



Bull's Run Newsletter Autumn 2026

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.



Milkweed seed pod

Monarch Waystation

According to Monarch Watch, each fall, hundreds of millions of monarch butterflies migrate from the United States and Canada to mountains in central Mexico where they over winter until spring. The monarch migration is truly one of the world's greatest natural wonders as it takes 4 generations of monarchs to make the return trip back to Ohio in August. Yet it is threatened by habitat loss at overwintering grounds in Mexico and throughout breeding areas in the United States and Canada. Monarch Waystations are places that provide resources necessary for monarchs to produce successive generations and sustain their migration. Without milkweeds throughout their spring and summer breeding areas in North America, monarchs would not be able to produce the successive generations that culminate in the super generation migration each fall. Similarly, without nectar from flowers these fall migratory monarch butterflies would be unable to make their long journey to their winter habitat in Mexico. The need for host plants for larvae and energy sources for adults applies to all monarch and butterfly populations around the world. Milkweeds and nectar sources are declining due to development and the widespread use of herbicides in neighborhoods, on farms, and along roadways. The use of herbicides and frequent mowing along roadsides has converted much of this habitat to grassy areas that lack shelter and food for wildlife. To offset the loss of milkweeds and nectar sources we need to create, conserve, and protect monarch butterfly habitats like Monarch Waystations! These gardens specifically grow host plants for caterpillars like samp and common milkweeds, along with nectar sources for adult butterflies. Volunteer Melissa Quick and her family have been working hard to establish our front butterfly garden as a Monarch Waystation and we are so excited to have recently earned that designation and contribute to monarch conservation! And we have already spotted 3 monarch caterpillars in the garden! Learn more about these national efforts at <https://www.monarchwatch.org/>.



Monarch caterpillar in butterfly garden on swamp milkweed



2026 Memberships & Contributions

THANK YOU!

Memberships

Loren Ackerman
Barbara Balsmeyer
Donna Beauregard
Laird and Janet Becker
Peggy Bosch
Tom and Sally Brickey
Tom and Chris Buchert
Shirley Butts
Daryl and Nancy Clark
Barbara Conley
Richard Davies
Karen and Jay Dillon
Pete and Peggy Dobrozsi
Nita Driscoll
John and Pat Dupps
Ruby Elam
Bob and Mary Alice Gast
Ann Geddes
Cissi Glickfield
Debbie Grant
Nathan and Krissy Grant
Steve and Nannette Hess
Brian and Margie Homan
Jody Ingle
Randy and Janice Jones
Brad and Marge Kochunas
Steve and Rose Longworth
Jeff McMullen and Barbara Ballard
Michael and Karie McNeil
Marcia Miller
Terri Mulhall
George and Stephanie Nenni
Richard and Virginia Palmer
Will and Carrie Parsons
Kenton Pate and Margaret Braitsch
Loring Pearson
Greg Pratt
Aaron Quick
Teresa Reeves
John and Jennifer Ridge
Tom Ritter
Doris Roberts
Kathleen Romans
Jack and Linda Schaefer
Jim and Cindy Schmitt
Lynette Schluter

Tom Scott
Melanie Shannon
Joan and Glen Shivers
Greg and Jeanne Siewny
Julie Thomas
John Whittington and Beth Everage
Joyce Williams
Miranda Wilson
Robert Wise
Sheridan Lynn Zollett

Additional Contributions

Loren Ackerman
Laird and Janet Becker
Tom and Chris Buchert
Pete and Peggy Dobrozsi
Karen and Jay Dillon
John and Pat Dupps
Bob and Mary Alice Gast
Cissi Glickfield
Debbie Grant
Kroger Community Rewards
Steve and Rose Longworth
Jeff McMullen and Barbara Ballard
George and Stephanie Nenni
Lynette Schluter
Joan and Glen Shivers
Robert Wise

Memorials

In loving memory of Ron Conley
Barbara Conley
Lynette Schluter

In loving memory of Phyllis DeWeese
Lynette Schluter

In loving memory of Robert Driscoll
Nita Driscoll

In loving memory of Forest Grant
Debbie Grant
Lynette Schluter
Robert Wise

In loving memory of Jim Hilton
Joyce Williams

In loving memory of Lois Lafayette
Marcia Miller

In loving memory of Gisella Matthieson
Lynette Schluter

In loving memory of Pam Pearson
Loring Pearson

In loving memory of Bonnie Scott
Tom Scott

In loving memory of Joe Thomas
Julie Thomas

In loving memory of Gibbie Wise
Debbie Grant
Robert Wise

Honorariums

Honoring my children and grandchildren
Peggy Bosch

Honoring Debbie Grant for her dedication to Bull's Run
Ann Geddes

Middletown Community

Endowment

Loren Ackerman
John Dupps
Kathleen Romans

These memberships were received between 12/21/25 and 8/24/26. 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!

2026 Autumn Nature TOTS

When we wonder how to introduce our youngest family members to nature to start building a love and personal connection to the outdoors, Nature TOTS can help! Designed to encourage safe and confident exploration of the environment, Nature TOTS works with the whole family to build these skills in a fun way that also builds everlasting friendships and community. The last season for 2026 will be Autumn Nature TOTS on **Sundays in November (11/8, 11/15, 11/22, and 11/29) from 2:00 – 3:30 pm**. The autumn season in the woods always brings lots of new colors and sounds, and we will be harvesting more from the Nature TOTS gardens!

This program is available to all family membership holders with children aged 18 months to 8 years old. ***If you have never attended a session but would like to audit a session to determine if the program is right for your family in the upcoming 2027 calendar year, please let us know!***

For more information and to sign up your TOT(s), please email Naturalist Melissa at brnsaa@gmail.com!



Autumn Park Work Days

Park work days are almost here! Volunteers are invited to join us on **select Saturdays from 9:30a to 1:00p** this fall to help keep Bull's Run Arboretum looking great and get ready for approaching winter. Volunteers work in a variety of areas, including planting native trees, mulching trails, removing invasive species, painting, and weeding out the rain garden and native plant gardens. 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. ***We also are looking for donated new/gently used tools!***

Upcoming fall park work days:

September 5 October 17
September 19 November 7
October 3



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

- ❖ Thanks to Dappart Masonry for the continued bridge repairs
- ❖ Thanks to our Nature TOTS families for your participation
- ❖ Thanks to the City of Middletown for all of your support and for the port-o-let!
- ❖ Thanks to Melissa Quick for the Monarch Waystation designation
- ❖ Thanks to Josh Proffitt for downed tree removal
- ❖ 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!
- ❖ Thanks to **all of our wonderful membership holders**, we truly appreciate your support and could not do any of this without YOU!!



Become a Bull's Run Member 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. 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.**

Board Member Spotlight **Welcome Becca!**

Becca May is the newest member of Bull's Run Arboretum & Nature Sanctuary's Board of Directors. A current Middletown resident, Becca is thrilled to start serving her community alongside her husband, who works for the Middletown City Schools. As a licensed mental health counselor and a devoted stay-at-home mother to her son, Bennett, she brings a unique perspective and a deep-rooted love of nature to the board. Over the years, Becca has developed a profound passion for gardening and plant life, sparking a commitment to advocating for the preservation of natural habitats. She joined the Bull's Run board with a heartfelt mission to make a lasting, positive impact on the green spaces that make her community thrive. Welcome Becca!



Fall Family Festival

Each autumn, Bull's Run Arboretum & Nature Sanctuary hosts a Fall Family Festival for the community. This event is free and open to the general public to come out to the woods and enjoy scavenger hunt hikes, face painting, live animal ambassadors, nature themed crafts and games, and more! This year's festivities will be on Sunday, September 20th (*yes that is technically still summer, but we are ready for crisp weather and colorful autumn leaves!*). The Fall Family Festival will be open from 2:00p – 4:00p so drop by and spend some time with us having some fun in the woods!



2026 Annual Meeting

Come celebrate another terrific year with us at our Annual Meeting! This October, we would like to invite our supporters and community members to join us on **Tuesday, October 6th from 7:00p to 8:30p at the Middletown River Center, 120 South Carmody Blvd in Middletown**. 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, Sarah Meadows with Ohio River Foundation. Now for those supporters who recognize that name, Sarah was a former Bull's Run Arboretum naturalist for several years, and we are so excited to have her return to share about her current role with ORF. She will introduce us to the fascinating world of fresh water mussels, and how studying their ecology and promoting their conservation helps to protect water quality across the region. Plus, you will get to meet live mussels up close!

Fresh water mussels play an important role in a river ecosystem. According to Ohio River Foundation “mussels are filter feeders, which means they take water and everything in the water into their bodies via a siphon. They are looking for algae, bacteria, and other microorganisms to eat. If the water has a lot of dirt or sediment, mussels will help capture that and deposit it on the riverbed. They can also filter harmful pollutants out of the water. What comes out of the mussels’ outgoing siphon is super-filtered, clean water. They are like Brita filters living in our waterways. They can filter 10-20 gallons of water a day, removing harmful algae, bacteria, and even metals.”

We all depend on fresh, clean water to survive, and the more we know and understand about nature’s own “water filters” the better we can help conserve this highly beneficial aquatic fauna. Mark your calendars and please join us for light refreshments, and great company on this evening of conservation celebration! You can RSVP to brnsaa@gmail.com to help us know what number of attendees to expect.



Sarah Meadows, Restoration Program Manager at Ohio River Foundation



Sheepnose mussel, Kristen Lundh/USFWS, Public Domain, <https://www.fws.gov/media/sheepnose-mussel-3>



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)

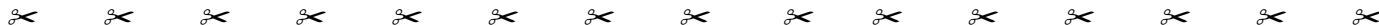
Name _____

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 For the Nature Lovers in Your Family!

While some folks like celebrating Christmas in July, the actual holiday season will be here before you know it! Cross off from your gift list the nature lover in your family early this year by getting them some Bull's Run gear. While funds raised through sales go directly to supporting the care and maintenance of the arboretum, another power of merchandise is spreading the word about this awesome organization!

T-shirts are \$25 each and include green short sleeve, green long sleeve, and brown short sleeve. Hats are \$20 each and can be ordered in tan or dark green! Please email brnsaa@gmail.com to place your order today!

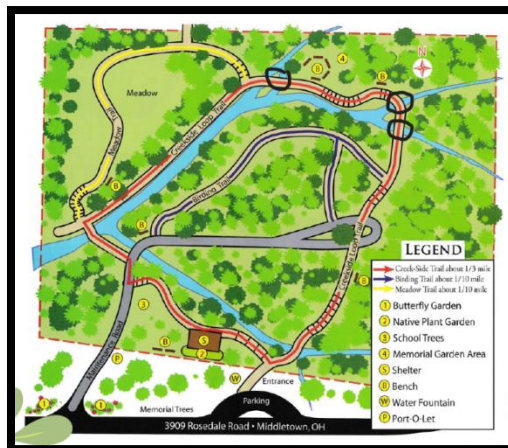




P.O. Box 425
Middletown, OH 45042



Bridge work



Bridges Currently Under Repair

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events

September

Saturday, September 5, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
 Saturday, September 19, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
 Sunday, September 20, **Fall Family Festival**, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

October

Saturday, October 3, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
 Tuesday, October 6, **Annual Meeting**, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
 Saturday, October 17, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

November

Saturday, November 7, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
 Sundays in November (11/8, 11/15, 11/22, 11/29), **Autumn Nature TOTS**, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

December

December 10 – December 16, **Light Up Middletown Greeters**, 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm (2 hour shifts)
 Email brnsaa@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer! Sign ups will be available in November
 Saturday, December 19, **Winter Bird Count**, 10:00 am – 11:30 am

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!