



Bull's Run Newsletter Winter 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 Annual Review

2020 has been a very unusual year, thanks to COVID-19, but there were some highlights!

We were able to offer a Winter Tree Identification Workshop and Hike before activities got shut down in an abundance of caution. And while we chose to forego many of our usual spring walks and workdays, and our Annual Garage Sale Fundraiser, the trails were open and readily used by the public anxious to be outside to do something "normal". We posted signs reminding people to social distance, wear masks when meeting others on the trails not in your family group, and sanitize with wipes and hand washing. Butler County also installed a hand-sanitizer dispenser at the picnic shelter.

One of the year's highlights was getting the long promised Memorial Column placed in the new Reflection Garden, along with reinstalling the Historical Monument. A bench was also placed in the area in memory of Joel McKanna. Shortly afterwards, another memorial bench was placed just off the service road for Bruce Peters, Jr., one of the many people responsible for helping create Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum over 40 years ago.

In March as COVID restrictions were being implemented, our naturalist, Sarah Meadows, gave us notice that she would be accepting a full-time position elsewhere and stepping down from this part-time position. She agreed to continue supporting Bull's Run by becoming a member of the Board of Directors. So we began the process of finding a new part-time naturalist. Stephanie McCabe, formerly a naturalist with MetroParks of Butler County, joined us in July. With COVID restrictions and limited access to the Bull's Run Office with the materials and resources stored there, Stephanie has had a challenging start, but she perseveres.

As the year progressed with continued gathering restrictions indoors, the great outdoors became the place to be. With masks in place and limits on the number of families with young children that could be involved to keep group sizes below 10, Stephanie offered Fall Nature Tots. The response from interested families soon meant that an afternoon session was added to keep within protocol guidelines. She is already planning for Winter Nature Tots to begin at the end of January.

The big plans we had for Fall Family Fest in September and a Pumpkin Hike in October were cancelled, but will be back in 2021.



2020 Annual Meeting

We were fortunate to have nature photographer, Jim McCormac, give an informative and educational virtual tour of Ohio's flora and fauna for our Annual Meeting on Zoom. Since we couldn't meet in person as we have in the past, the Board of Director's thought a seasoned, nationally known photographer would be the perfect fit for an online meeting, and Jim did a wonderful job!

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

2020 Memberships

David and Janice Adams
Jan and Laird Becker
Ron and Barbara Conley
Richard Davies
Jay and Karen Dillon
Don and Betty Elworth
Patricia Gage
K.B. Johnson
Katie and Michael McNeil
Saralyn Moon
Barney and Bonnie Riesbeck
Ruth Sauer
Jack and Linda Schaefer
Joan and Glen Shivers
John Whittington and Beth Everage
Ron and Joyce Williams

Education

Joan and Glen Shivers

Memorials

In loving memory of Louis and Carolyn Gaker
Steve and Lisa Wilson

Unrestricted Donations

Ron and Barbara Conley
The Dillon Family Charitable Fund
Don and Betty Elworth
Laverne Hopper
Katie and Michael McNeil
Barney and Bonnie Riesbeck
Ruth Sauer
Ron and Joyce Williams
Bob and Gibbie Wise

2021 Memberships

Katie and Michael McNeil
Steve and Lisa Wilson
Bob and Gibbie Wise

These memberships were received between 10/6/2020 and 12/2/2020. 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.

Change is Bound to Happen

Marge Kochunas is stepping down from the Board of Directors after generously giving her time the past four years serving as treasurer and recording secretary. We will still see Marge helping out with Fundraisers and Workdays. She will serve as an advisor, providing a smooth transition. We welcome Forest Grant as the new treasurer. Forest is currently employed as a cost accountant with Contech Engineered Solutions. He is no stranger to Bull's Run. He has been pulling out honeysuckle, installing bird feeders and helping with spreadsheets and mailing lists for many years!

We are currently seeking an individual interested in serving as Recording Secretary on the BRNSA Board of Directors.



Outgoing treasurer training incoming treasurer.



Fall Nature Tots

This fall we learned about seeds, and painted pumpkins to get in the spirit of Halloween! From animals to plants we had fun making crafts and learning about things to explore in nature together. Of course, we also played with and found all different shaped leaves in all sorts of colors!

2021 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 25, February 1, 8, 15 & 22

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 2021 family membership required (good for all 2021 nature tots, Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall). Be sure to dress for the weather and wear a mask; 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, Stephanie McCabe,

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

*BRNSA 2021 family membership required to participate in this FREE program.

To become a member, visit www.bullsrn.org or fill out the form on page 7.

Fall Photo Contest Winners to be in BRNSA's Calendar



We had so many beautiful entries this autumn, thank you to all our participants! Congratulations to our First Place winner, Lisa Dawson, with a photo of a bee on New England Aster. 2nd place goes to Melissa Roberts for her photo of a white breasted nuthatch. 3rd place belongs to Nicole Owens for a colorful maple leaf.



With so many beautiful photographs submitted for the photo contests in 2020, we have decided to create a calendar and offer it for sale as a fundraiser. Please consider purchasing a **2021 Bull's Run Calendar** to support our 2021 activities and conservation efforts! Early sale ends 12/21 for shipping by 1/2/2021. Calendars are spiral bound, 8.5"x11". **Calendar Prices are as follows (includes shipping)**

\$25 per calendar without 2021 membership or \$20 per calendar with 2021 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 soon, 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.

Who's This Hummingbird?

By Rachel Diver

Hummingbirds amaze me. It's difficult to fathom that a tiny bird that weighs about the same as a penny is capable of migrating thousands of miles.

They may be small but they are tough, and hardy!

In Ohio, we typically see only one type of hummingbird, the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird. After spending the winter in Central America and along the Gulf Coast, they make their way into the eastern half of the US and Canada where they breed. As the weather turns colder in the fall and day length shortens, they journey south again. We enjoyed watching the hummingbirds at our feeders this summer, sometimes seeing as many as six or so at a time competing for a sip of nectar. Their numbers began to diminish throughout September and we last saw one at the feeder September 29. I thought maybe that was it until the spring, but kept our feeder up just in case.



A Rare Visitor

Occasionally a Rufous Hummingbird, a species that breeds from Oregon to British Columbia and Alaska, will end up in Ohio, and ever more rarely, a similar species, the Allen's Hummingbird, will show up. I was a little surprised to see a hummingbird at our feeder on October 3 but didn't think too much of it. Then I had a closer look and noticed the color seemed a little different than usual. I took some pictures and shared them to the Birding Ohio Facebook page, hoping someone with greater skill than I would know what kind it was. Soon enough, other birders confirmed my suspicion. It was a hummingbird of the *Selasphorus* genus, different from the usual Ruby-throats! Birders began contacting me, wanting to come see the bird for themselves, and it was recommended that I contact Allen Chartier, a bird bander from

Michigan, who may want to band the bird and determine the exact species.

Allen drove down from MI on Oct 14. He brought a mesh cage with a remote control door and hung it up with a hummingbird feeder inside. We didn't have to wait long for the bird (which our daughters had nicknamed "Flower") to go inside to get to the feeder. Allen pushed a button and the cage door closed!

It was amazing just how tiny the bird was up-close. An incredibly small metal band etched with a unique number was quickly placed on the bird's leg, then it was weighed and measured, and a close-up look at the tail feathers confirmed Allen's prediction that it was a hatch-year male Rufous Hummingbird!

It's not really known why these birds sometimes appear in Ohio and surrounding states, so far from their normal range. As more of them are banded, if they are spotted and recaptured so the band can be read, someday scientists may be able to figure out why and understand where they travel.

We last saw our hummingbird on Nov 8. We really enjoyed the experience of seeing him at our feeder, and meeting birders, about 42 total, that came from as far away as Columbus, Cleveland, and Youngstown to see our tiny bird. If you feed hummingbirds, it's worth keeping those feeders clean and putting out fresh nectar in the fall, you just may be surprised by a rare visitor yourself!



Resources for Rescuing Injured Wildlife

<u>City</u>	<u>Organization Name</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone #</u>	<u>Animals Accepted</u>
Middletown	Nature Nurses Wildlife Rescue	Cherigene Slaughter	513-601-9617	Mammals (including bats, fox, raccoon, skunk) Reptiles, Amphibians
Middletown	Second Change Wildlife	Kathy Israel	513-267-2226	Mammals (including RVS) Reptiles, Amphibians, Avian Species
Hamilton	Second Change Wildlife	Deborah King	513-738-1937	Orphaned squirrels, rabbits, fox and raccoons
Liberty Township	Arrowhead Reptile Rescue	Damien Oxier	513-442-4377	Amphibians and Reptiles
Oxford	Second Change Wildlife	Barbara Seeley	513-875-3433	Avian Species to include Migratory Birds, Waterfowl, and Mammals (Including RVS)
West Chester		Deborah West	513-777-9427	Orphaned squirrels, rabbits, and groundhogs
Yellow Springs	Glen Helen Raptor Center		937-767-7646	Only birds of prey
Troy	Brukner Nature Center		937-319-0148	Only injured native wildlife

source: 2020 ONDR

Upcoming Events with the Naturalist

Annual Holiday Bird Count

Saturday, December 19, 2020 at 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 Identification Class Returns with a few changes. We will be offering a class on Zoom (since we can't gather inside) on Saturday, January 23 at 10 a.m. to introduce and review terms used to describe characteristics of woody plants used in identifying them without their leaves. Then at 2 p.m., Stephanie will lead an hour hike at Bull's Run to put your newly learned skills in practice. Join us for one or both of these sessions by contacting Stephanie at naturalist@bullsrn.org to be sent the Zoom Meeting link. A Winter Tree Guide booklet will be available on the hike for \$5 (members price) or \$8 (non-members price).

Great Backyard Bird Count Hike

Saturday, Feb. 13, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum, 3909 Rosedale.

We will celebrate the national Great Backyard Bird Count sponsored by **Cornell Lab of Ornithology** and the **National Audubon Society** with a hike at Bull's Run. The 24th annual GBBC will be held Friday, February 12, through Monday, February 15, 2021. You may visit the official website at birdcount.org for more information to participate in your own backyard.

Maple Sugar Hike

Saturday, Feb. 27, 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'!

2021 Winter Nature TOTS

Mondays 10:00 - 11:30 am, January 25, February 1, 8, 15 & 22

Child-centered, hands-on exploration of nature for children ages 6 months to 6 years (and their caregivers)!

5-week program. Pre-registration is required by sending an email to naturalist@bullsrn.org.

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

- ❖ Thanks to the visitors to Bull's Run for picking up any trash they find along the trail or in the parking lot and disposing of it responsibly.
- ❖ Thanks to all the workday volunteers, both individuals and groups!
- ❖ Thanks to staff and volunteers from Butler County Soil and Water for helping clear bush honeysuckle on a special evening workday this fall.
- ❖ Thanks to Michael Porter and Angela McLaughlin for sponsoring and maintaining geocaches at Bull's Run. Watch for more news about geocaching at Bull's Run.
- ❖ Thanks to the City of Middletown for mowing, felling dead ash trees and hauling off honeysuckle branches and bags of winter creeper after work days.
- ❖ Thanks to Stephanie McCabe and Debbie Grant for creating the bulletin board displays monthly.
- ❖ Thanks to our neighbor who cared enough to help rescue a malnourished owl at Bull's Run.
- ❖ Thanks to the Butler County Master Gardeners for their partnership with Bull's Run to eradicate honeysuckle and help on work days, following COVID-19 protocols. Education and volunteerism is 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 Instagram and shares events.
- ❖ Thanks to the volunteers who manned the Welcome Booth at Light Up Middletown recently.
- ❖ Thanks to everyone who entered a photograph in our contests this year.
- ❖ Thanks to Roger Johnson for clearing a fallen tree from the trail up to the prairie.
- ❖ 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 2020 giving and those who plan to contribute in 2021, we truly appreciate your support!

A 2021 Membership Form is included in this mailing at the top of page 7 and is also available on the website. Take advantage of the Early Bird special by 12/31/2020 before price increase. Together we are making a difference!

2020 Work Days

We were unable to hold any work days in the Spring this year due to the pandemic. With safety precautions and social distancing we had 5 work days this fall and partnered with Butler County Soil and Water for a larger honeysuckle removal. With over 130 volunteer hours we removed truckloads of honeysuckle, along with invasive European Buckthorn, multi-flora rose and Oriental Bittersweet. Thank you to all our volunteers that came out and made this possible!

Life Span of Trees

Trees are living things with a definite life span. Some live hundreds of years, like sequoias or bristle cone pines, while most live only a few decades. Trees are subject to many pressures that affect their growth: supply of water and light, quality or degradation of the soil, browsing by animals, diseases spread by insects and even vandalization by humans. Trees at Bull's Run are not immune to these pressures and several of them have been removed for the safety of visitors and protection of the shelter. More will undoubtedly have to be removed in the future. We will be re-evaluating the tree planting/replacement policies and plans in the spring.



Membership Form 2021

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.

☐ \$40 Family (printed newsletter) ☐ \$30 Family (e-newsletter) **Early bird special on 2021 memberships (-\$5) if postmarked before 12/31/20!**
☐ \$30 Individual (printed newsletter) ☐ \$20 Individual (e-newsletter)
☐ \$_____ Additional Contribution ☐ 2021 Calendar (\$20 with 2021 membership or \$25 w/o 2021 membership)
☐ \$_____ 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 Stephanie McCabe, 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



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 organization number is MX093.

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, Forest Grant, Sarah Meadows, Shauna Steigerwald and Randy Wilson.

Work Day Volunteers with Naturalist, Stephanie McCabe (waving)

Bull's Run Photo Gallery



↖ Banding Rufus Hummingbird
Memorial Tree for Winter Hike ↗
← Cardinal feasting at feeder
Chipmunk at platform feeder →

Mark Your Calendars For Upcoming Events

December

Annual Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 19, 10 a.m. @ BRNSA

Rain date – Saturday, December 26, 10 a.m.

January

Winter Tree Identification Class online

Saturday, Jan. 23, 10 -11 a.m.

Winter Tree ID Hike @ BRNSA

Saturday, Jan. 23, 2 – 3 p.m.

Winter Nature Tots

Monday, Jan. 25 10-11:30 a.m.

February

Winter Bird Hike @ BRNSA

Saturday, Feb. 13, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.,

Maple Sugar Hike @ BRNSA

Saturday, Feb. 27, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.



Red-bellied woodpecker (D. Grant photo)

For more information, please visit our website www.bullsrn.org or Facebook page
Contact Stephanie McCabe, 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