



Bull's Run Newsletter Spring 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.



Spring Wildflowers!

Believe it or not, believe Punxsutawney Phil or not, but Spring will be here before we know it!



(Mayapple)

Daffodils and crocus are sending up leaves and buds in neighborhood lawns, tree buds are beginning to swell, maple sap is rising and March winds are blowing, so Spring Wildflower Walks are planned at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum. Join us on the trails on four Sunday afternoons, March 24, April 7, 28 and May 5, beginning at 2pm for guided hikes to note the native wildflowers along the trails at Bull's Run. Each week something new will be in bloom, so feel free to come to all four and wander the trails on your own to see what is "springing" up.

Bull's Run Garage Sale Fundraiser

Do you have items that don't "spark joy" for you anymore? Are you downsizing or know of someone who is moving? Please consider donating to our sale.

In preparation of the event, volunteers will be on site receiving goods at 4312 Walton Ct. (the Grau residence) from 10-2 on Saturdays, April 13, 20, 27 and May 4.

Not this year? Share with a friend!

- ✓ Small appliances
- ✓ Gardening items
- ✓ Jewelry
- ✓ Dishes
- ✓ Antiques
- ✓ Linens
- ✓ Toys



- ✓ Tools
- ✓ Bikes
- ✓ Sports equipment
- ✓ Collectibles
- ✓ Plants
- ✓ Furniture
- ✓ Children's books

Please, no clothing, computers, TVs or large exercise equipment.

We appreciate your support of our main fundraiser! The sale takes place May 10 and 11 from 8-4. Contact Debbie Grant 425-7250 or Marge Kochunas 422-1270 for assistance or to schedule a time that is convenient.

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum 2019 Memberships

2019 Memberships

Loren E. Ackerman
Barbara Balsmeyer
Kristine Bougie
Raymonda Brandon
Wilson Breiel
Carl and Shirley Butts
Cheri Carpenter
Carol Colclasure
Katie DeVilling
Joe and Carolyn DiStaola
Don and Betty Elworth
Bob and Mary Alice Gast
Cissi Glickfield
Brad and Marge Kochunas
Les and Cheryl Landon
Julie Mansu
Heinz and Giselle Matthiesen
Peter and JoAnn Moroz
Jeff McMullen and Barbara Ballard
Michael and Katie McNeil
Ted and Marcia Miller
Terri Mulhall
Greg and Stephanie Nenni
Nicole Owens
Chris Parker
Tom Ritter
Kathleen Dobrozsi Romans
Jim and Lynnette Schluter
Mike and Kim Scorti
Tom Scott
Glen and Joan Shivers
Greg and Jeanne Siewny
Erin Skimming
Casaundra Taylor
Julie Thomas
Thomas Wiley
Miranda Wilson

Wilson-Schramm-Spaulding Funeral Home
Mary Lou Williams
Ron and Joyce Williams
Thomas and Sharon Williamson
Bob and Gibbie Wise

Memorials

In loving memory of Lazaros

Tom and Angela Retzios

In loving memory of Joe Thomas

Julie Thomas

In loving memory of Joe, Jeannie and Shirley

Mary Lou Williams

Facilities/Bridges

Jim and Lynnette Schluter
Bob and Gibbie Wise

Education

Glen and Joan Shivers
Bob and Gibbie Wise

Land Stewardship

Loren E. Ackerman
Jeff McMullen and Barbara Ballard
Bob and Gibbie Wise

Additional Contributions

Wilson Breiel
Carol Colclasure
Cissi Glickfield
Heinz and Giselle Matthiesen
Terri Mulhall
Kathleen Dobrozsi Romans
Jim and Lynnette Schluter
Greg and Jeanne Siewny
Wilson-Schramm-Spaulding Funeral Home

These memberships were received between 12/15/2018 and 3/10/19. 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 opened in 1979, 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!

Naturalist's Nature Notes

Winter Nature Tots

This past winter we welcomed some new tots to our nature tots family! We can't wait to keep exploring with you all year long! With nothing green to see, we went fossil hunting in the creek and made our own fossils to take home. We learned all about snow and all the different shapes of snowflakes, and learned about what trees are doing in the winter. We had so much fun making twig people and other crafts, and hiking around to keep warm!

(Photos: looking at fossils, and looking at ice from creek)



Spring Nature Tots

Spring is just around the corner, and we can't wait to explore and see what green leaves are peeking through the soil! We can watch things begin to grow throughout the month of April, and learn how to plant and take care of our own nature tots tree in the arboretum. Join us to explore nature hands-on as the plants and animals come back to life on four Mondays in April and one in May, from 10-11:30am. The Nature Tots program is free, and includes all four seasons, with a 2019 family membership. Geared for children 6 mos. – 6 years, contact naturalist@bullsrn.org with questions and to register in advance.

An Active Winter

We didn't hunker down and hide this winter, we got out and had fun! We coordinated the first Middletown Winter Hike Series with the City of Middletown and the MetroParks of Butler County. Look for this event series next winter if you missed out! We also hosted a Maple Sugar Hike, our annual Winter Bird Count, and even participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count, a nationwide annual event. If winter events aren't for you, we have plenty of great events coming up this spring!

Christmas Bird Count results (12/22/2018):

Cardinal	2	Nuthatch-white breasted	5
Carolina Wren	3	Red-tailed Hawk	2
Chickadee-Carolina	14	Robin	3
Crow	3	Tufted Titmouse	14
Flicker	1	Woodpecker- Downy	2
Mourning Dove	14	Woodpecker-Red Bellied	2
Nuthatch-red breasted	1		

Great Backyard Bird Count results (2/16/2019):

Cardinal	1	Nuthatch-red breasted	1
Carolina Wren	5	Nuthatch-white breasted	4
Chickadee-Carolina	8	Red-shouldered Hawk	1
Cooper's Hawk	1	Sparrow-White-throated	2
Crow	4	Starling	1
Flicker	1	Tufted Titmouse	3
Junco	2	Woodpecker- Downy	1
Mourning Dove	2	Woodpecker-Red Bellied	2

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum Work Days

Last year people volunteered for almost 500 hours in the park, making the health of our woods and all our programs possible! A quarter of those hours were completed by Master Gardener interns and volunteers making a huge difference in Bull's Run.

The park is already bursting with life again. We need volunteers to help tackle invasive species and get the park in shape for programs. We'll be planting over 60 trees and shrubs this year to continue to increase the diversity of our woods, including 6 native species that are not currently present. These will broaden food sources and habitat for animals to make Bull's Run more resilient. In the long term, we hope these seedlings will help fill in gaps in our canopy and understory to out-compete invasive species like honeysuckle and euonymus/winter creeper vine that are currently taking over in full sun areas. We need your help to make this possible!

Please join us for work days to learn how to identify plants, make room for native plants and remove the invasive plants. We supply the tools and the know-how, we just need your help! All ages and skill levels are welcome.

Spring Work Days



Saturdays, 9:30-1pm (unless otherwise noted)

March 30

April 13

April 27

May 11 – from 8am-12pm - Keep Middletown Beautiful Clean-Up

May 18

We are also planning to tackle some larger and more intensive projects this year, including a memorial reflection area, a rain garden to help with water runoff and bridge repair/replacement. If you are intrigued by any of these projects or can lend any expertise and equipment, please contact Sarah at Naturalist@BullsRun.org!

If you would like to volunteer or contribute in other ways, please let us know.

Geocache 101

Last Summer, guest speaker Michael Porter spearheaded the placement of a new geocache location in Bull's Run. Since then, it has been getting a lot of positive activity! This spring Michael will be leading another Geocache 101 program, guiding guests through the process of finding a geocache and ending at our very own cache (at a NEW location this year!). This event is free, date and time TBA on our Facebook page.



A Look at Future Plans at Bull's Run

Coming This Spring

We are looking forward to installing a beautiful new memorial garden near the entrance of the arboretum, easily accessible immediately off the driveway. With a memorial bench facing the arboretum, this will be a relaxing spot to sit in the shade and enjoy being outdoors.

Our annual Spring Wildflower Walk Series is here again! Every spring the forest floor comes to life with beautiful blooms, which change throughout the spring season. Join us for a short guided hike and learn which wildflowers are blooming when. Come back for each hike to enjoy the full variety! See page 8 for dates.

We love our Volunteers! Spring Workdays are every other Saturday. It's that time of year again, trails need to be prepared and trees need to be planted. Spend some time in the woods and help us with a variety of projects to maintain the natural beauty of the arboretum.

A new educational opportunity is coming: **Pollinator Planting: Encouraging Native Bees!**



On Saturday, April 6, beginning at 1 pm in Zion Lutheran Church (corner of Grand Avenue and Breiel Boulevard), meet Ph.D. candidate Andrew Lybbert, who is studying native bees at The Ohio State University. First, we will learn about identifying the main groups of Ohio native bees with a short presentation and activities. We will focus on discussing which plants you can plant in your yard this spring to encourage each of them!

We will end the event with a short hike through the arboretum, and see if there is any bee activity on any early wildflowers that may be popping up!

Cost will be \$10 (half price for 2019 members) and include a packet of flower seeds and materials to build a bee home. CONTACT naturalist@bullsrn.org TO REGISTER.



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, or President, Nancy Clark at 513-368-3233. For event information visit www.bullsrn.org

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

More Ways to Help Bull's Run

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 known gems of nature. Help us spread the word!

Designate Bull's Run to receive your community rewards at Kroger. This program contributes to Bull's Run as you make purchases at Kroger, without affecting your fuel rewards. Organization # MX093.

Collect household items for the Annual Garage Sale as you do your Spring Cleaning and drop them off from 10-2 on Saturdays, April 13, 20, 27 and May 4.

Shop the Annual Garage Sale on May 10 and 11 from 8am – 4pm.

Make a contribution to the Bull's Run Endowment Fund, managed by the Middletown Community Foundation. Contributions, either as donations or decisions to include Bull's Run in your will, can add to the fund. Please consider Bull's Run in your future plans. Thank you!

Consider a service project at Bull's Run for your social, civic or service group. Contact Sarah Meadows, naturalist@bullsrun.org, if interested or looking for ideas.

Invite family members and neighbors to join you on a hike along the trail, either on a guided hike listed on the calendar on page 8 (also on our Facebook page) or explore the trails on your own. Help us get more people outdoors at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum!

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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!

Pollinator Planting: Encouraging Native Bees! April 6, 1:00 – 3:00pm \$10/person (1/2 price with 2019 membership)

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

Spring Nature Tots Mondays 10am – 11:30 April 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. 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 2019 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 and storms.
- ❖ Thanks to Mike Wertz of The Christmas Tree Farm for mowing the meadow in preparation for the spring season.
- ❖ 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 Rachel Diver Williams for leading the Great Backyard Bird Count Walk and helping identify the 39 birds sighted representing 16 species.
- ❖ Thank you to this season's bird feeder fillers, Brad and Marge Kochunas, Melissa Proffitt, Karen Dillon and Rachel Diver.
- ❖ 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 Donna Beauregard, Middletown City Parks Department, for leading the Winter Hike Series' second walk at Smith Park, and Shawnee Banks, MetroParks of Butler County, for leading the third walk at River Center. And our own Sarah Meadows for coordinating the new event and leading for first hike at Bull's Run.
- ❖ Thanks to Sarah Meadows, Marge Kochunas and Nancy Clark for making the homemade soups that warmed the participants of the Winter Hike Series at the end of each Winter Hike.
- ❖ Thanks to Tom Borgman for leading the Winter Tree Identification Class and sharing his knowledge of the woods.
- ❖ 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. 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 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!



BULL'S RUN
NATURE SANCTUARY
AND ARBORETUM
P.O. Box 425
Middletown, OH 45042

Important Dates:

Bee Talk! April 6
Spring Nature Tots
4/1, 8, 15, 22 & 5/6
Annual Garage Sale
May 10 & 11

Mark Your Calendars For Upcoming Events

March 24 Wildflower Walk 2:00-3:00
30 Volunteer Work Day 9:30-1:00

April 1 Spring Nature Tots, 10:00 – 11:30
6 Pollinator Planting: Encouraging Native Bees! 1-3 pm Zion Lutheran Church
7 Wildflower Walk 2:00-3:30
8 Spring Nature Tots, 10:00 – 11:30
13 Volunteer Work Day 9:30-1:00
15 Spring Nature Tots, 10:00 – 11:30
27 Volunteer Work Day 9:30-1:00
22 Spring Nature Tots, 10:00 – 11:30
28 Wildflower Walk 2:00-3:00
28 Wildflower Walk, 4:00-5:00 off-site at Armbruster Nature Preserve (off Autumn Dr.)



May 5 Wildflower Walk 2:00-3:00
6 Spring Nature Tots, 10:00 – 11:30
10 Garage Sale Fundraiser 8:00-4:00 (Sale is located at 4312 Walton Ct., Middletown)
11 Garage Sale Fundraiser 8:00-4:00
11 Keep Middletown Beautiful workday 8-12
18 Volunteer Work Day 9:30-4:00