



## Bull's Run Newsletter Fall 2024



*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.*

### Autumn Reds



*Poison Ivy- Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org licensed under a [Creative Commons](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)*

The mornings are feeling crisp now, foretelling of the cooling temperatures around the corner. Soon the colors will start to turn, heralding migration season for some and winter sleep preparation for others. We see the yellow and purples of late summer give way to the more earthy reds and fiery oranges. This turning can help identify some of our forest plants that we may wish to avoid, such as poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*). But others like Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) are also shading into red.

Count the leaves to help you tell the difference: leaves of 3 (smooth edged or jagged) mean poison ivy, while leaves of 5 mean Virginia creeper. Both of these plants serve important ecological roles, such as being food sources for various wildlife across the area. Several bird species and mammals such as white-tailed deer, black bears, wood rats, muskrats, raccoons, Eastern cottontail rabbits, and groundhogs all eat poison ivy. This is actually why the plant secretes the toxin oil which can give us a red rash, to help protect itself!

The berries of Virginia creeper are eaten by many animals too, especially birds. Animals such as mice, skunks, chipmunks, squirrels, and deer will feed on the leaves and stems of the plant. This plant also provides great cover for small animals because of its thick foliage. Virginia creeper's sap contains oxalate crystals that can cause skin irritation and rashes in some people, but the reactions are more rare and less severe than with poison ivy. When exploring the autumn woods, wear light long sleeves and long pants to protect your skin and keep your hike enjoyable! Remember Bull's Run is open dawn to dusk every day so hours change with present daylight.



*Virginia creeper*

# New Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum Contributions Received since the Spring 2024 Newsletter

## Memberships

Loren E. Ackerman  
Laird and Jan Baird  
Tom and Sally Brickey  
Ron and Barbara Conley  
Richard Davies  
Jody Ingle  
Patricia Gage  
Ed and Rose Grau  
Stephan and Nanette Hess  
Laverne Hopper  
Jody Ingle  
Marylou McCormick  
Terri Mulhall  
Richard and Virginia Palmer  
Jennifer Ridge  
Barney Riesbeck  
Glen and Joan Shivers  
Joyce Williams

## Additional Contributions

Laird and Jan Baird  
Marylou McCormick  
Barney Riesbeck  
Glen and Joan Shivers  
Joyce Williams

## Middletown Community Foundation

Loren E. Ackerman  
Ed and Rose Grau  
Glen and Joan Shivers

## Memorials

*In loving memory of Robert Driscoll*  
Nita Driscoll

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

*In loving memory of Dick Hopper*  
Laverne Hopper

*In loving memory of Gibbie Wise*  
Vicki Felver  
Elaine Garver  
Ed and Rose Grau  
Brad and Marge Kochunas  
Cindy Schmitt  
John and Rene Schuller  
Steve and Lisa Wilson



*Newly planted entrance sign  
courtesy of Middletown Garden Club*

*These memberships were received between 3/1/24 and 9/1/24. 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

There is no better time to visit the woods than in the fall! The beauty of the turning leaves, coupled with the cooling temperatures makes for a perfect outdoor combination. So bring the whole family out for some autumn wonder in the woods on **Sunday, September 22 from 2 – 4 pm!** The Fall Family Festival at Bull's Run Arboretum will be full of nature themed activities, games, crafts, scavenger hunt hikes, and more! Come out to this **FREE** community event to enjoy this wonderful world of nature right in our own hometown!



## Fall Park Work Days

Park work days are here again! Volunteers are needed to join us on **select Saturdays from 9:30a to 1:00p** this autumn to help keep Bull's Run Arboretum looking great and ready for winter. Come for an hour or stay all morning; we appreciate any time you can offer! Assistance is needed in a variety of areas, including mulching trails, removing invasive species, bridge and sign repair work, and weeding out the rain garden and native plant gardens. There is always something to do! Bring a water bottle and work gloves. If you have personal tools you want to bring great, but we will also have tools and extra gloves on hand to use.

### **Upcoming fall park work days:**

September 7  
September 21  
October 5  
October 19  
November 2



## Bull's Run Arboretum Annual Meeting

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum has been busy in 2024! Come celebrate another terrific year with us at our Annual Meeting on **Thursday, October 10 from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm**. We will gather at the Middletown River Center located at 120 South Carmody Blvd. Learn about all the conservation and education projects we have been up to, and find out how you can become more involved! Also, hear from our guest speaker for the evening Kalan Jones, Assistant Natural Resources Manager for MetroParks of Butler County and ISA Certified Arborist, speak about "Oak Wilt...And Other Things in Ohio!" We will discuss topics such as signs of disease or stress on backyard/forest trees (invasive insects and/or diseases), pruning tips for shrubs and fruit trees, best trees for shade/landscaping, native vs. horticultural varieties, and common mistakes to avoid (planting too close, expecting trees to last forever, lifespan). We hope you can join us for an evening of refreshments, sharing of knowledge, and good company!



## Fall Nature TOTS In October

This year Nature TOTS have witnessed the slumbering woods of winter, the budding woods of spring, and the thick green woods of summer. Next, we will see the changing colors of the fall woods and explore what nature has to offer! Fall Nature TOTS will meet Sundays in October from 2:00 – 3:30p. This program is available to all current family membership holders! Email naturalist Melissa at [brnsaa@gmail.com](mailto:brnsaa@gmail.com) to sign up your TOT!



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

- ❖ Thanks to the City of Middletown for your continued partnership
- ❖ Thanks to Butler SWCD for holding a volunteer day to remove invasives
- ❖ Thanks to Middletown Garden Club for new landscaping around the main entrance sign
- ❖ Thanks to MetroParks of Butler County for assistance with our Annual Meeting
- ❖ Thanks to Josh Proffitt for removing downed trees/obstructions on the trails
- ❖ Thanks to the Children and Youth Ministry at Monroe United Methodist Church for your volunteer projects
- ❖ 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
- ❖ 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!
- ❖ Thanks to all of our wonderful membership holders, we truly appreciate your support!!

**Become a Bull's Run Member Today!**  
**2024 Membership Form can be found on**  
**the website [www.bullsrn.org](http://www.bullsrn.org) or on pg 6**

## **More Ways To Get Involved with Bull's Run**

**Become a Board Member!** Our volunteer board members are vital to continuing the work of Bull's Run. If you care about our mission, please consider joining us! Interested parties can email [brnsaa@gmail.com](mailto:brnsaa@gmail.com)

### **Current board openings include:**

**Treasurer** Create Treasurer reports on BRNSA financials to share with other board members.

**Member at Large** Serve as general board member, offering suggestions for programming and helping to execute the various events held throughout the year.

### **Contribute time, talent or materials:**

**Volunteer on a Workday** 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 or your own Instagram account. 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 must 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.



# Membership Form 2024

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)

\_\_\_\_ \$30 Individual (printed newsletter)

\_\_\_\_ \$20 Individual (e-newsletter)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Fundraising contribution

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution to the Endowment Fund with Middletown Community

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution in Honor/Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send an acknowledgement of memorial donation to: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

(Membership also payable on website)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone#( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

To volunteer, schedule a program, tour, or speaker for your group, Contact Naturalist, Melissa Proffitt at 513-279-8958 or email [brnsaa@gmail.com](mailto:brnsaa@gmail.com). 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**



## **Show Your Support of Bull's Run!**

Already thinking about holiday gifts for your loved ones? Why not get them some great new threads while supporting Bull's Run at the same time! We have a variety of select t-shirt sizes in short sleeve (brown or green color) and long sleeve (green color only) tees. These can make great gift ideas for the nature lover in your household as funds raised through sales go directly to supporting the care and maintenance of the arboretum! T-shirts are \$25 each and hats are \$20 each. Please email [brnsaa@gmail.com](mailto:brnsaa@gmail.com) to place your order today



## Environmental Education Kits Available for 2024/25 School Year

These kits contain hands-on biofacts and materials on topics from life cycles, native flora and fauna, trees and more! Designed to help get students exploring outside, kits contain field guides and other go-to outdoor equipment. The Arboretum can serve as a fantastic “outdoor learning lab” that teachers can bring their students to further explore these environmental education concepts. The Arboretum is open free to groups every day from dawn to dusk. Our facilities include 8 picnic tables under a shelter house, and a port-oilet from March to November. (Please note it is removed during the coldest months of the winter). So, whether on site or in the classroom, these program loan kits are available to area educators at **no cost** thanks to a grant from Middletown Community Foundation! Education loan kits include suggested activities and lessons that support [Ohio Science Learning Standards](#) and incorporate [Ohio’s Nature of Science](#). Kits can be requested for loan for up to a 2-week period. Please contact our naturalist Melissa at [brnsaa@gmail.com](mailto:brnsaa@gmail.com) to schedule a pickup. Help spread the word to teachers, scout leaders, and other educators in our community! Environmental education kits available:



### – Outdoor Education Field Backpack

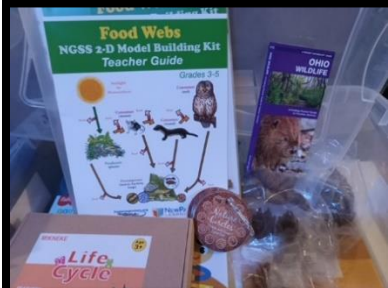
- 3 wildlife and tree field guides
- 18 magnifying glasses
- 10 binoculars
- 6 dip nets
- 18 tree rounds
- 1 leaf press
- 10 petri dishes
- 2 circle activity books with outdoor class games and suggested activities

### – Life Cycles, Tracks, and Scat Kit

- Replica life cycle model of green bean plant, monarch butterfly, frog, ladybug, & snail
- Patty Pillar Game
- Wildlife Field Guide
- Molds of various wildlife tracks and scat
- Wildlife tracks guide copy page
- Nature Circles Track and Scat Cards
- 

### – Food Webs Kit

- 2-D Model Building kit
- Copy pages for food web matching games and quizzes
- Desert, Forest, and Wetland food web models and activities



### – Tree Ring Discovery Kit

- 5 tree rounds each from 6 species of trees
- 15 dual power (3x, 6x) magnifiers
- Regional field guide to North American trees
- Teacher’s manual with background information, diagrams, student worksheet copy pages, and additional activities



**-Wildlife Discovery Kits** – each kit contains an activity guide, puppet, book, animal track replica, model, blackline master copy pages from activity guide. Species include:

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Monarch butterfly | Owl (also includes other bird feather information and model) |
| Bat               | Black Bear   |
| Coyote            | Raccoon  |
| Squirrel          | Bobcat   |
| Beaver            |  |



## **Mark Your Calendars For Upcoming Events**

### **September**

- Saturday, September 7, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
- Saturday, September 21, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
- Sunday, September 22, **Fall Family Festival** 2:00 – 4:00 pm
- Friday, September 27, **Campfire Stories and Hike with a Naturalist**, 7:00 to 8:00 pm

### **October**

- Saturday, October 5, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
- Sunday, October 6, **Fall Nature TOTS**, 2:00 – 3:30 pm
- Thursday, October 10, **Annual Meeting**, 7:00 – 8:00 pm (*at Middletown River Center*)
- Sunday, October 13, **Fall Nature TOTS**, 2:00 – 3:30 pm
- Saturday, October 19, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
- Sunday, October 20, **Fall Nature TOTS**, 2:00 – 3:30 pm
- Friday, October 25, **Campfire Stories and Hike with a Naturalist**, 7:00 to 8:00 pm
- Sunday, October 27, **Fall Nature TOTS**, 2:00 – 3:30 pm

### **November**

- Saturday, November 2, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
- Friday, November 22, **Campfire Stories and Hike with a Naturalist**, 7:00 to 8:00 pm

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

Contact Bull's Run at [brnsaa@gmail.com](mailto:brnsaa@gmail.com), to schedule a tour or service project, or speak to your organization or for a program at Bull's Run