



## Bull's Run Newsletter Summer 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.*



*Blue flag iris*

### Remembering a Force for Nature



The surname Parker seems quite fitting for Chris Parker, as she was certainly a force for nature advocating for our special park at Bull's Run! She had a childlike view of the natural world, full of wonder. She was very observant and sensitive of her surroundings. Her enthusiasm over the smallest discovery was contagious. Chris taught others about the environment through interactive ways, like helping school children learn about life cycles through observation of butterfly caterpillars. She connected with people, especially children, everywhere she went.



Chris was very concerned about the environment and would inspire action in her community. She once organized a meeting so the residents of Amanda School could voice their concerns to AK Steel about the pollution in Dick's Creek. She walked her neighborhood picking up trash. Later in life while living at Spring Hill, she organized the haul out of the residents' newspapers and aluminum cans when she found out that Spring Hill did not recycle!

Friends and colleagues shared these words to describe her: environmental activist, civil rights activist, Native American enthusiast, Alaska lover, sensitive, intuitive, dog lover, music lover, piano player, choir director, nature photographer, teacher, mentor, creative, gardener, friendly and generous.



We should all be inspired and strive to be a force for nature just like Chris Parker! Come join us in celebrating the legacy left behind by Chris in one of her favorite spaces!

Chris Parker Memorial  
Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary & Arboretum  
Saturday June 28<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 am

Afterward take a stroll through the summer woods for our Summer Tree Hike from 11 am to noon.





## **2025 Memberships & Contributions**

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

### **Memberships**

Loren Ackerman  
Barbara Balsmeyer  
Donna Beauregard  
Jennifer Becker  
Sue Wright Bennett  
Tom and Sally  
Brickey  
Tom and Chris  
Buchert  
Shirley Butts  
Daryl and Nancy  
Clark  
Larry and Carol  
Colclasure  
Barbara Conley  
Richard Davies  
Jay and Karen  
Dillon  
Rachel Diver  
Pete and Peggy  
Dobrozsi  
Kathleen Dobrozsi  
Romans  
John and Pat Dupps  
Ruby Elam  
Larry and Kay  
Fraley  
Patti Gage  
Bob and Mary Alice  
Gast  
Carl Geisler  
Cissi Glickfield  
Debbie Grant  
Nathan and Krissy  
Grant  
Steve and Nannette  
Hess  
Brian and Marjorie  
Homan  
Aaron Hoy  
Jody Ingle  
Randy and Janice  
Jones  
Light It Up  
Brad and Marge  
Kochunas

Barney and Donna  
Landry  
Steve and Rose  
Longworth  
David and Barb  
Martin  
Hank Matthiesen  
Jeff McMullen and  
Barbara Ballard  
Micheal and Katie  
McNeil  
Alton Mentel Jr.  
Middletown Garden  
Club  
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  
Doris Roberts  
Mary Russell  
Teresa Reeves  
John and Jennifer  
Ridge  
Cynthia Risner  
Tom Ritter  
Jack and Linda  
Schaefer  
Jim and Cindy  
Schmitt  
Mike and Kim Scotti  
Tom Scott and Julie  
Thomas  
Melanie Shannon  
Glen and Joan  
Shivers  
Greg and Jeanne  
Siewny  
Erin Wallace  
Lynn Watkins

John Whittington  
and Beth Cameron  
Joyce Williams  
Miranda Wilson  
Steve and Lisa  
Wilson  
Robert Wise

### **Additional Contributions**

Loren Ackerman  
Sue Wright Bennett  
Kenton Pate and  
Margaret Braitsch  
Barbara Conley  
Jay and Karen  
Dillon  
Pete and Peggy  
Dobrozsi  
Kathleen Dobrozsi  
Romans  
John and Pat Dupps  
Bob and Mary Alice  
Gast  
Brad and Marge  
Kochunas  
Kroger Community  
Rewards  
Light Up  
Middletown  
Steve and Rose  
Longworth  
Jeff McMullen and  
Barbara Ballard  
Middletown  
Community  
Foundation  
Middletown Garden  
Club  
George and  
Stephanie Nenni  
Imogene Orts  
Glen and Joan  
Shivers  
Jack and Linda  
Schaefer  
Mike and Kim Scotti

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*  
*Ron Williams*  
Joyce Williams

*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

*The Middletown*  
*Garden Club honors*  
*the following*  
*members:*  
Melissa Fraley  
Patti Gage  
Debbie Hazelbaker  
Lynn Zollet

**Community**  
**Foundation Donors**  
Loren Ackerman  
Barney Landry

***These memberships were received between 1/1/25 and 6/1/25. 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!***

## Butter the Rock Snake!

As you stroll through Bull's Run, you may notice a new addition along the native plant garden by the shelter house. While she may look like some pretty colorful rocks, look closer and you will see Butter the Rock Snake! Butter was created and donated by the Blaze Youth Group of Monroe United Methodist Church. Youth group leader Gina Craft shared what inspired this project:

“Serving the community is Blaze Youth Group's (Monroe UM Church) main objective. Caring for the Arboretum grounds (pulling weeds, scattering seeds, planting native flowers, etc.) and sharing our gifts (birdhouses, stepping stones, etc.), is a multi-faceted blessing. Butter, the rock snake, is our latest contribution. Please find her lying next to the picnic shelter. We are all hoping the community will help her grow. Kids of all ages are invited to paint a rock (acrylic paint, please), and add it to her body. Together we can be part of spreading Butter's joy at Bull's Run Arboretum! “



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

- ❖ Thanks to the family of Sharon Edwards for donating environmental education materials
- ❖ Thanks to Josh Proffitt for removing downed trees/obstructions on the trails
- ❖ Thanks to Dakotah Zimmer from Butler SWCD for leading the Spring Tree Hike
- ❖ Thanks to the Children and Youth Ministry at MUMC for Butter the Rock Snake!
- ❖ Thanks to Mike Wertz for mowing the prairie
- ❖ Thanks to SHOOK Construction for donating and building raised beds for the Nature TOTS program
- ❖ 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 organization number is **MX093**.





**Membership Form  
2025**  
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.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$45 Family (printed newsletter)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Family (e-newsletter)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Individual (printed newsletter)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 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)

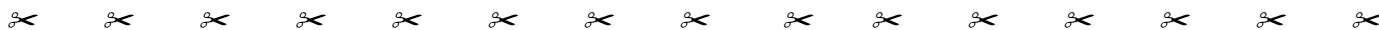
Name \_\_\_\_\_

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**



**Bull's Run Merchandise Supports Conservation!**

Get some new summer gear and support environmental stewardship by purchasing one of our t-shirts or ball caps! We have a variety of select 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. Hats can be ordered in tan or dark green! Please email [brnsaa@gmail.com](mailto:brnsaa@gmail.com) to place your order today



## Bridge Repairs Coming Soon!

Bull's Run has some renovations coming! If you have been hiking down by the creek on the red trail you may have noticed some piles of rock that have been falling off of the main bridge over Bull's Run Creek. Time, weathering, and erosion has slowly been picking away at multiple bridges along our trails. In order to keep the Arboretum safe and accessible we will be overhauling and reconstructing these bridges thanks to a very generous Arts & Recreation Grant from the Middletown Community Foundation (MCF), and donation from the Miriam Knoll Foundation through Middletown Rotary Club. We are extremely grateful for the support in accomplishing this project to keep Bull's Run as a valuable community resource! Work will begin this summer by Bull's Run supporter Walter Dappert Masonry. We will update our social media with any temporary trail closures or impacts as construction proceeds. We are excited to get these improvements underway!







P.O. Box 425  
Middletown, OH 45042



*Prairie Cup Plant*



*Purple Coneflower*

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

#### **June**

Saturday, June 28, **Memorial Dedication for Chris Parker**, 10:00 am  
Saturday, June 28, **Summer Tree Hike**, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

#### **July**

Thursday, July 24, **Butler County Fair**, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
Friday, July 25, **Night Hike with a Naturalist**, 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
Sunday, July 27, **Summer Nature TOTS**, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

#### **August**

Sunday, August 3, **Summer Nature TOTS**, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm  
Sunday, August 10, **Summer Nature TOTS**, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm  
Saturday, August 16, **Prairie Walk**, 10:00 am- 11:00 am  
Sunday, August 17, **Summer Nature TOTS**, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

#### **September**

Saturday, September 6, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm  
Saturday, September 20, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 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!