



## **Bull's Run Newsletter Spring 2020**

**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 Happenings at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum**

Punxsutawney Phil said spring would come early this year and some signs he was right are beginning to appear. Snow drops are blooming, daffodils are beginning to poke through the leaf litter in yards and maple sap is running at the Arboretum. Guided Wildflower Walks, free and open to the public, will hopefully begin in May if the governor lifts the state-wide quarantine. Watch for "What's in Bloom" lists of wildflowers on our Facebook page. Until the COVID-19 pandemic settles down, feel free to explore the ever-changing forest carpet of colors on your own as the spring ephemerals take advantage of the spring sunshine before the forest canopy develops to shade them. Being outside in the sunshine is one safe option amid this unprecedented situation, and please be considerate of others' personal space.

Other changes are happening, too. Our naturalist, Sarah Meadows, recently informed the Board of Directors that she has accepted a full time position at the Newport Aquarium, and is resigning. Sarah has brought a fresh perspective and energy to Bull's Run over the past two and one half years, and will be missed, but not forgotten. She has agreed to still be available for several special events she put into motion, but the Board is actively seeking a new part-time naturalist to fill the position. If you, or someone you know, are interested in the position, please visit our website for a full job description and details on how to apply.

*Nancy Clark, President*

### **Note from the Naturalist**

Growing up in Cincinnati, I knew of Middletown but I didn't know what it had to offer. It has been a pleasure getting to know and work with the community here in Middletown over the past two and a half years. I am grateful for the opportunity to develop new partnerships, programming, and relationships with the volunteers, Nature Tots families, and other local organizations who all make Bull's Run the asset that it is for the Middletown community. I have accepted a position with the WAVE Foundation at the Newport Aquarium in Newport, Kentucky, where I will continue sharing the amazing natural world as Conservation Education Coordinator. I will be leaving Bull's Run as the naturalist at the end of March. Thank you to the Bull's Run community for welcoming me with open arms, I will be back!

*Sarah Meadows, Naturalist*

### **Introducing Our Interim Naturalist!**

Rachel Diver has agreed to help Bull's Run as interim naturalist until a permanent naturalist is hired. She has a degree in Zoology from Miami University and has worked at Boonshoft Museum of Discovery. She has a special interest in birds, and was the owner and operator of A Bird's Paradise at the 2nd Street Market in Dayton, OH. One of her favorite things about life in Ohio is having four distinct seasons, with observable changes in the flora and fauna.

For the past five years, Rachel and her daughters have been regular attendees of the Nature Tots program.

## **New Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum Contributions**

### **Received since the Winter Newsletter**

#### **2020 Memberships**

Barbara Balsmeyer  
Wilson Breiel  
Tom and Chris Buchert  
Shirley Butts  
Cherri Carpenter  
Amy Chambers  
Daryl and Nancy Clark  
Larry and Carol Colclassure  
Katie DeVilling  
Joe and Carolyn DiStaola  
Rachel Diver  
Chris Flynn  
Larry and Kay Fraley  
Greg and Dianne Gerber  
Cissi Glickfield  
Forest and Debbie Grant  
Ed and Rose Grau  
Steve and Nan Hess  
Laverne Hopper  
Phil Tinne and Carolyn Keiffer  
Ray and Jean Anne Kiefhaber  
Brad and Marjorie Kochunas  
William and Ellen Kukuk  
Barney Landry  
Michael and Priscilla Lane  
Lora Lietz  
Steve and Rosemary Longworth  
Heinz and Gisele Matthiesen  
Jeff McMullen and Barbara Ballard  
Middletown Garden Club  
Ted and Marcia Miller  
Terri Mulhall  
Cheryl Minnich  
Andrea Nusbaum  
Imogene Orts  
Nicole Owens  
Richard and Virginia Palmer  
Elizabeth Patterson  
JoAnnette Perry  
Virginia Peters  
Greg and Patty Pratt  
Tom and Angela Retzios  
Tom Ritter

Ruth Sauer  
Mike and Kim Scorti  
Greg and Jeanne Siewny  
Joan and Glen Shivers  
Debbie Simpkins  
Erin Skimming  
Charles Turner  
Mary Lou Williams  
Randy Wilson  
Steve and Lisa Wilson

#### **Facilities/Bridges**

Ray and Jean Anne Kiefhaber  
Heinz and Gisele Matthiesen  
Terri Mulhall  
Mary Lou Williams

#### **Land Stewardship**

Jeff McMullen and Barbara Ballard

#### **Education**

Glen and Joan Shivers

#### **Additional Donations**

Wilson Breiel  
Tom and Chris Buchert  
Larry and Carol Colclassure  
Katie DeVilling  
Cissi Glickfield  
Laverne Hopper  
Steve and Rosemary Longworth  
Ruth Sauer  
Greg and Jeanne Siewny  
Steve and Lisa Wilson

#### **Memorials**

The Deborah A McGuire Family Trust

*In loving memory of*

Ed Simpkins  
Louis and Carolyn Gaker  
Lois LaFayette

#### **Honorariums**

Middletown Garden Club

*In honor of*

Debbie Hazelbaker  
Mary Deas Wortley  
Lynn Zollett

#### **Middletown Community Foundation**

Barney Landry

*These memberships were received between 12/5/2019 and 3/1/2020. 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 Garage Sale Fundraiser**

**POSTPONED – FUTURE DATE YET TO BE DETERMINED**

DUE TO THE COVID-19 MEASURES IN PLACE TO KEEP EVERYONE AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE, WE HAVE CHOSEN TO POSTPONE THIS EVENT. THANK YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING THIS PRECAUTION TO KEEP ALL HEALTHY.



PLEASE WATCH OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE FOR A FUTURE DATE

Are you downsizing or know of someone who is moving? Do you have some items that you seldom use? Need some space? Please consider donating to our sale.

In preparation for the event, please box up any items listed below and store them safely until we announce our collections dates later in the year.

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 will be rescheduled after the COVID-19 pandemic crisis is over. Contact Debbie Grant 425-7250 or Marge Kochunas 422-1270 for assistance or more information. Thank you for understanding.

## **Spring Photo Contest**

We want to see your photos! There is so much happening at Bull's Run in the springtime. From baby animals to spring wildflowers, all of nature is coming back to life and celebrates getting through another winter. The only rules are that it must be a subject within Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum, and that photographers must stay on the trails. Keep in mind that we have plenty of poison ivy monitoring who strays from the trails! The winner will receive a hummingbird feeder, Bull's Run t-shirt, and a feature in the 2021 Bull's Run Calendar. Send entries to [naturalist@bullsrn.org](mailto:naturalist@bullsrn.org) by 12:00 p.m. on May 31.



## Winter Nature Tots



This past winter was mild and we missed playing in the snow, but there was still fun to be had. We explored habitats and found worms living under the shelter of a log, learned about how animals use sound in nature, and made some of those sounds ourselves! Crafting a pinecone birdfeeder to take home, we learned how birds use their beaks like different tools to help them eat. The tots even helped us empty our birdhouses of their old nests to make room for this spring's young. We ended the season snacking on maple syrup and waffles after learning that it comes from sap that trees use as food. Thanks to the Bookmobile for bringing us nature stories again this season.

## 2020 Spring Nature TOTS HAS BEEN CANCELLED

**Hopefully this Child-centered, hands-on exploration of nature for children ages 6 months to 6 years (and their caregivers) will return in the Summer. The 5-week program will be continued with the new naturalist, who will determine the day of the week (it has been on Mondays) and remain 10:00 am – 11:30 am.**

In the meantime, feel free to walk the trails to explore all the changes in the forest as spring renews the plants and animals raise their young. We ask that you remain on the trails, since poison ivy is one of the plants that will be leafing out and even sprouting vines can contain the oil that causes the irritating skin rash. Take the opportunity of warming weather to search for colorful spring wildflowers and migrating birds.



Call BRNSA at 513-279-8958 or email [naturalist@bullsrn.org](mailto:naturalist@bullsrn.org) to register!

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

To become a member, visit [www.bullsrn.org/membership](http://www.bullsrn.org/membership) or fill out the form on page 5.

**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.



## Spring Wildflower Walk Series

Spring officially began on March 19, and this marks the beginning of a rainy season with warming temperatures and daylight hours growing longer. These cues tell plants it's time to come out and grow! As the season progresses there is an ever-changing variety of beautiful native woodland flowers to see. We will list wildflowers as they bloom on our Facebook Page so you can look for them yourself, since we have had to cancel our guided walks this spring. Sorry for the inconvenience.

*Sharp-lobed hepatica*



## Salamander Stroll

Did you know that amphibians breathe through their skin? We had planned to have a special guest, Melissa Proffitt, from Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District, talk about amphibians in late April, but have had to cancel the talk and walk. Take a hike on your own, see if you can find some adult salamanders under a log or see if there are any salamander tadpoles in Bulls Run Creek! We just ask that you leave them in their home without touching them. Better yet, take a picture and submit it to the Photo Contest by May 31!

## Follow us on Instagram!

Keep up with the action at the arboretum and follow us on our brand new Instagram account! Find us at [bullsrunarboretum](#).

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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

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

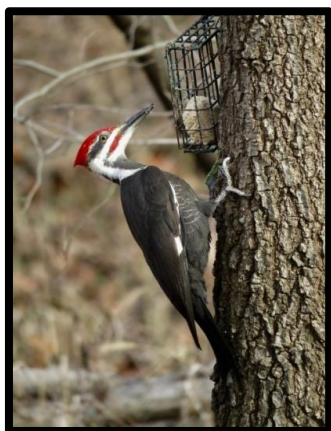
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# (    )    e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

To volunteer, schedule a program, tour, or speaker for your group, contact [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) or our Facebook page.

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

## **Maple Sugar Hike**



We were thrilled to have a beautiful sunny day to visit our tapped maple trees on the trail, and had a great turnout as well. Our hike began with an exciting close-up visit from a Pileated Woodpecker to a suet feeder near the shelter where we met. After enjoying the company of the woodpecker, we took a journey through time from maple sugaring with the Native Americans through the modern, highly regulated grading system of syrup available today. Although those things are fascinating and fun, tasting the different grades of syrup is always a favorite part of the hike for adults and kids alike! Each grade of syrup tasted surprisingly different than the last, and while the favorite grade is a toss-up, there is little argument for the ‘fake’ syrup. The special treat was homemade maple sugar from sap collected at Bull’s Run. It is clear that pure, real maple syrup has left a big mark on history and it will be here for a long time to come

## **More Ways to Help Bull’s Run**

### ***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.

## **2020 Work Days**



Spring is on our doorstep, though we keep holding our breath in hopes it doesn’t snow again so we can get out and get planting! We have had to cancel the 5 work days this spring we had planned to help us keep the park in great shape for visitors in spring and summer! However, if you want to help on your own, please contact [naturalist@bullsrn.org](mailto:naturalist@bullsrn.org) for instructions on removing invasive plants, including honeysuckle and euonymus, so we can make more room for native plants. Strengthening the biodiversity of the park is helping us rebuild from the loss of so many ash trees over the last decade. Climate change is giving us milder winters, increasing the number of pests, and more rain, making blight and other diseases more common; adding more

variety of plants ensures that the park inhabitants have alternative food sources and shelter in case any single plant species is severely affected again.

With your help we keep Bull’s Run usable and fun for people and wildlife!

## **Rain Garden “Run Down”**

### **A Talk and a Hike**

With the installation of our new rain garden last summer, we’ve been anxiously awaiting the spring to see the more than 200 plants we installed grow and bloom! Begin with a presentation by Butler County Soil and Water Conservation District’s Lynn White about how a rain garden works, and how they can help our water quality. Learn how you could make one at home and visit the garden at Bull’s Run to learn about our installation process and check out what’s in bloom. This special program will begin in the Little Hall of Church of the Ascension at 6:30 pm on Friday, May 22, and then take a look at the new rain garden at the Arboretum.



# **Thanks to all who help keep Bull's Run an important asset of the community!**

- ❖ Thanks to all the workday volunteers, both individuals and groups!
- ❖ Thanks to MidPointe Library's Mobile Library for visiting during Nature Tots.
- ❖ 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. Education and volunteerism are flowing both ways!
- ❖ 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 enters 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!
- ❖ Thanks to Sarah Meadows and Bernie Moller for adding hardware cloth to the steps to make them safer for visitors.



- ❖ To everyone who has already made Bull's Run part of their 2020 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.**

**Together we are making a difference!**



## Mark Your Calendars For Upcoming Events

All March and April events have been cancelled due to COVID-19. Please check back with us in late April to confirm future dates or cancellations. Thank you for understanding our caution in this unusual season.

The trails are open for your enjoyment, so you can explore nature on your own.  
Please give everyone you meet on the trails their personal space.

May 2 Work Day 9:30am – 1pm  
3 Wildflower Walk Bull's Run 2-3 pm  
16 Work Day 9:30am – 1pm  
22 Rain Garden program 6:30-8:30 pm

June 20 Summer Tree Walk 2-3 pm

For current information, please visit our website [www.bullsrn.org](http://www.bullsrn.org) or Facebook page

Contact Naturalist, at [naturalist@bullsrn.org](mailto:naturalist@bullsrn.org), to schedule a tour or service project, or speak to your organization or for a program at Bull's Run. Our interim naturalist, Rachel, plus former naturalists, Sarah Meadows and Nancy Clark, Board Members and other volunteers will be coordinating events. Please keep checking the website for updates on all listed events as the world navigates the pandemic.

## Bull's Run Photo Gallery



← Winter Nature Tots

Pets are welcome on a  
leash →  
(please clean up any  
deposits)



← Maple sap  
collected at Bull's Run was  
turned into maple sugar  
candy samples for the Maple  
Sugar Hike

Snow Drops →

