



Bull's Run Newsletter Winter 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.

What A Wonderful World...In the Winter Woods!

To compliment the BioBlitz we conducted in spring of 2024, we held a fall BioBlitz this year at Bull's Run Arboretum in partnership with Butler Soil & Water Conservation District. This communal citizen science effort focuses on finding and identifying as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time. BioBlitz captures a snapshot of an area's biodiversity, and is done fully on a volunteer basis. With help from all of our participants, 299 observations were made and 132 different species of plants, mammals, insects, reptiles, and more were identified.



Some of the highlights included documenting invasive species such as multiflora rose which we will focus on removing (along with the ever-present honey suckle and winter creeper!), being able to record “life in action” with an adorable inch worm, and of course capturing the famous white furred grey squirrel known affectionately by our Nature TOTS families as Pool Noodle!



And we spotted several species on the move for migration this season, including the majestic monarch butterfly, the pearl crescent, and the silver-spotted skipper! To view the full results from the project, download the free iNaturalist app on your device and under “Projects” join the Spring 2024 Bull’s Run Arboretum BioBlitz and the Fall 2025 Bull’s Run Arboretum BioBlitz. You will be able to view observations and contribute to making identifications on the observations. Thank you to everyone who contributed observations!



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
Ann Geddes
Carl Geisler
Cissi Glickfield
Debbie Grant
Nathan and Krissy
Grant
Steve and Nannette
Hess
Brian and Marjorie
Homan
LaVerne Hopper
Aaron Hoy
Jody Ingle
Randy and Janice
Jones
Light It Up
Carolyn Keiffer and
Phil Tinne
Brad and Marge
Kochunas
Barney and Donna
Landry
Steve and Rose
Longworth

David and Barb
Martin
Hank Matthiesen
Mary Lou
McCormick
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
Bev Oakley
Larry and Marsha
Orcutt
Imogene Orts
Will Parsons
Kenton Pate and
Margaret Braitsch
Betty Patterson
Greg Pratt
Aaron Quick
Barney Riesbeck
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
Ann Geddes
Brad and Marge
Kochunas
Larry & Martha
Kreps
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
Rae Neu
Larry & Marsha
Orcutt
Imogene Orts
Barney Riesbeck
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
Robert Driscoll and
Leta Snow
Juanita Driscoll

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
Donald McCormick
Mary Lou
McCormick

In loving memory of
Jeff Neff, William
Schneider, and
Thomas Wortley
The Middletown
Garden Club

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

In loving memory of
Glenda Peters
Brenda Cornett

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 12/1/25. 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!

Bridging the Gap

As you take a stroll on the trails at Bull's Run, you will notice that the bridge repair work is in full swing! In total, 3 bridges along the Red Creekside Trail will be renovated by Dappert Masonry. While structural repairs are being done, great care is being taken to preserve native tree and shrub species in the process. The dedication to that ecological integrity while maintaining accessibility for the community is one of the many reasons we are so thankful for this work being done. We cannot wait to see the final results!



Memorial Column Update

This fall, work on the Memorial Column in the front of the Arboretum was completed by Maggard Memorials and Laser Art Technology. Our current Naturalist Melissa Proffitt was added to the Naturalist dedications, and a poem written by Chris Parker was etched in loving honor of her memory. The day it was completed, a good luck lady bug alighted on the column in a very fitting way! Thank you to Chris Parker's family, friends, and supporters who helped make this happen!



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

- ❖ Thanks to all of our hard-working volunteers who dedicate their time and talents
- ❖ Thanks to John Rudd III and Walter Dappart Masonry for bridge repairs
- ❖ Thanks to Middletown Community Foundation for grant support!
- ❖ Thanks to MetroParks of Butler County for grant support!
- ❖ Thanks to an anonymous donor for your special donation for the bridges!!
- ❖ 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 support
- ❖ Thanks to Aaron Grant for maintaining our website
- ❖ Thanks to all Board members for their enduring support! Special thanks to outgoing Board member Rachel Diver for your service, and to incoming Board member Will Parsons. *Introduction coming in next newsletter!*
- ❖ Thanks to **all of our wonderful membership holders**, we truly appreciate your support and could not do any of this without YOU!!

It's time to renew your Bull's Run Membership Today!
2026 Membership Form can be found on
the website www.bullsrn.org or on pg 7

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

Current board openings include:

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 and tag us! 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.**

Winter Bird Count

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum is home to numerous avian species. Join us on **Saturday, December 13 from 10:00 –11:30 am**. We will meet at the shelter and observe the bird feeders, then take a slow, quiet walk on the trails to see what birds we see, and hear. Typically we record over 15 species each year. So bring your binoculars if you have them, and join in the fun! This event is for experienced and first time birders alike. Let's see if we can spot a few of these species that were recorded during our BioBlitz!



Winter Nature TOTS

Nature TOTS returns for the 2026 year in February! This program takes our youngest members and their caregivers and explores the woods in each of our 4 seasons. Families learn how to safely and confidently play and engage with the outdoors while TOTS also learn how to interact with peers their age and forge new friendships! We are so happy with our Nature TOTS group, and are always looking to expand the reach of this program to new families. This program is geared for ages 18 months up to 8 years old and their caregivers. Often infant and older siblings join in on the fun too!

2026 Family membership required for participation in this program. Membership details located on page 7.

Winter Nature TOTS will meet Sundays in February from 2:00 – 3:30 pm

2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22





Membership Form 2026

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.

_____ \$50 Family (printed newsletter)

_____ \$40 Family (e-newsletter)

_____ \$40 Individual (printed newsletter)

_____ \$30 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)

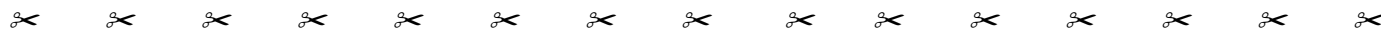
Name _____

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. 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



Bull's Run Merchandise Supports Conservation!

What makes the perfect holiday gift for the nature lovers in your family? Swag from Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary & Arboretum! Merchandise sales support our environmental stewardship work!

We have a short sleeve tee (brown or green color) and long sleeve tee (green color only), and logo ball caps (tan or dark green).

T-shirts are \$25 each and caps are \$20 each.

Please email brnsaa@gmail.com to place your order today!





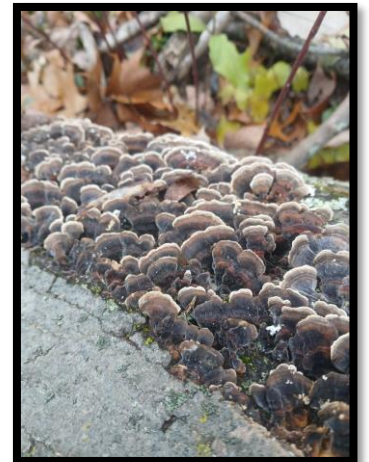
P.O. Box 425
Middletown, OH 45042



Nature TOTS flying like birds



Nature TOTS filling bird feeders



Turkey tail fungi

Mark Your Calendars for These Upcoming Events

December

Thursday, December 11 – December 18, **Light Up Middletown**, 6:00 – 10:00 pm
Saturday, December 13, **Winter Bird Count**, 10:00 – 11:30 am

January

Saturday, January 10, **Winter Tree ID Walk**, 10:00 – 11:00 am

February

Saturday, February 14, **Great Backyard Bird Count**, 10:00 – 11:30 am
Sundays in February, **Winter Nature TOTS**, 2:00 – 3:30 pm
(2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22)

For more information, please visit our website www.bullsrn.org or Facebook page.
Contact Bull's Run at brnsaa@gmail.com, to schedule a tour or service project, or speak to your organization
or for a program at Bull's Run!