



Bull's Run Newsletter Autumn 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.



1979 - 2019

Fall Family Fest

Please bring the whole family to Bull's Run on Sunday, September 22, between 2:00 and 4:00 pm for an afternoon of fun in the outdoors at no charge. We plan to have a wide variety of activities to involve people of all ages. There will be nature crafts, games using natural materials, a scavenger hunt to stimulate your observation skills, face painting and refreshments. Volunteers will be helping your family enjoy this natural treasure to the fullest, so bring some friends along, too.



Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting will again be held at Verity Lodge on MUM Campus to celebrate **40 years** since the Arboretum trails were opened to the public. You are invited to join us for this free event on Tuesday, **October 8, beginning at 7:00 pm**. The Bulls Run property is a unique part of the rich history of Middletown. In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Arboretum and Nature Sanctuary, we welcome Adam Wanter, Midpointe Library Historian, and Sam Ashworth of the Middletown Historical Society as they present us with the history of this property and how it came to be the beautiful natural area we enjoy today. Hear from past Fresh Air Campers, see unique video and photographic footage of the camp and more! This event includes hors d'oeuvres and is free and open to the public. Share your own memories through stories and photographs with others who enjoy this unique gem in Middletown.

New Rain Garden!

Bull's Run is excited to announce that we were awarded an Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) grant from the OEPA last spring to install a new rain garden below the shelter! Since then, you may have



noticed the refreshed entrance paths to the arboretum and the gravel around the shelter. Many thanks to Tom Borgman for his guidance on the project and to Melissa Proffitt from Warren County Soil and Water for leading the educational program. Thanks to AK Steel volunteers and the AK Cares program for providing the man power and heavy equipment to haul in gravel and dig trenches to install new French drains, pipe, and catch basins around the shelter to direct runoff from the hillside into the rain garden planted with native plants with help from Master Gardeners and other volunteers. Previously, this water would wash out the

path and carried dirt onto the shelter floor. We are especially excited to watch blooms fill in next spring!

Passing of Founder, Carolyn Gaker



This year, as we celebrate the 40th year of the preservation of Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum, we also mourn the recent passing of one of our founders, Carolyn Gaker. Carolyn and her family lived next-door to the Fresh Air Camp. When the camp closed, she along with two other ladies saw the value of saving the native plants and wildlife. Together they fought City Hall saving the woods from development. In 1979, the Fresh Air Camp became Bull's Run. We will forever be grateful for her insight and devotion to our woodland park.

Carolyn is featured in a mini-documentary entitled, Postcard from the Past: Fresh Air Camp/Bull's Run Arboretum. The film features original footage from the Fresh Air Camp and the story of how it came to be Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum. She expresses in the film how she feels it is one of her greatest accomplishments. The film can be viewed online at <https://vimeo.com/87104696>

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum Memorial Contributions Received since the Spring Newsletter

In loving memory of Carolyn Gaker

Frank and Janet Andress
Carl and Shirley Butts
Timothy Carlson
John and Julie Cohen
Dewitt Chapple, Jr.
Pete and Peggy Dobroszi
Carol Duricy
Lisa Hill and Ryan Gaker
Dr. Jack and Mrs. Nancy Gottschalk
Forest and Debbie Grant
Joann Grimes
Thomas and Deborah Hazelbaker
Dr. Ray and Mrs. Jean Anne Kiefhaber
Brad and Marge Kochunas
Barney and Muriel Landry
Heinz and Gisele Matthiesen
Middletown Garden Club
Ted and Marcia Miller
Dr. Leo Munick
Roberta O'Shell
Micheal and Helen Overstreet
William and Lavada Perrill
Carol Radke
Dr. Jennifer Ridge
Dr. Greg and Mrs. Jeanne Siewny
Ronald and Joyce Williams
Steve and Lisa Wilson

In loving memory of Dr. Louis B. Gaker

Wilson Breiel
Roger and Peggy Bosch
DeWitt Chapple, Jr
Ron and Barbara Conley
Forest and Debbie Grant
Joann Grimes
Dr. Ray and Mrs. Jean Anne Kiefhaber
Barney Landry
Lawrence and Catherine Mulligan
Dr. Leo H Munick
Michael and Helen Overstreet
William and Lavada Perrill
Carol Radke
Dr. Jennifer Ridge
Sarah Skinner

In loving memory of Dick Hopper

LaVerne Hopper

In loving memory of Lois LaFayette

Lois had served on the BRNSA Board of Directors
Lorna Becker
Carl and Shirley Butts
Forest and Debbie Grant
Charlene Kiniyalocts
Steve and Lisa Wilson

New Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum Contributions **Received since the Spring Newsletter**

Additional 2019 Memberships

Loren Ackerman
Cassidy Batty
Jan and Laird Becker
Chris and Tom Buchert
Amy Chambers
Daryl and Nancy Clark
Jay and Karen Dillon
Rachel Diver
John Dupps
Mary Enochs
Chris Flynn
Lawrence and Kay Fraley
Elaine Garver
Greg and Dianne Gerber
Austin Grabow
LaVerne Hopper
Carolyn Keiffer
Mike and Priscilla Lane
Megan Laubach
Cheryl Minnich
Andrea Nusbaum
Michael O'Leary
Larry and Marsha Orcutt
Greg and Patty Pratt
Rebekah Pruett
Tom Scott
Glen and Joan Shivers

Ernie Sturgill
Shirley Sweich
Julie Thomas
Lynn and Hamilton Watkins
Amy Wenzel
Steve and Lisa Wilson
Holly Young

Facilities

Loren Ackerman
Jan and Laird Becker

Education

Joan Shivers

Unrestricted Donations

Chris and Tom Buchert
Wilbur Cohen
Jay and Karen Dillon
John Dupps
Elaine Garver
Carolyn Keiffer
Larry and Marsha Orcutt
Ernie Sturgill
Lynn and Hamilton Watkins

In-Kind Donations

AK Steel volunteers and the AK Cares program
Master Gardeners

These memberships were received between 3/12/2019 and 9/2/19. 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.

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 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.

Kroger Community Rewards Program:

Kroger Community Rewards makes fund-raising easy...all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card! When you enroll, please choose Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum under Community Rewards. This will not affect your fuel rewards in any way. Our new organization number is MX093. If you have enrolled in the past, your account has already automatically changed the number for you.

Many thanks to our current all-volunteer Board of Directors for their leadership, dedication and hours of service to BRNSA: Nancy Clark, Debbie Grant, Marge Kochunas, and Randy Wilson.

2019 Fall 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

September 30, October 7, 14, 21, & 28

Fall Sessions will explore Bull's Run, as the forest prepares for winter, with all of our senses.

Call BRNSA naturalist, Sarah Meadows,
at 513-279-8958 or email naturalist@bullsrn.org to
register!

*BRNSA 2019 family membership required to participate in this FREE program. To
become a member, visit www.bullsrn.org*

Notes from the Naturalist



Summer Campfire Series:

This is the second year we have hosted our Summer Campfire Series, and we had so much fun! We invited some new special guests to join us this year. Thanks to Julie Stubbs with Great Parks of Hamilton County for bringing out live owls in July, and to Steve Flammer for serenading us on his mandolin, dulcimer, and banjo-lele during our campfire with live music in August. Of course, we also told campfire stories, had sing-alongs and enjoyed fresh s'mores.

Summer Nature Tots:

This summer we welcomed several new tots, and had a lot of fun exploring together. From capturing spider webs on paper to searching for snail trails in the woods, we learned about a variety of creatures great and small. Learning to explore nature with a sensory scavenger hunt was new and exciting for our tots this summer! We also had a few of our tots graduate. We will certainly miss them on our adventures, and wish them well as they start school this fall.



Reforestation Project Wins County Award

Those of you who have been supporters or visitors to Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum have seen the destruction of our ash trees by the emerald ash borer. We have lost close to 300 mature ash trees to EAB alone. This was a significant number of mature trees. In order to prepare for the future, we are working on reforesting the arboretum bit by bit each year, planting native trees and shrubs that will revitalize the arboretum and fill the void left by the loss of so many mature trees. Randy Wilson, our land steward, a team of Butler County Master Gardeners, as well as Botany students from Miami University-Middletown and volunteers from the community have worked diligently as we continue our reforestation efforts to not only bring native plants in to the arboretum to replace the dead ash trees, but to replace the invasive honeysuckle that has been eradicated in some areas in a previous Master Gardener Award Winning Project of the Year for the State of Ohio. This ongoing reforestation project is hands on labor intensive, and so vital that the Butler County Master Gardeners Association has selected the Bull's Run Reforestation Project as the county Master Gardener Project of the Year for 2019. It is being considered by the Master Gardeners of the State of Ohio as a possible Project of the Year for all Master Gardener sites. Thank you to all Master Gardeners and all students and community members who give their time to make Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum the amazing place it is.

Record Garage Sale

Wow, wow, WOW! What a tremendous sale! Thank you to the families who gave and sometimes went home and gave again. We had some really nice quality items. It was more than a garage sale! There were volunteers who worked to research, price and display all of the goods of which there were many. Two full sale days were staffed from set-up to cleanup. This was our ninth Mother's Day Weekend Sale and our largest yet bringing in over \$5000. A special "thank you" to the Graus for once again graciously inviting us into their home. The proceeds from the sale will be used to reinstall the historical monument along with another column in a new "Reflection Garden".

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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@bullsrun.org, or President, Nancy Clark at 513-368-3233. For event information visit www.bullsrun.org or our Facebook page.

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

A Look at Future Plans at Bull's Run

Scary Stories Campfire

Ready to set the mood for Halloween? Join us around a campfire in the woods at night, and listen to some scary stories, terrifying tales, and frightening folklore. The first hour, 7-8 pm will be family friendly, and the second hour, 8-9 pm will be geared toward tweens and older. S'mores will be provided as comfort food for those who need it. Bring your own seating. Friday, Oct. 25, 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

Pumpkin Hike

A big success in its inaugural year last year, this popular event is back! Join us for a unique hike through the arboretum in the evening with carved pumpkins lighting your way. This year, we are also holding a food drive for the upcoming holiday season. Bring your healthy, non-perishable food items to support local families in need. At the end of your hike, learn about nature at night and win some candy. Come hike at dusk, then again after dark for a different experience. Choose your favorite pumpkin and buy a ticket to take home one of our carved pumpkins at the end of the night! Saturday, Oct. 26, 6-8:00pm.

National Take a Hike Day

Plans are being made to celebrate National Take a Hike Day on Sunday, November 17, with a map of area hiking trails at local parks and ending with a guided hike at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum. Hope you can join us for a special opportunity to get outside and take a hike. Check back at our Facebook page and the website for more details at the beginning of November.



Program Interest Form 2020

Use this form to let us know what YOU want to do at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum in the coming year!

Interested in Nature Tots Winter_____ Spring_____ Summer_____ Autumn_____
Mondays 10am – 11:30 dates to be announced free with a 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 _____

Winter Tree ID Class January _____ **Spring Wildflower Walks** March _____ April _____ May _____

Spring Bird Walk April _____ May _____ **Summer Tree ID Walk** June _____

Campfire Series (evenings) June _____ July _____ August _____ September _____

Prairie Walk early August _____ late August _____ **Christmas Bird Count** December _____

Suggestions for a new event _____
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 AK Steel volunteers and the AK Cares program for providing the man power and heavy equipment that made installing the Rain Garden, the drainage system around the shelter and improving the parking lot and trail to the gate.
- ❖ Thanks to Mike Wertz of Wertz Tree Farm for once again mowing the prairie to stimulate new growth.
- ❖ Thanks to all the workday volunteers, both individuals and groups!
- ❖ Thanks to Tom Borgman for leading the Annual Prairie Walk in August and guidance in planning and executing the Rain Garden.
- ❖ Thanks to Melissa Proffitt and Warren SWCD for their collaboration on the Rain Garden.
- ❖ Thanks to Michael Porter for sponsoring and maintaining a geocache at Bull's Run and leading a workshop on geocaching. Watch for more news about geocaching at Bull's Run.
- ❖ Thanks to the City of Middletown for collaborating on the Rain Garden, 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 Sarah Meadows for creating the 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!
- ❖ MUM Biology students volunteering at Work Days!
- ❖ Thanks to those who shop at Kroger and have enrolled in their community rewards program, listing Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum – new organization # MX093.
- ❖ 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 2019 giving and those who plan to contribute in 2020, we truly appreciate your support!



AK Steel Volunteers installing drainage at the shelter

2019 Membership Form is included in this mailing at the bottom of page 5 and is also available on the website, if you have not already sent in your contribution.

Please fill out the interest survey on page 6, too.

Together we are making a difference!

Mark Your Calendars For Upcoming Events

September

Saturday, September 21, **Work Day** 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Sunday, September 22, **Fall Family Fest**, 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Free event for the whole family. Games, crafts, face painting, scavenger hunt, guided walk, snacks, and more outdoor activities for all ages.

Monday, September 30, **Fall Nature Tots** 10:00 – 11:30 am Reservations required for this series of hands-on exploration of nature through your child's eyes and senses. See page 4 for more details.

October

Mondays 7, 14, 21, 28, **Fall Nature Tots** 10:00 – 11:30 am Reservations required for this series of hands-on exploration of nature through your child's eyes and senses. See page 4 for more details.

Saturday, October 5 **Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Tuesday, October 8, **Annual Meeting at Verity Lodge on MUM Campus**, 7:00 – 8:30 pm. Come celebrate the first 40 years of Bull's Run and hear more about future plans for BRNSA.. **Free** event with light refreshments available.

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

Friday, October 25, **Scary Stories Campfire**, 7-8 pm Family Friendly, 8-9 pm Tweens and older

Saturday, October 26, **Pumpkin Hike**, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

November

Saturday, November 2 **Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Sunday, November 17, **National Take a Hike Day**. Watch for more details on our Facebook page and website as we plan some special events, ending with a guided hike at Bull's Run.

December

Saturday, December 21, **Annual Christmas Bird Count**, 10 am.

For more information, please visit our website www.bullsrn.org or Facebook page
Contact Sarah Meadows, Naturalist, at naturalist@bullsrn.org, to schedule a tour or service project,
or speak to your organization or for a program at Bull's Run.

Bull's Run Photo Gallery



National Night Out at Smith Park



Musical Campfire