



Bull's Run Newsletter Winter 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

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum Annual Review

2019 was a very busy year, thanks in a huge part to our Naturalist, Sarah Meadows. Bull's Run is now offering a wide variety of activities covering numerous interests.

We offered a number of opportunities for bird watchers, from the annual Christmas Bird count, to the Great Backyard Bird Count in February. And thanks to our bird feeder filler crew of volunteers, the birds keep the watchers entertained any time they visit.

For hikers, Sarah spearheaded a new Winter Tree Hike series in an effort to increase exploring area parks in the colder months. We offered hot soup at the conclusion of the hikes. January featured the Arboretum, in February the focus was on Smith Park, and March shifted to the Great Miami Recreation Trail.

The visitors interested in plants had a large selection of programs to meet their curiosity. Wildflower enthusiasts could choose from 5 different guided walks throughout the spring, or a prairie walk in August. Those curious about trees may have joined us for the Winter Tree Identification Class, a summer tree walk, taken time to look at the labeled memorial trees in the front area, or just walked along the trails.

For those interested in pollinators, Sarah arranged for a special speaker on bees, especially solitary bees, and those who attended the workshop, made their own bee house.

And for those who just love Bull's Run (or needed extra credit or in-service hours there were the work days in spring and fall – either clearing invasive plants, spreading mulch on the trails, picking up trash, planting trees, or collecting seeds. All the many hours were/are very much appreciated!!! Many of our volunteers come to us from Ohio Extension's Master Gardener program, and we have a plaque honoring their contribution of time and effort.

We were pleased to have an influencer family of 9 from the Columbus area visit Bull's Run in June. The Middletown Visitor's Bureau arranged for the guided tour as one of the featured spots in our city.

There have been a number of just fun family activities for locals, too. Nature Tots lets children ages 6 months to 6 years- and their caregivers- explore the Arboretum in all four seasons. Sarah also continued the Campfire Series that she began last year. We had a 40th Birthday Party in July to celebrate Bull's Run and a booth at National Night Out. Fall Family Fest had wonderful weather for the crowd that came out.

There were also 2 major projects this year. The Rain Garden was completed on September 15. The Reflection Garden, with the return of the Historical Monument and a new Memorial Monument with a memorial bench, is slowly becoming a reality. It is being funded by proceeds from the Garage Sale

And speaking of Memorials, we were saddened by the passing this year of Carolyn Gaker, one of our founders; Dr. Louis Gaker, a staunch supporter of Bull's Run; and Lois LaFayette, a past president of the board. Numerous donations have been made in their memory. Thank you.

2019 Annual Meeting

In celebration of 40 years of being open to the public and preserved as a community park, we featured the history of Bull's Run at our annual meeting this year. We began with the Native Americans and followed the first settlers of Middletown through the Fresh Air Camp era, and ended with how it became what it is today. Special thanks to Adam Wanter, Midpointe Library Archivist, and Sam Ashworth with the Middletown Historical Society for sharing with us their photos, video, and knowledge about this unique piece of community history! We are also grateful to Ms. Jeanne Berry for sharing her experiences in the Fresh Air Camp as a young girl!



Ms. Jeanne Berry

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

Memberships

Bill and Jennifer Becker
Tom and Sally Brickey
Ron and Barbara Conley
Richard Davies
Don and Judy Dixon
Don and Betty Elworth
Margaret Fiora
Patricia Gage
Jane Gold
Kenton Pate and Peggy Braitsch
Elizabeth Patterson
Pamela Pearson
Jack Schaefer
Judy Shillinglaw
Glen and Joan Shivers
Tom Scott
Suellyn Shupe
Julie Thomas
Mary Lou Williams
Robert and Gibbie Wise

Facilities

Mary Lou Williams

Education

Glen and Joan Shivers

Unrestricted Donations

Ron and Barbara Conley
Elizabeth Patterson
Robert and Gibbie Wise

Memorials

In loving memory of Carolyn Gaker

Greg and Dianne Gerber
Ralph and Dee Ann Kah

In loving memory of Dr. Louis B. Gaker

Carl and Shirley Butts
Pete and Peggy Dobrozsi
Greg and Dianne Gerber
Ralph and Dee Ann Kah
Robert O'Shell

In loving memory of Jim Shillinglaw

Judy Shillinglaw

In loving memory of Joe Thomas

Julie Thomas

These memberships were received between 10/1/2019 and 12/5/19. 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.



Fall Family Festival

At our annual celebration of fall, we couldn't have asked for better weather. With face painting, popcorn and apple cider, bubbles and crafts, this event was a fun way to spend the afternoon with friends and family members! Thank you to those who volunteered, it wouldn't have happened without you!



Fall Nature Tots

This fall we learned about all kinds of creepy crawly animals to get in the spirit of Halloween! From snakes to bats we had fun making crafts and learning about these animals together. Of course, we also played with and found all different colored leaves! Thanks again to the MidPointe Library on Wheels for coming out to our first and last sessions to read to us about these wonderful animals and nature in the fall.



2020 Winter 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

January 27, February 3, 10, 17 & 24

Bundle up and play in the snow with us at winter nature tots! Take a closer look at nature through the wondering eyes of a child. This program is geared for children 6 months to 6 years of age, with their caregivers. Reservations and 2020 family membership required (good for all 2020 nature tots, Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall). Be sure to dress for the weather; we will be outdoors! Join us for crafts, games, and exploration. Contact naturalist@bullsrn.org to register or visit bullsrn.org/membership/ to purchase a membership.

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

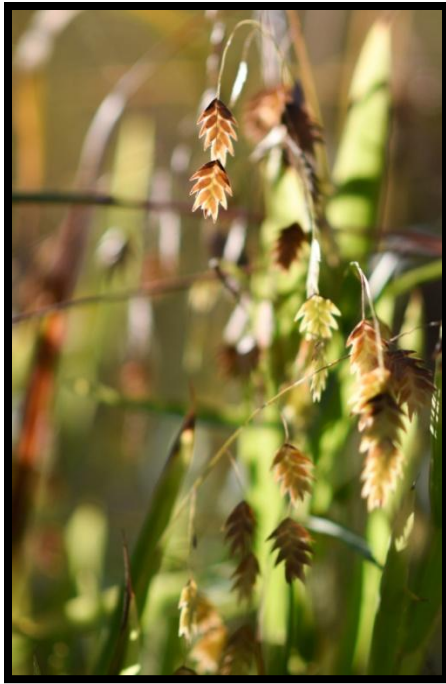
*BRNSA 2020 family membership required to participate in this FREE program.

To become a member, visit www.bullsrn.org or fill out the form on page 5.



Scary Stories Campfire

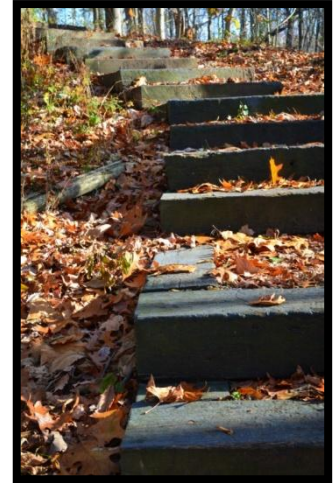
In the spirit of Halloween, we held a scary stories campfire with s'mores as comfort food! The MidPointe Library on Wheels brought us stories to make us shiver and keep close to the fire. We enjoyed two different crowds, offering family friendly stories the first hour and 'scarier' stories the second hour for older kids, teens, and adults.



Fall Photo Contest

We had so many beautiful entries this season, thank you to all our participants! Congratulations to our winner, Rachel Goforth, with a photo of Northern Sea Oats in our prairie.

Runners up: Ginkgo Branch, by Kate Titus, and Fall Steps, by Crystal Fordyce.



With so many beautiful photographs submitted for the photo contests in 2019, we have decided to create a calendar and offer it for sale. Please consider purchasing a **2020 Bull's Run Calendar** to support our 2020 activities and conservation efforts! Sale ends 12/25. Calendars are spiral bound, 8.5"x11".

Calendar Prices are as follows (includes shipping)

\$25 per calendar without 2020 membership or \$20 per calendar with 2020 membership.

You may order on-line through our website, www.bullsrn.org, or include payment and shipping information on the membership form on page 5.

Winter Photo Contest

We will be announcing our Winter Photo Contest on the website in mid-January, so bundle up and take a winter walk to capture a snow scene, birds grabbing a snack at a feeder, or something else that catches your fancy.

2019 Work Days

We had 55 volunteers perform over 300 hours of work in the park this year! We collected and spread prairie seeds. We were happy to find this was a great year for Common Milkweed and we are hopeful it will feed many Monarch caterpillars next year. We removed truckloads of invasive plants - mostly honeysuckle and euonymus vine - and are working to eradicate small patches of burning bush, European Buckthorn and Asiatic Bittersweet before they spread any further. By clearing out invasive species we made room to plant 69 seedlings of native trees and shrubs this year, for a total of 538 natives of 40 different varieties planted since 2014! (We would say the 40 varieties of native trees and shrubs were intentional to coincide with our 40th anniversary, but honestly, we plant anything we can get our hands on to increase biodiversity).

Our volunteers keep the park going. The numbers above don't include the time, labor and equipment donated by AK Steel volunteers to fix several drainage issues at the front of the park and around the shelter with a rain garden. Our annual garage sale fundraiser takes many volunteer hours to collect donations, sort and price everything in the weeks prior to the sale. As our largest fundraiser, it makes so many of our programs and projects possible. As you receive this newsletter, we will have just wrapped up volunteering for Light Up Middletown as greeters again. Volunteering takes many forms for Bull's Run and we want to express our gratitude for everyone who helps us grow this little pocket wilderness in the city. We hope to see you next spring at the work days, and be sure to watch how the rain garden fills in over the next few seasons!

Upcoming Events with the Naturalist

Middletown Winter Hike Series Returns! First Saturday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Bulls Run Arboretum - Sat. Dec. 7 (sorry, if you missed this great hike)

Smith Park - Sat. Jan. 4 and MetroParks River Center - Sat. Feb. 1

Please [register here](#) in case of cancellation due to weather, or email naturalist@bullsrn.org.

We had a great time at the first hike of the series at Bull's Run! If you missed it, you can still join us for the second and third hikes. These are fun, free social hikes with hot cocoa and coffee to warm up. Learn about the wonderful outdoor options Middletown has to offer. Thanks to our event partners, City of Middletown and MetroParks of Butler County.

Annual Holiday Bird Count

Saturday, December 21, 2019 10:00 a.m., at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum, 3909 Rosedale.

Regardless of experience, we welcome all birders to join our annual holiday bird count. Bring your binoculars and a friend, the more the merrier!

Winter Tree ID Hike

Saturday, Jan. 25, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum, 3909 Rosedale.

Beginning the workshop with the basics and practicing on samples, we will then venture out on the trail and try our hand at using our newfound skills. Any skill level is welcome; beginners are encouraged to join!

Beginner winter tree ID books will be available to purchase at the event.

Maple Sugar Hike

Saturday, Feb. 22, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum, 3909 Rosedale Road

Join us for a hike and check out the tapped trees in the arboretum! Learn about how maple sugaring began, how it's done today, and see if you can tell the difference when you taste the real thing vs. 'fake syrup'!

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Membership Form 2020

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 ___ 2020 Calendar (\$20 or \$25)

___ \$ ___ 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 or our Facebook page.

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

More Ways to Help Bull's Run



Nathan and Krissy Grant install feeders at BRNSA

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, Shauna Steigerwald and Randy Wilson.



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 the volunteers who made the Fall Family Festival possible.
- ❖ Thanks to Danbarry South Cinemas for donating the popcorn for the Fall Family Festival.
- ❖ Thanks to all the workday volunteers, both individuals and groups!
- ❖ Thanks to MidPointe Library's Mobile Library for visiting during Nature Tots and Spooky Stories Campfire.
- ❖ 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!
- ❖ Thanks to MUM Biology students for 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 everyone who entered a photograph in our contests this year.
- ❖ Thanks to the Episcopal Church of Ascension for their all-around support.
- ❖ Thanks to Aaron Grant for maintaining our website.
- ❖ Thanks to the Grant family for reconditioning the bird feeders and setting them in place for the winter feeding season.
- ❖ Thanks to the volunteers filling the feeders with seed to help supplement the diet of the feathered (and furred) winter residents of BRNSA.
- ❖ 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!



2020 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

December

Saturday, December 21, **Annual Christmas Bird Count**, 10 a.m. BRNSA

January

Saturday, Jan. 4, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Middletown Winter Hike Series @ Smith Park

Saturday, Jan. 25, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Winter Tree ID Hike @ BRNSA

February

Saturday, Feb. 1, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.,
Middletown Winter Hike Series @ MetroParks River Center, 120 S. Carmody Blvd.

Saturday, Feb. 22, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.,
Maple Sugar Hike @ BRNSA



2018 Christmas Bird Count, photo by Tom Ritter

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,
to speak to your organization or for a program at Bull's Run

Bull's Run Photo Gallery



Fun at
Fall Family Fest
← ↙ →



Fall Nature Tots
With MidPointe
BookMobile

