
Steve and Rosemary Longworth  
Ruth Sauer  
Glen and Joan Shivers  
Ron and Joyce Williams  
Bob and Gibbie Wise

*These memberships were received between 9/11/2018 and 12/12/2018. You may have already sent in your membership earlier in 2018, for which we thank you. 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.*

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!

## **More Ways to Help Bull's Run**

*Serve on the volunteer Board of Directors as:*

**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:*

**Participate in Kroger Community Rewards** Designate our agency ID MX093, as your non-profit choice.

**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 Mother's Day weekend, 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.



# 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 28, Feb 4, 11, 18 & 25 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 [naturalist@bullsrn.org](mailto:naturalist@bullsrn.org)

**Included in 2019 Bull's Run Family membership (good for all 4 seasons in 2019)**



## Membership Form 2019

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**

## New Winter Hike Series - Last Saturday of the Winter Months at 10 AM.

Join Sarah Meadows for short 1- to 4-mile hike through a different park each month, beginning on December 29, at Bull's Run. We will end each hike with a hot bowl of homemade soup. January 26 we'll hike around Smith Park. February 23 we'll hike along the Great Miami Trail beginning and ending at the River Center near the AK pavilion. Watch our Facebook page for updates on meeting locations and soup flavors. While the events are free, please add a comment to the Facebook event that you are planning to join us, so we have enough soup. Happy hiking!



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### Program Interest Form 2019

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 2, 1:00 – 4:0pm \$20/person (half price with 2019 membership) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Winter Nature Tots** Mondays 10am – 11:30 Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26 free with 2019 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 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 removing all of the bush honeysuckle debris created on work days, and for removing the damaged tree limbs following the ice storm.
- ❖ Thanks to Mike Wertz of The Christmas Tree Farm for running the bobcat on the work day we spread mulch on the trails.
- ❖ Thanks to all the workday volunteers, both individuals and groups!
- ❖ Thanks to the City of Middletown for mowing the Memorial tree area and hauling off honeysuckle branches after work days.
- ❖ Thanks to Sarah Meadows 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 many volunteers who helped greet visitors during our week to count guests at Light Up Middletown.
- ❖ 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 those who shop at Kroger and have enrolled in their community rewards program, listing Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum – agency ID MX093, as their non-profit choice.
- ❖ To the City of Middletown for arranging 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 Naturalist, Sarah, and Bernie Moller for taking down the dead trees in the Author's Grove.
- ❖ Thanks to all Board members: Nancy Clark, Marjorie Kochunas, Randy Wilson, and Debbie Grant; for their enduring support!
- ❖ To everyone who made Bull's Run part of their 2018 giving and those who plan to contribute in 2019, we truly appreciate your support!

**2019 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, 22 Christmas Bird Count 10:00 – 11:30 am Dress for the weather, field guide and binoculars recommended, but not required

Saturday, 29, Winter Hike Series – 10 am at Bull's Run

### **January**

Saturday, 26, Winter Hike Series – 10 am at Smith Park

Monday, 28, Winter Nature Tots 10:00 – 11:30 am Reservations requested by Jan. 26

### **February**

Saturday, 2, Winter Tree Identification Class; 1:00 – 4:00 pm Church of Ascension & Arboretum

Mondays, 4, 11, 18 & 25 Winter Nature Tots 10:00 – 11:30 am

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

Saturday, 23, Winter Hike Series – 10 am at River Center

### **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.

Sunday, March 25 – Spring Wildflower Walk 2pm

**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**

(this section for mailing panel)

### **Important Dates:**

12/22 Bird Count

1/29 Winter Nature Tots

2/2 Winter Tree Class

2/16 Bird Watching Hike