



Bull's Run Newsletter **Fall 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.

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum and COVID-19

WOW! What an unusual year so far. We are still adjusting to more hand-washing, wearing masks and safe distancing, and have seen increased activity at the Arboretum as people take advantage of the open spaces and trails. We ask you to be mindful of others while visiting Bull's Run. Please wipe down the table you may be utilizing at the picnic shelter or any other high contact surface. Please observe the 6-feet of social distancing when sharing the trail with visitors outside of your family group. Have a facial mask ready should you meet others you wish to share an experience or observation with while exploring BRNSA. We are planning a few small group organized activities for the fall season, but large gatherings, like our Fall Family Fest and Annual meeting, will have to wait until 2021. We deeply regret having to cancel our Garage Sale this past spring and the revenue it would have generated. Please see subsequent articles in this newsletter and stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for upcoming events. In the meantime, please enjoy the beauty, complexity and serenity nature has to offer as the seasons change from summer to autumn.

Nancy Clark, President

Introducing our New Naturalist

Hello, I'm Stephanie McCabe and very excited to be the Naturalist for Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum! I am currently enrolled in Project Dragonfly's Global Field Program at Miami University in Oxford as a graduate student, having earned my B.S. degree in Middle Childhood Education from MU. I have lived my whole life in Butler County and was most recently a naturalist for MetroParks of Butler County. I have always been passionate about protecting our environment by connecting others to nature. As an environmental educator, I've been able to pass on my own love of the natural world to the next generation. I have developed a deep love for environmental and natural history through my education, work experiences at



MetroParks of Butler County, Cincinnati Zoo, and Ohio River Foundation, as well as volunteer experience at Hueston Woods State Park, Cincinnati Nature Center and Hefner Museum of Natural History. I can't wait to share Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum with YOU!

2020 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 28, October 5, 12, 19, and 26**

Learn about nature in fall through activities, exploration, crafts and more, and then wrap up your morning with a snack! Sound like fun? Join us to explore nature hands on as the plants and animals get ready for winter on Mondays in late September and all of October, from 10-11:30 a.m. Nature Tots is free and includes all four seasons with a 2020 family membership. Geared for children 6 months to 6 years of age, with their caregivers. **Reservations (space is limited to 10, may expand to 2 time offerings if interest warrants) and 2020 family membership required.** A virtual option will be made available to registered participants with membership. Be sure to dress for the weather, we will be outdoors! Join us for crafts, games, and exploration.



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

*BRNSA 2020 family membership required to participate in this FREE MEMBERS ONLY program.
To become a member, visit www.bullsrn.org/membership or fill out the form on page 7.

Nature Notes

- Pawpaw trees (*Asimina triloba*) are the **largest** edible fruit native to North America
- The pawpaw fruits are described as tasting like a tropical combination of banana and mango. **YUM!**
- The peak time for ripe pawpaw fruits is **September** and **October**
- Squirrels, raccoons, opossums, foxes, birds, and humans all enjoy pawpaw fruits
- The pawpaw tree is the only host plant for the **Zebra Swallowtail** caterpillar



More details about this Ohio Native Tree are posted on the BRNSA bulletin board at the entrance gate. *SM*

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

2020 GREAT OUTDOOR WEEK!

Saturday, September 19, 2020 – Sunday, September 27, 2020

Each year, Great Outdoor Weekend presents opportunities for children and adults to sample the best outdoor recreation and nature awareness programs available in the Greater Cincinnati region - with nearly 100 events, all free and open to the public.

This year, in light of COVID-19, the organization has expanded the event from 3 to 9 days and will be sharing a variety of activities that you can do on your own, in addition to a limited number of in-person masked and socially distanced events.

<https://www.greatoutdoorweekend.org/>

Bull's Run Arboretum will be celebrating Great Outdoor Week with self-guided scavenger hunts. Pick up a flyer from the box at the gate and enjoy a stroll along the trails with your family and friends. Please stay on the trails and be mindful of social distancing with other visitors.

Pumpkin Hike

Join us on Saturday, October 24, between 6 and 8 pm, for a self-guided evening hike along the main trail lit by carved pumpkins. Last year's hike was rained out, so we are scheduling a rain date on Sunday, October 25, between 6 and 8 pm, just in case. Please come prepared with facial coverings when walking the trails.

The added twist this year will be contributing a carved pumpkin. Anyone (individuals, clubs, scout group, youth group, families or friends) can drop off a freshly carved pumpkin between 2 and 4 pm at the shelter. Our goal is 30 pumpkins to line the trail. **Let us know if you can help donate a carved pumpkin by emailing naturalist@bullsrn.org or commenting on our Facebook Page Event.** The public is welcomed back between 6 and 8 pm to walk the decorated trail observing social distancing between family groups.

Virtual Annual Meeting

We will have a Zoom Annual Meeting with nature photographer, Jim McCormac, on Thursday, October 15, beginning at 7 pm. Jim worked for ODNR for 31 years as a botanist, and later specialized in wildlife diversity projects, especially involving birds. He has authored or coauthored six books. Jim's topic will be "**A Romp through Ohio's Flora**", a pictorial adventure wandering through Ohio's varied habitats with visits to flora and fauna great and small. Please email naturalist@bullsrn.org to be sent a link for the Zoom meeting by 10/14.

2021 Calendars will be available in November

A monthly calendar for 2021 featuring photographs that were taken at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum will be available for order in time for holiday gift giving. Winning photos entered in the seasonal contests will be featured in this unique fund raiser. Details will be on the website with payment options and delivery options. Thank you for your support.

Follow us on Instagram!

Keep up with the action at the arboretum and follow us on our Instagram account! Find us at [bullsrnarboretum](https://www.instagram.com/bullsrnarboretum).

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

New 2020 Memberships

David and Janice Adams
Doug Bean
Don and Judy Dixon
Kathleen Dobrozsi Romans
John and Pat Dupps
Warren and Ruby Elam
Mary Enochs
Sharon Feldstein
Patricia Gage
LaVerne Hopper
Ralph Kah
Les and Cheryl Landen
Mary Lou McCormick
Sarah Meadows
Les and Phyllis Mills
Larry and Marsha Orcutt
Kenton Pate
Jim and Lynette Schluter
Tom Scott
Glen and Joan Shivers
Shauna Steigerwald
Ernie Sturgill
Julie Thomas
Ron and Joyce Williams
Tom and Sharon Williamson

Facilities/Bridges

John and Pat Dupps
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mac Knepshield

Land Stewardship

John and Pat Dupps
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mac Knepshield

Education

John and Pat Dupps
Laverne Hopper
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mac Knepshield
Jim and Lynette Schluter
Glen and Joan Shivers

Additional Donations

Doug Bean
Mary Enochs

Additional Donations

Laverne Hopper
Larry and Marsha Orcutt
Kenton Pate
Ernie Sturgill

Middletown Community Foundation Endowment

John and Pat Dupps

Memorials

In loving memory of Margaret McNamee Brimelow
Jim and Lynette Schluter

In loving memory of Carl Butts

Larry and Carol Colclasure

In loving memory of Lelia Clark

Shirley Batdorf
Shirley Butts
Daryl and Nancy Clark
Brad and Marge Kochunas

In loving memory of Robert A. Driscoll

Nita Driscoll

In loving memory of Alycia Elam Lee and Kim Elam

Warren and Ruby Elam

In loving memory of Louis B. Gaker

Steve and Lisa Gaker

In loving memory of Joel McKanna

Heather McKanna

In loving memory of Bruce "Pete" Peters, Jr.

David and Janice Adams
Ed and Susan Combs
Lana Ernst
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mac Knepshield
Greg and Jean Siewny
Ginger Smith
William and Margaret Wooley

In loving memory of Joe Thomas

Julie Thomas

These memberships were received between 3/21/2020 and 9/2/2020. 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.

Historical and Memorial Monuments and Memorial Benches Installed

The Reflection Garden project has taken many years to come to completion, so we thank you for your patience and understanding. The Middletown Historical Society placed an engraved granite column along the path between the parking area and the main gate 40 years ago. The monument was removed 10 years ago after vandals had pushed it over several times causing some minor damage. The City Parks Department put it in storage for safe keeping until this past spring. Over 8 years ago, Debbie Simpkins, a former board member, donated the funds toward another column to honor special contributions to Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum. A committee designed the engraved plaque that decorates the top of this memorial monument with a poem and sketch. The names of the naturalists who have served since the beginning of the arboretum



are listed at the top of the column facing the road. Names of contributors in honor or in memory of loved ones can also be found on the column. Dodds Memorials was responsible for the engraving. After a long search for a contractor to install the monuments, the board finally settled on Walter Dappert Masonry last fall. The trench for the footer for the two monuments was dug late in 2019, but weather and health delays pushed the pouring of the footer back to the spring of 2020. But with COVID-19 we have not been able to celebrate this long-awaited accomplishment with a public gathering. Hopefully you can take a moment to drive by and check out both monuments for yourself.



The original intent for the Reflection Garden was to situate a bench facing the monuments and accessible from the parking area. With the monuments in place, our team could finally install a bench that had been purchased in loving memory of Joel Preston McKanna to complete the project.

Shortly after that project was finalized, the family of Bruce Peters, Jr. also requested a memorial bench. Bruce was a staunch supporter of Bull's Run and was instrumental in planning the trail system with the founding members. He had planted a sweet gum tree in memory of Bandit, his dog who was his trail companion following his retirement from the Middletown City Schools. The family asked that the bench be placed near Bandit's tree.



We plan to have dedication ceremonies at the convenience of the respective families in the near future.

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 does not affect your fuel rewards in any way. BRNSA's organization number is MX093.

2020 Work Days

Fall is approaching, which means we are gearing up for volunteer work days. Due to COVID-19 we will be making a number of changes to ensure everyone's safety.

1. Social Distancing - we will be working separately to allow for social distancing. When giving instructions, a minimum of 6 feet is required for anyone not in your household group.
2. Masks are required. If you are more than 15 feet from others while working, you may remove your mask, but it must be on (covering nose and mouth) when approaching others.
3. Pre-registration is required - we need to know how many people to expect. Please send an email to naturalist@bullsrn.org to let us know if you will be attending the work day.
4. Bring your own work gloves.
5. You can bring your own tools if you wish - clippers, loppers or shovel - we will have tools available, but ask that you keep your work gloves on while handling tools.
6. Bring your own water - the water fountain has been turned off and we are trying to limit the number of items that multiple people will be touching.



Summer Photo Contest Winners

Congratulations to Amy Hocz Chambers for her first place winning photograph of Queen Anne's Lace. This photo, along with the second and third place entries submitted by Aleah Day and Liz Martin respectively, will be featured in the 2021 BRNSA calendar. Please visit our website for ordering details available in late October for delivery in November.

Fall Photo Contest

We want to see your photos! There is so much happening at Bull's Run in the autumn. From animals collecting seeds to leaves changing colors, all of nature is preparing for 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 bird feeder, Bull's Run t-shirt, and a feature in the 2022 Bull's Run Calendar. Send entries to naturalist@bullsrn.org by 11:00 p.m. on October 31.

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

- ❖ Thanks to Brad Kochunas (& any others) who has been picking up trash while visiting.
- ❖ Thanks to all the workday volunteers, both individuals and groups!
- ❖ Thanks Rachel Diver and Stephanie McCabe for the monthly bulletin board displays.
- ❖ Thanks to Sarah Meadows and Tom and Penny Borgman for installing the memorial benches.
- ❖ 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 organization # MX093.
- ❖ Thanks to everyone who "likes" us on Facebook and shares events posted there.
- ❖ Thanks to everyone who entered a photograph in our contests this year.
- ❖ Thanks to those who report matters that need attention to naturalist@bullsrn.org.
- ❖ Thanks to Roger Johnson for reporting the dead deer off the trail and updating the memorial tree map.
- ❖ Thanks to Donna Beauregard, team leader, and the Parks Maintenance workers of the City of Middletown for helping with the removal of a decomposing deer.
- ❖ Thanks to Butler County for installing a hand sanitizer station at the picnic shelter.
- ❖ 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 2020 giving and those who plan to contribute in 2020, we truly appreciate your support!

**2020 Membership Form is included in this mailing and is also available on the website, if you have not already sent in your contribution.
Together we are making a difference!**



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, 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

Mark Your Calendars For Upcoming Events

September

24 – Work day – 6pm-dark – Removing invasive bush honeysuckle – Please bring your own work gloves and water bottles. We will have hand sanitizer and some tools.

19-27 Great Outdoor Week – Self-guided scavenger hunts available in box at gate

28 – Fall Nature Tots – 10:00 am – 11:30 am – register with naturalist@bullsrn.org

October

3 - Work day – 9:30 am – 1 pm

5, 12, 19 & 26 – Fall Nature Tots – 10:00 am – 11:30 am – register with naturalist@bullsrn.org

15 - 7pm Virtual Annual Meeting with avid photographer, Jim McCormac, former ODNR botanist.

“A Romp through Ohio’s Flora”

17 Work day – 9:30 am – 1 pm

24 Pumpkin Walk 6-8 pm (rain date 10/25)

31 – Fall Photo Contest deadline

November

7 Work day – 9:30 am – 1 pm

For more information, please visit our website www.bullsrn.org or Facebook page
Contact Naturalist, Stephanie McCabe, at naturalist@bullsrn.org or 513-279-8958, to schedule a tour
(virtual or with social distancing) or service project, or speak to your organization or for a program at
Bull’s Run.

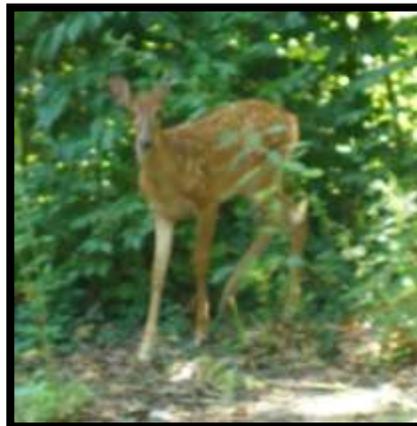
Please keep checking the website for updates on all listed events.

Bull's Run Photo Gallery



← Top of Memorial Monument

Photo Contest Second Place →



White Tailed Deer Fawn



← New Memorial Monument

Photo Contest Third Place →

