



## Bull's Run Newsletter Spring 2025

*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.*



*Bloodroot*

### Winter Tree ID Hike Review



Alternate, opposite, or whorled? That was one of the questions we answered when looking at trees in winter during the annual Winter Tree ID Hike. We had beautiful sunshine, and the weather was 'almost warmish' as we explored different identifying features on Ohio trees. Besides bud arrangement, we also looked at bark qualities, bud shape and texture, and other helpful signs like lingering leaf debris. We appreciate the expertise provided by certified arborist Dakotah Zimmer with Butler Soil & Water Conservation District. Dakotah shared her knowledge with an engaging and informative program. And Bull's Run values being able to offer this wonderful opportunity to all of our participants. There were familiar faces present as well as first time visitors, all whom we hope will return to future programs, and come back to enjoy the trails!



## **2025 Memberships & Contributions**

***Thank you to our 2025 Members!***

### **Memberships**

Loren Ackerman  
Barbara Balsmeyer  
Donna Beauregard  
Jennifer Becker  
Tom and Sally Brickey  
Shirley Butts  
Daryl and Nancy Clark  
Barbara Conley  
Pete and Peggy Dobrozsi  
Kathleen Dobrozsi Romans  
Ruby Elam  
Carl Geisler  
Cissi Glickfield  
Debbie Grant  
Nathan and Krissy Grant  
Steve and Nannette Hess  
Aaron Hoy  
Jody Ingle  
Brad and Marge Kochunas  
Barney and Donna Landry  
Steve and Rose Longworth  
Hank Matthiesen  
Jeff McMullen and Barbara Ballard  
Marcia Miller  
Larry and Linda Mull  
Terri Mulhall  
George and Stephanie Nenni  
Imogene Orts  
Kenton Pate and Margaret Braitsch  
Betty Patterson  
Greg Pratt  
Aaron Quick  
Teresa Reeves  
John and Jennifer Ridge  
Cynthia Risner  
Tom Ritter  
Jack and Linda Schaefer  
Tom Scott and Julie Thomas  
Melanie Shannon  
Glen and Joan Shivers

Greg and Jeanne Siewny  
Lynn Watkins  
John Whittington and Beth Cameron  
Joyce Williams  
Miranda Wilson  
Steve and Lisa Wilson  
Robert Wise

### **Additional Contributions**

Loren Ackerman  
Kenton Pate and Margaret Braitsch  
Barbara Conley  
Pete and Peggy Dobrozsi  
Kathleen Dobrozsi Romans  
Brad and Marge Kochunas  
Kroger Community Rewards  
Light Up Middletown  
Steve and Rose Longworth  
Jeff McMullen and Barbara Ballard  
Middletown Community Foundation  
George and Stephanie Nenni  
Imogene Orts  
Glen and Joan Shivers  
Jack and Linda Schaefer  
Greg and Jeanne Siewny  
John Whittington and Beth Cameron  
Joyce Williams

### **Memorials**

*In loving memory of Ron Conley*  
Daryl and Nancy Clark  
Debbie Grant  
Jeff McMullen and Barbara Ballard  
  
*In loving memory of Alycia Lee and*  
Kim Elam  
Ruby Elam

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

*In loving memory of Forest Grant III*  
Debbie Grant  
Robert Wise

*In loving memory of Lois LaFayette*  
Marcia Miller

*In loving memory of Gisela*  
*Matthiesen*  
Hank Matthiesen

*In loving memory of Joe Thomas*  
*and Bonnie Scott*  
Julie Thomas and Tom Scott

*In loving memory of Ernie Sturgill*  
Daryl and Nancy Clark

*In loving memory of Hamilton*  
*Watkins*  
Lynn Watkins

*In loving memory of Gibbie Wise*  
Debbie Grant  
Jeff McMullen and Barbara Ballard  
Robert Wise

*In loving memory of Chris Parker*  
Jeff McMullen and Barbara Ballard

### **Honorarium**

*In honor of my children who have*  
*enjoyed Bull's Run over the years.*  
Peg Bosch

### **Community Foundation Donors**

Barney Landry

***These memberships were received between 1/1/25 and 3/12/25. 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.***

## Spring Wildflower Walks

Come join us on our wildflower walks to look for ephemeral spring wildflowers! Certain wildflowers only bloom in early spring before they get shaded out by the leaves on the trees. Come for one or more guided walks and see what's in bloom as it changes through the season! Sundays, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

March 23  
April 6  
April 13  
April 21  
April 27  
May 4



## Park Work Days

Park work days are back! Volunteers are once again needed to join us on select Saturdays from 9:30a to 1:00p this spring to help keep Bull's Run Arboretum in tip top shape. Come for an hour or stay all morning; we appreciate any time you can offer. Assistance is needed in various areas, including mulching trails, planting native tree seedlings, removing invasive species, bridge and sign repair work, and weeding out the rain garden, to name a few. There is always something to do!

Bring a water bottle and work gloves and we supply the tools!

**Upcoming spring park work days:**

March 22  
April 5  
April 26 *Earth Day Work Day!*  
May 3  
May 17



*Tree loppers - Photo Credit: Markus Hagenlocher*

Bull's Run is in need of a few more tree and shrub loppers. Consider donating a pair of new or tried and true pair if you can spare them! Bull's Run volunteers can put them to good work! Email [brnsaa@gmail.com](mailto:brnsaa@gmail.com) to arrange drop off. Thank you!

## Nature TOTS In Action!

Winter Nature TOTS was packed full of fun and adventure! From Groundhog Day puppetry to bird matching games, TOTS used their imaginations and creativity to enhance their nature play. And of course, nothing says winter in Ohio more than SNOW. The woods take on a winter wonderland feel when covered in sparkling white snow and ice. And whole new levels of exploration open up during this frozen season. Plus, caretakers learn tips to keep TOTS safe and build confidence while outdoors.



The beautiful sights and sounds of spring are just around the corner and Nature TOTS will return to explore all that spring has to offer! Nature TOTS is a great way to connect our littlest future conservationists and their caregivers to safe, fun ways to investigate and learn about nature. This program is available to all of our Family Membership holders. Spring dates are: 4/27, 5/4, 5/11, and 5/18. Nature TOTS meets these Sundays from 2:00-3:30p. We do have a couple spots available for the next session of TOTS, but if you are interested, act fast! To register or if you have questions, please email Naturalist Melissa at [brnsaa@gmail.com](mailto:brnsaa@gmail.com).

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

- ❖ Thanks to all of our bird feeder volunteers for filling feeders this winter
- ❖ Thanks to Josh Proffitt for removing downed trees/obstructions on the trails
- ❖ Thanks to Dakotah Zimmer from Butler SWCD for leading the Winter Tree ID Hike
- ❖ Thanks to the Children and Youth Ministry at MUMC for your volunteer projects
- ❖ Thanks to Edge Teen Center volunteers for removing invasive species
- ❖ 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!**  
**2025 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.



## **Bull's Run Environmental Education Kits Available for Spring Semester**

Bull's Run is here to support your environmental education needs! Created through a generous Education Grant from the Middletown Community Foundation (MCF), these environmental education program loan kits are available to Middletown students and teachers at no cost! Due to limited scheduling availability for in-classroom programs, educators are welcome to request a loan kit. These kits are great for classroom use, use on field trips to Bull's Run Arboretum, homeschool groups, scout troops, and more! Education loan kits include suggested activities and lessons that support [Ohio Science Learning Standards](#) and incorporate [Ohio's Nature of Science](#). Environmental education kits available:

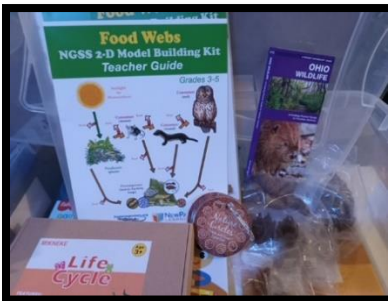


### **Outdoor Education Field Backpack**

- 3 wildlife and tree field guides
- 18 magnify 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	

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)



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

### **March**

Saturday, March 22, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Sunday, March 23, **Wildflower Walk**, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

**Sundays in April/May, Spring Nature TOTS**, 2:00 – 3:30 pm 4/27, 5/4, 5/11, 5/18

### **April**

Saturday, April 5, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Sunday, April 6, **Wildflower Walk**, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Sunday, April 13, **Wildflower Walk**, 2:00 – 3:00 pm, @ **Armbruster Preserve** 4:00-5:00 pm

Saturday, April 26, **Park Work Day for Earth Day!**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Sunday, April 27, **Wildflower Walk**, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

### **May**

Saturday, May 3, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Sunday, May 4, **Wildflower Walk**, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Saturday, May 17, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

### **June**

Saturday, June 28, **Memorial Dedication for Chris Parker**, 10:00 am

Saturday, June 28, **Summer Tree Hike**, 11:00 am – 12:00 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