

Trailblazer

FOUNDED 1959

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Welcome to Spring!

Ed Frank shows off his bounty of morel mushrooms. These beautiful samples are worth more than money to those in the know. Ed found his in the Stockport Section of the Buckeye Trail.



BTA Bits and Pieces

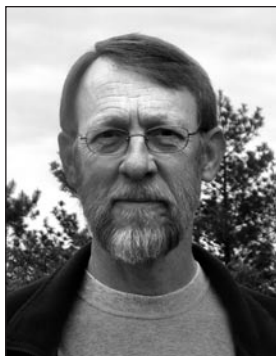
Pat Hayes, BTA President

While sitting at my computer writing this “Bits and Pieces” article for the *Trailblazer*, I glance out the window and see only snow covered ground and typical Ohio winter gloom. About the only signs of life outside are the birds around my feeders and tracks from the neighbor’s cat that is also watching the birds. I stop typing and my thoughts drift. I realize that in only two months, I can be planting peas on St. Patrick’s Day and three days after that spring officially arrives. Nine days after spring has sprung, the BTA will be having its first trail building Work Party of the year. (Check out the Events Calendar in this issue or the BTA web site for work party information.)

2008 promises to be a busy year for the BTA with multi-day work parties devoted to building new trail and weekend work parties to maintain existing trail. In 2009, the Buckeye Trail Association will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary. We are using the 2008 work parties to get the trail in shape and prepare for multiple events that will take place on the trail all around Ohio in 2009. If you would like to join us and help work on the trail, check out the “Section by Section” link on our web site to find the portion of the trail nearest you and contact the Section Supervisor, or click on the “BTA Work Parties” link for contact information for Rick Adamson, our State Trail Coordinator, or you can just show up at a work party coming near you.

Since all work and no play could make for a dull BTA member, keep in mind the monthly hikes by the Northeast Hiking group and the Circuit Hike group and the two MAC (Members Activity Committee) backpacking trips planned for 2008. The May backpacking trip is right in our own back yard. You guessed it; it’s on the Buckeye Trail. The second backpacking trip is in August and is a little further away in Wyoming’s Wind River Range. Both trips should be great and present their own sets of challenges.

I want to thank John Rethman for making the arrangements for our January 2008 Winter Campout at Serpent Mound. (See his article this issue.) Thanks also to the Ohio Historical Society and their Site Manager, Keith Bengtson, for allowing us to use the Serpent Mound site for our winter outing. I also want to thank John for his help in flagging the route for the Annual Winter Hike at Hueston Woods State Park.



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BTeasers

Pat Hayes

Q When was the *Trailblazer* masthead, showing the outline of the state of Ohio with the words Buckeye Trail inside, first used and who created it?

A The masthead was created by Milford Bowen of New Knoxville, Ohio and was first shown on the January 1985 *Trailblazer* (Volume 18, Issue No. 1)



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Tribute to a Hiker

Russ Johnson

Around the age of eight or nine my friends and I would load up old onion bags with a can of Crisco, a few potatoes and an old iron skillet. We'd gather up some fishing line, tie it all to a stick, set it over our shoulders, and head for the woods. Mom would ask (jokingly), were we running away? I would explain that we were going to the woods for a few days. She told us to be careful, and we were off. Our plans were to hike and survey as much of the woods as possible. Why? We didn't know; we just wanted to explore. We knew where to catch fish, who had the best melons that were ripe and who had canned fruit in their fruit cellars. We were Robin Hood's merry men. We never thought of how much weight we were carrying.

Later on in life I joined the Army and learned a slightly different way of hiking. It wasn't the rambling through the woods that I was used to. What the heck was this 45 lbs. on my back, these heavy boots, and this steel thing on my head? Instead of a stick to hike with I was carrying this heavy weapon, and God knows that weapon had better not touch the ground. All this just to do a 10-mile hike. When I returned home, I started hiking again with a few things I had learned from the service. I thought I had this hiking thing down.

As the years went by I started hiking with people who knew more about hiking than I did. I would listen to what they said and how to improve the way I hiked. Get away from the old military pack to a lighter pack; try a lighter food source instead of canned C-rations. Each time I hiked I found new ways of doing things and how to adjust to the elements using others' experiences. When I join BTA's MAC trips, I was sure I could handle whatever came up. After several trips I found I needed a little more work.

When I went to the Finger Lakes Trail in New York with the BTA in 2007, I had the opportunity to hike with a friend I felt was a dedicated hiker and could hang with me. I was sure to learn a few things—oh, I learned a few things alright. First: everything is measured in ounces, not pounds. You filter water even if you don't need it; you never know where the next water may be. Eat even if you don't feel like it. Find your pace and stick with it uphill and down. After a few days, I started wondering if my friend was a man or robot. He hiked up the trails that seem to go straight up and straight down—he never stopped except to wait for me. Was it his long legs that seemed to start at his shoulders or his determination to just keep going? I did my best just to stay within sight of him; I know there were times that he slowed for me to catch up. Through it all we had a great hike and great conversation along with some new blisters. If you get a chance to hike with Herb Hulls, all I can say is be prepared. I thank Herb for one of the most informative hikes I have ever had the pleasure to be on. It was tough but all in all I enjoyed it. *You're true friend and a REAL hiker.*



Schedule of Hikes & Events

Always check www.buckeyetrail.org/events.html for updates

MARCH

March 15–16 Circuit Hike, Pemberville Section. Saturday: 10 am. Meeting point is the Lucas County Educational Services Building (LCESB) at 1 S. River Rd., Waterville. We will leave promptly and carpool to near Point 6. Hike is 11.1 miles.

Directions: To get to meeting point, take SR-64 to Waterville. If approaching from the West stay on 64/Farnsworth Rd. Turn left onto River Rd. LCESB will be on the right. If approaching from the East take SR-64, cross the bridge over the Maumee River, turn left onto River Rd. LCESB will be on the left.

Sunday: 9 am. Meet at Point 12 in Pemberville. Park in the public car park behind Front St. near Water St. We will leave promptly and carpool back to near Point 6. Hike is 12.6 miles.

Lodging: Knights Inn (Rossford Toledo South, 1120 Buck Rd. Rossford, OH 43460 – Pemberville City Center: 13.4 mi); Howard Johnson Inn (Perrysburg, Hanley Rd., Perrysburg, OH 43551 – Pemberville City Center: 8.27 mi. *Note: Howard Johnson Lodge Toledo is a different location*); Days Inn Bowling Green (1550 East Wooster Street, Bowling Green, OH 43402 – Pemberville City Center: 8.91 mi); Super 8 Motel, Millbury/Toledo Area, 3491 Latcha Rd., Millbury, OH 43447 – Pemberville City Center: 9.31 mi); Days Inn Toledo/Perrysburg, 10667 Fremont Pike, Perrysburg, OH 43551 – Pemberville City Center: 11.86 mi).

Contact: Chris McIntyre, chris.mcintyre@fuse.net, 513-310-5860 about ten days prior so we can get an idea of how many hikers to expect and to notify you of any potential last-minute changes.

March 29–April 2 BTA Work Party, Defiance Section. *Trail Construction.* Please provide your own food or purchase it locally. We will continue moving the BT to an off-road location through Mary Jane Thurston State Park moving closer to Grand Rapids. This will be fairly easy work through the park as nearly all of it is level and we will be hooking up to trails already in place. Camping will be at Mary Jane Thurston State Park. If the weather is warm enough we will have heated flush toilets, however if it is cold, there will be port-a-lets available. Fire rings are in the campground too.

Directions: From central Ohio take I-71 north to I-270 W via EXIT 119 toward US-23/DAYTON 2.2 miles. Merge onto US-23 N via EXIT 23 toward DELEWARE for 66.6 miles. Stay STRAIGHT to go onto OH-15 W for 16.9 miles. Merge onto I-75 toward TOLEDO for 22.9 miles. Take the US-6 exit – EXIT 179 – toward NAPOLEON/FREMONT for about 13.6 miles. Turn RIGHT onto WAPAKONETA RD/CR-189 2.7 miles. Turn LEFT onto W 2ND ST/OH-65 for 1.5 miles. Park entrance is on the right.

Contact: Rick Adamson, rmadamson@earthlink.net.

APRIL

April 12–13 Circuit Hike, Akron Section. Saturday: Leave at 10:00 am from the Hunt Farm Parking Lot (Point 9) in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area. We will carpool north to Akron Point 2. Total hike distance is 13.5 miles. The first half of the hike is on the hillside above the river valley and the second half is along the Ohio & Erie Canal towpath paralleling the Cuyahoga River.

Directions: To get to Saturday's meeting point, take I-77 to exit 143 (Wheatley Rd.). Follow Wheatley Rd. 3 miles east into the river valley to Everett Rd. Turn left onto Everett Rd and go about 0.5 miles to Everett Village. Turn right onto Riverview Rd. and go about 0.3 miles to the Hunt Farm parking lot.

Sunday: Meet at Point 30. Leave promptly at 9:00 am and carpool to Point 23. Hike is 15 miles.

Directions: To get to Sunday's meeting spot at point 30, take SR-21 north out of Massillon to Forty Corners Rd. east (right) for 1.9 miles to a stop sign. Make a sharp left onto Erie Street. Take Erie Street for 1 mile and park on the left just past the Bocca Grande Restaurant.

Motels: Motel 6, www.motel6.com, 800-466-8356 or 330-666-0566 (99 Rothrock Rd., Akron, OH 44321) or Super 8, www.super8.com, 800-800-8000 or 330-666-8887 (79 Rothrock Rd., Akron, OH 44321) at I-77 exit 137, northwest of downtown Akron.

Camping: Portage Lakes State Park, www.ohiodnr.com/parkslportage.htm, 866-644-6727, 330-644-2220). The park's address is 5031 Manchester Road, Akron, OH 44319.

Contact: Chris McIntyre, chris.mcintyre@fuse.net, 513-310-5860 about ten days prior so we can get an idea of how many hikers to expect and to notify you of any potential last-minute changes.

April 12–13 BTA Work Party, Trail Maintenance at Fort Hill AND Tappan Lake (Two locations same weekend – pick whichever one is convenient for you).

Fort Hill: In the southern part of Ohio at Fort Hill, we will be removing dead falls and general maintenance most likely inside the park. Camping will be at Fort Hill.

Directions: To Fort Hill State Memorial, Highland County (Grid 77 - DeLORME Atlas & Gazetteer) – From the Columbus area as a reference, head south on US-23 to Chillicothe. Turn west (left) on US-50. About 1 mile past Bainbridge turn south (left) onto SR-41 and follow this for approximately 10 miles where SR-753 intersects on the right. Continue on past SR-753 for approximately 0.5 mile then turn right onto Fort Hill Rd. and follow the signs to the memorial site.

Tappan Lake: In East Central Ohio at Tappan Lake we will be doing much the same—removing dead falls and some benching. Camping will be at the BTA Barn Headquarters. See our BTA Barn directions in blue box.

Contact: Rick Adamson, rmadamson@earthlink.net.

BTA Barn Directions

Take I-77 south to US-250 east (just south of New Philadelphia). Follow US-250 past Tappan Dam almost to the end of the lake. There is a causeway with a sign that reads "Tappan Lake Park". Turn right (this road also takes you to Deersville). Approximately 3.1 miles from the US-250 turnoff is Beall Rd. on the right. Follow this dead-end road 1.3 mi. It ends at the BTA Barn down a long gravel driveway.

Remember the house side of the driveway is absolutely and strictly off-limits. It is a private residence so please respect their wishes and stay on our side of the driveway and please do not block any roads.

Contact: Russ Johnson, oparuss1@msn.com, 330-666-3409

April 12 BTA NE Group Hike, Silver Creek Metropark, Summit Co. Leave at 10:00 a.m. From I-77 or I-76, take SR-21 south to SR-585 (Wooster) exit. Stay in right lane winding around to Hametown Rd. (stop sign). Turn left onto Hametown Rd. and go for about 1/2 mile, entrance to Silver Creek MP is on the left. Follow this main entrance road until it dead-ends at lake. Turn left and follow over the dam, then turn left into first parking area, Big Oak parking area. Not hilly, but may be muddy. 4+ miles. Lunch at nearby restaurant. Contact: Phyllis Devlin, 330-864-8872.

April 25–27 BTA Annual Meeting, Napoleon. See article in this newsletter for more information. Contact: Ruth Brown, bandrbrown@willard-oh.com.

M A Y

May 10 BTA NE Group Hike, Mentor Headlands. Leave 10:00 am. Meet at Mentor Headlands, 5+ miles on BT and lakefront. North on Rt. 44 to entrance. Turn right to farthest parking lot. Bring a sandwich for picnic there at Headlands.

Contact: Jones: lynnandandy@windstream.net, 330-467-4338.

May 12–19 MAC Trip on the Buckeye Trail. In preparation of celebration of our 50th Anniversary in 2009, the Buckeye Trail Association would like to promote more backpacking on the trail. I have come up with a 72-mile trip starting north of Caesar Creek State Park to the Southern Terminus in Eden Park. 14 miles will be on road, the rest through woods and along the paved trail following the Little Miami National Scenic River. This trip can be base-camped and day-hiked. Deadline for this trip is April 13. MAC trips are for members only.

Contact: John Rethman, ilovehiking3@embarqmail.com, 513-398-9527.

May 17–18 BTA Work Party – Trail Maintenance at Scioto Trail AND Findley State Park (Two locations same weekend – pick whichever one is convenient for you).

Scioto Trail: We will be doing general trail maintenance. Please provide your own food.

Directions: To Scioto Trail State Park (STSP) from US-23, at the top of a ridge take SR-372 east uphill past Scioto Trail State Forestry Headquarters. Continue downhill on SR-327 past Stewart Lake and the entrance road to STSP and State Forestry maintenance buildings. About here, SR-327 becomes Stoney Creek Rd. (C-199). Continue generally east on Stoney Creek Rd. In a total of 4.4 miles from

US-23, make a hard right (SW) on Airport Rd. (T-200) and continue another 0.4 miles to a gated service road. Turn left (SE) and cross a bridge on the service road that serves also as Buckeye Trail. Continue as road turns sharply SW again to camping area near far end of field. You will have come about 5.2 miles from US-23 or 3.3 miles from the STSP Campground.

From OLD US-35 turn west on Higby Rd. not far from Richmond Dale. Continue until you cross the Scioto River and railroad tracks to a T in the road. Turn right onto Three Locks Rd. (C-205). Continue to the confusing intersection with Stoney Creek Rd. (C-199). Turn west onto C-100 and continue to Airport Rd. (T-200). Turn left (SW) and follow remaining directions above.

Findley State Park: We will be addressing water problems by turnpiking a good length of the BT through the park.

Contact: Rick Adamson, rmadamson@earthlink.net.

J U N E

June 7 National Trails Day. Check www.buckeyetrail.org for developments on the National Trails Day schedule.

June 7 BTA BARN Work Party. Contact: Russ Johnson, oparuss1@msn.com

June 14 BTA Board Meeting, Columbus.

June 14 NE BTA Hike, Oak Hill Area, Cuyahoga Valley NP. Leave at 10:00 am, from the parking lot, CVNP Plateau Trail (4.9 miles, some hills, considered moderate to difficult by the NP, hike could be shortened). Lunch in Peninsula restaurant. From Peninsula, go west to first road, (Riverview Rd.), south to first road, (Major Rd.), west to first road, (Oak Hill Rd.), south to parking lot.

Contact Sophia or Larry Morton: 330-794-7059.

June 28–29 Circuit Hike, Whipple Section. Hike will be from Points 10 to 25. Details will be posted on the BTA website.

Contact: Chris McIntyre, chris.mcintyre@fuse.net, 513-310-5860 about ten days prior so we can get an idea of how many hikers to expect and to notify you of any potential last-minute changes.

J U L Y

July 12 BTA NE Group Hike, Canalways Visitors Center, Cleveland Metroparks. Leave at 10:00 am. 5 miles on historic Ohio-Erie

Chuckwagon Reservations

For meal reservations for the chuckwagon at work parties (where available), call Herb or Susie Hulls at:

Hulls Chuck Wagon
740-585-2603
hulls@frognet.net

Canal Towpath. Meet on E. 49th St., Cuyahoga Hts. As you drive north, Canal Rd. becomes 49th St. in Cuyahoga Hts. “Up and over” two overpass bridges, bring camera for dramatic photos. Lunch in local restaurant. Reserve!

Contact: Jones: lynnandandy@windstream.net, 330-467-4338.

A U G U S T

August 2–9 2008 MAC Trip Wind River in Wyoming. The dates posted do not include travel time. The BTA has hiked here before, and it is one of my most memorable trips. The Wind River Range has several wilderness areas with scenic mountains, streams, and ponds full of trout.

Details for this trip have not been worked out. If you are interested in this trip, please contact me. See the BTA web site for information updates when available. Deadline is June 15 to sign up for this trip. MAC trips are for members only.

Contact: John Rethman, ilovehiking3@embarqmail.com, 513-398-9527.

August 23–24 BTA Board Retreat, BTA Barn.

D E C E M B E R

December 13 BTA Board Meeting, Columbus.

Following the Blue Blazes in the Pemberville Section

Connie and Bob Pond

After walking 1200 miles of the Buckeye Trail, we have learned to depend on the striking “Sweeping Blue” paint used to mark our way on the BT. The familiar blazes on trees or telephone poles assure us that we have not gone astray. Our careful BT maintainers constantly discuss how frequently, or how infrequently, you should blaze. Many feel that you can do too much, being concerned for the aesthetic impact on the environment.

In our experience, it is frustrating to be lost and we have been lost—or as Daniel Boone once said, “only moderately confused”—too many times, and usually for lack of a blaze at a critical juncture. I guess we could be accused of being proponents of over-blazing.

Given this persuasion, it has been refreshing and relaxing to walking in the Pemberville Section, the main difference is the abundant blazes. Entering this section from Old Fort in Seneca County and while on road the blazes are on every two or three telephone poles. To us, the frequent blazing is welcome not only for the more relaxed walk, but for the satisfaction of knowing that others will notice our record-setting BT. After all, how many states have a 1,400-mile trail visiting so many scenic and wild places, and close to most of our residents?

Soon after passing through Old Fort is the turn into Wolf Creek State Park, near Fremont. The turn into the park and through an historic cemetery is clearly marked from Gillmor Road. The placidly scenic Sandusky River flows through this well-kept park with signs explaining the biota along the trail. Here the numerous off-road blazes were truly appreciated for there were many cross trails. An added convenience is Sandusky County’s well-maintained mowed paths through the grassy areas. After the park, the road walk is clearly marked and turn blazes are prominently displayed.

We were again impressed with the blazing at Point 23, where there is a short off-road walk that goes from Shade Rd to US-20. We were even more amazed when we could find this off road portion from the car. It too, was well blazed and clear.

At Elmore, we walked for one mile on the North Coast Inland Trail (NCIT). This trail will eventually go from Elmore to Fremont. Between Elmore and Fremont, we could see abandoned railroad where the NCIT will someday exist. What a great addition this will be to the BT.

We are now in Woodville at Point 24, and waiting for winter to subside before returning to the northerly Pemberville Section. We have a picture of the police car on top of the Speed Trap diner in Woodville. Wonder if Dana ever used that fact in his Brambles?



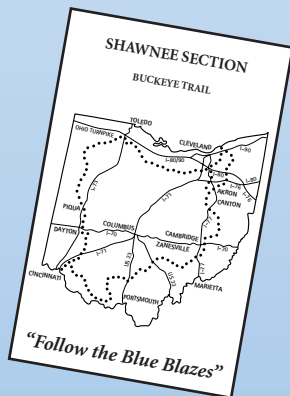
A Must-Stop in Woodville

The Speed Trap diner is Pemberville Point 14 in Woodville, Sandusky County. You’ll be losing calories, after all, on your hike. So you’ll need ice cream and maybe lunch to replenish. You’ll know the diner by its roof.

NEW Shawnee Section Map

Jack Watkins,
Map Committee

Hot off the presses, BTA Map Sales Manager Dana Zintek is ready to sell you the newest map for the Shawnee Section. It has a new up-to-date log written by Jim Sprague and shows a trail relocation that takes the BT past the newest BTA land acquisition in southern Adams County. This 20-acre property offers another campsite for overnight hikers and is in addition to our property adjoining Serpent Mound in northern Adams County. Anyone hiking the BT in the Shawnee Section should have this new map.



Trail Guide to Cuyahoga Valley National Park, 3rd Edition, the Cuyahoga Valley Trails Council

Book Review by Dana Zintek

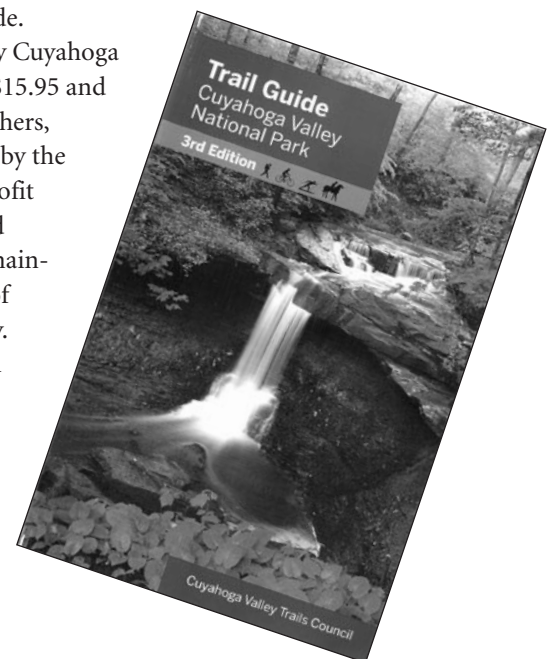
Whether you're hiking the Buckeye Trail, gas prices are keeping you inside the state, you're exploring Ohio, or simply wanting a good workout, then please read this book. This complete guide to every trail in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park is a must for anybody with those goals.

The Cuyahoga Valley National Park was created in 1974, the result of citizens and their representatives coming together to preserve the rich history and natural beauty of this valley as Cleveland crept southward and Akron slithered northward. At first it was a National Recreational Area and graduated to a National Park in 2000. Today there are about 200 miles of trail located within the 33,000 acres of the hilly park. People have been using this valley since 10,000 B.C. The first maps of the region were drawn up following the Revolutionary War. It has survived the slash-and-burn of early pioneering, the industrial revolution and urban sprawl of today. It is truly an asset to the people of Ohio, and the world—this is a park for hikers.

The guide itself is comfortable to use (familiar yet new) and is just full of maps, trail descriptions, lodging arrangements, history and anecdotes of the areas you will be hiking. For the lover of the Buckeye Trail, 29 pages cover the 34.9 miles of the BT that run through the park. I have hiked on these trails for 20+ years and reading this guide made me want to go and enjoy the BT and all the other trails with the new book in hand. For those interested in equestrian or multi-use trails, or cross-country or downhill skiing, for those activities are also covered in the book.

Backpacking in the park is not permitted but there is a hostel located geographically almost in the middle of all these trails. The hostel is reasonably priced (a bargain, actually—and a well-kept secret), has a large kitchen and is located 10 minutes by car or 2.5 miles by trail from two restaurants. For the less rugged, the Inn at Brandywine Falls is located in the park's northern region but still makes all the hikes reasonably close. All lodging information is in the hiking guide.

The new edition is a necessity for any Cuyahoga Valley National Park hiker. It retails for \$15.95 and is published by Gray & Company, Publishers, www.grayco.com. The book was created by the Cuyahoga Valley Trails Council, a nonprofit organization to promote, coordinate and participate in the building, inspection, maintenance, improvement, and enjoyment of trails in and around the Cuyahoga Valley. They are kindred spirits to our own BTA Trail Crew and the maintainers of the Buckeye Trail. *I salute you all.*



A Slice of History on the Buckeye Trail

Jeff Yoest

This past November I hiked a 50-mile stretch on the BT with Herb Hulls and Earl Garn. We started from the BTA Barn at Tappan Lake and finished at Salt Fork State Park. This segment was a mix of off-road trail, primarily along Clendening and Piedmont Lakes, with rural back roads comprising the rest of the trek. There was still some autumn color left to highlight the natural beauty of northeast Ohio's landscape.

Everywhere we saw vestiges of bygone days: old foundations, derelict houses, barns and churches, Traces of old country roads wound through woods and field, long since used by the local inhabitants. The physical remnants of old farms in the midst of woods was testament to the fact that the land was once cleared for pasture and crops. We would frequently pause and speculate what the buildings and countryside might have looked like a century ago. If only those old ruins could talk!

As mentioned, our hike ran through the Piedmont Lake section, following the west edge of the lake in off-road woods. Piedmont is one of reservoirs built in the 1930s by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District for the purpose of flood control (as a response to the devastating flood of 1913), and also for recreation and conservation. By 1938, 14 dams had been built on tributaries of the Muskingum River. Many roads, farms and even whole villages are now under the waters of these reservoirs.

As the maintainer in the section, I am familiar with Piedmont. Walking the Buckeye Trail along the lake is an experience in solitude, broken only by the occasional noise of a motorboat or nearby fisherman. Such was not the case, however, on a July day 144 years ago. At the north end of the lake, bisecting the

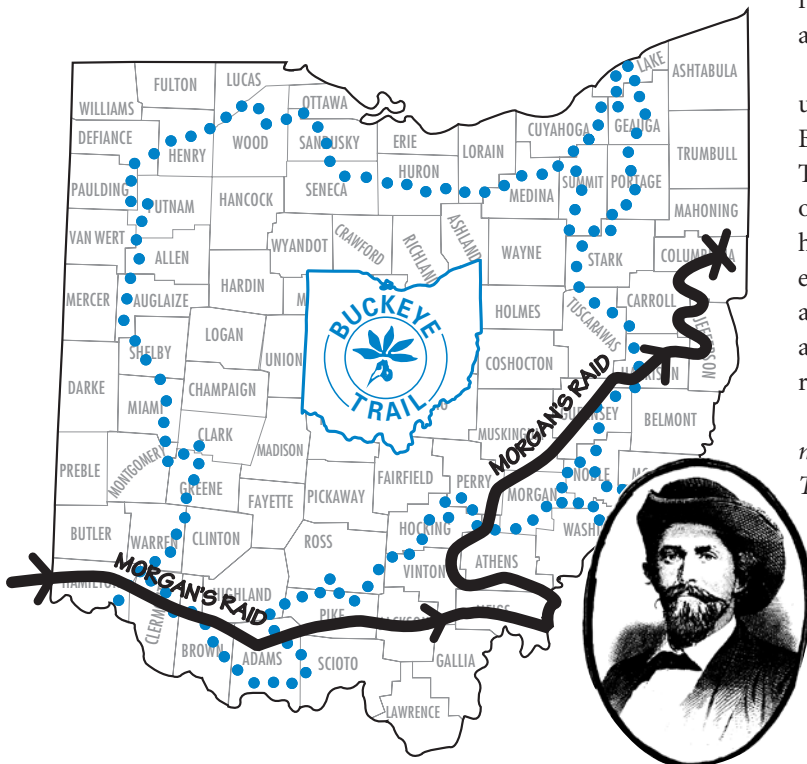


"General John Hunt Morgan Crosses the Ohio River: July 1863"
Painting by Yan Sun, Professor, Art Department, Muskingum College, 2000

Buckeye Trail, passed the columns of Confederate cavalry led by the infamous Gen. John Hunt Morgan. Known as "Morgan's Raid," this daring commander led a force of over 2000 men into Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio in 1863. This Confederate invasion into the North brought fear and havoc to the communities in which they passed. As I looked east over the waters, my mind conjured up images of rag-tag Rebel soldiers descending unto Stillwater Creek (now at the bottom of Piedmont Lake), the rear guard burning the covered bridge behind them to slow the advance of the Federal troops in pursuit.

In no other way that I know is my little section of Trail unique (in fact, Morgan's route intersects and even follows the BT at numerous location). Regardless of where on the Buckeye Trail you are, there is wonderful history to discover. The ghosts of natives, pioneers, soldiers, canal builders and boatmen, and a host of other figures haunt out Trail. I encourage all maintainers to explore the history unique to their respective sections. An awareness of the past can't help but foster a sense of appreciation and awe. The Buckeye Trail is an excellent way to illustrate Ohio's rich heritage.

P.S. Refer to Bob Pond's guidebook Follow the Blue Blazes for many interesting historical sketches associated with the Buckeye Trail.



My Wife, the Secret Gymnast?

Dick Hellmann

Our hike started on part of the Buckeye Trail, a 1,400-mile loop around the state of Ohio. A group of nine of us had just parked our cars at the trailhead, put on our boots and backpacks, and walked no more than twenty paces across the road to its protective guardrail. Down the grassy embankment lay a large field. We were using the curved metal rail for support as each of us swung our feet over and sat to contemplate the best route down. Suddenly we saw a flash off to the left. My wife Kathy was executing a perfect back flip, like an Olympic diver, only in this case, no tuck whatsoever. It was incredible. My first thought was, Is she showing off? My second thought: Had she been a gymnast in her youth and held this secret for our entire marriage, waiting for the perfect moment to spring it on me and the world?

Neither, it turned out. It was an accident. Having studied the slope Kath had selected her best route down, and pushed off to start her descent. Immediately, her left foot started to slip so she swung her right foot around to catch herself. This left her facing the hill, pack cantilevered out over the steep slope. The laws of physics took over. The instant her pack shifted her center of gravity behind her feet it flipped her backwards into the air. Once launched, she said later, she decided to go with it. Keeping her legs together, perfectly straight and toes pointed, she rotated feet-first: pack, hiking stick and all. She landed with a “whump,” face-down on the grassy slope. With her head uphill and her feet down, she simply stood up, facing the row of gaping mouths, and said, “Where’s my hat?”

Our hike leader was so upset that she almost canceled the hike right there. Fortunately, she did not. And I continue to learn new things about my partner of 42 years, beyond the fact that she can do a back flip at sixty-five years of age.

The Stockport Section of the Buckeye Trail

Susie Hulls

Welcome to this 54-mile section of the Buckeye Trail in southeastern Ohio. This section of BT meanders on and off-road from America Electric Power ReCreation Land in western Noble County to near Burr Oak State Park in Morgan County.

The AEP ReCreation Land has 23 miles of continuous off-road BT with two campgrounds. This reclaimed strip-mined land has varied topography with many lakes and beaver ponds, pine tree plantings, hardwood forests and open grassland. In addition to hiking you might try fishing or mushroom-hunting. We’ve found spring morels right next to the trail in areas away from the campgrounds. Be aware that you need a free permit to use the AEP lands and it must be carried with you. See our Stockport map for information on how to get one.

Most all of the on-road trail in Stockport Section is on very lightly traveled back roads with friendly natives. If you’re passed by a car, by aware: you will be greeted with a wave, so you ought to wave back.

The BT crosses the Muskingum River at an old lock and dam at Stockport. The Stockport Mill Country Inn is a remodeled gristmill that sits directly at the dam with great views of the river. See our map for the interesting legend of the Indian Silverheels from this area. Heading from Stockport toward Chesterhill the trail goes on and off roads where some of the roads can barely be recognized as such due to very little use.

Near Chesterhill the trail goes through Williams’ covered bridge over Wolf Creek. Until the flood of 1998 moved the bridge a kilter on its foundation, it was open to traffic. For awhile after that the Amish could still drive their buggies across it but even that has had to cease. However it is still safe for our foot traffic and interesting to see the interior construction. Charles and Leslie Knott are the owners of the property whose front yard the trail crosses as you approach or exit the bridge. They welcome hikers and may have a cabin to rent. Chesterhill can offer weary walkers some refreshments at a gas station just outside of town, a grocery and small restaurant (with limited hours) in town.

Although the remaining 20 miles of our section are all on road, they are very pleasant walking with some very scenic countryside views. Jeffer’s Tree Farm on Hoffman Road between map points 21 & 22 and Shew’s Orchard at Wells Road between map points 25 & 26 both offer a free campsite to hikers. This section ends on State Route 78 where it joins the New Straitsville Section.

There have been on-going trail improvements and relocations in this section. Be sure to check the BTA website for alerts.

Available for the Lucky Hunter-Hiker

Depending on your timing (and luck), you can find delectable morels when you hike the BT’s Stockport section.





Buckeye Trail near Napoleon

Housing for BTA's Napoleon Annual Meeting

Camping will be available on the grounds of the Nazarene Church for campers (no electric or water hook-ups) and tents.

Holiday Inn Express
590 Bonaparte Dr.
Napoleon, OH 43545
419-592-5599

Best Western
1290 Independence Dr.
Napoleon, OH 43545
419-599-0850

Bed and Breakfast
Augusta Rose
345 West Main St.
Napoleon, OH 43545
419-592-5852

Deer Creek Lodge
Bed and Breakfast
www.staydeercreeklodge.com
419-592-7306
419-783-7692

Come to Napoleon for the BTA Annual Meeting April 25–27

Come and explore the Buckeye Trail in northwest Ohio for the first Annual Meeting in this area. Hike on the newly built off-road trail on the scenic Miami-Erie Canal Towpath and learn about the Canal and Black Swamp. The BTA Trail Crew and local groups have been working several years (and more are planned for this area) on the Miami-Erie Canal towpath trail. Come and see the beauty of the canal lands and our trail work.

All events and meals except Sunday breakfast will be held at the Church of the Nazarene in Napoleon. Registration will start on Friday at 4:30 p.m. at the church. Supper will be on your own. Suggestions for local Napoleon restaurants will be available when you register.

The program on Friday will begin at 7:15 pm. Stephanie Jaqua will talk history of the Miami-Erie. Stephanie has worked as a living history interpreter in costume on the canal boat in nearby Grand Rapids.

Saturday will kick off with the BTA annual business meeting at 10 am followed by lunch. During the afternoon there will be hikes of different lengths on the newly built off-road sections of the BT on the Miami-Erie Canal Towpath. Or you could go to West Unity to a glassblower's shop for a demonstration. Dinner on Saturday evening will be catered. The evening presentation will be on the Black Swamp by Pete

Wilhelm, an expert on this swamp, which once covered a vast area in northwest Ohio. BTA awards presentation will follow. We will have breakfast at the lodge at Mary Thurston State Park.

The ever-popular silent auction will start on Friday and end before the Saturday evening program with the results being given out before the awards. This is a great way to get gear and miscellany.

Camping will be available on the grounds of the Nazarene Church for campers (no electric or water hook-ups) and tents. Another option is for people to sleep on the floor in their sleeping bags in the smaller rooms in the church. Hotel accommodations are available in the area.

Directions to the Church of the Nazarene going west on Route 6: Turn left off Route 6 unto County Road P. Travel 3.2 miles on County Road P. Napoleon's Church of the Nazarene will be on the left side of County Road P. The address of the church is 630 Appian, but the directions are for coming in on County Road P as the turn into the church is much safer especially for those with campers.

If you have any questions, please contact Annual Meeting Co-chairpersons Mary Hamilton at oldbag@wilkshire.net or 330-602-4071, or Ruth Brown at bandrbrown@willard-oh.com or 419-935-0668.

Buckeye Trail Association Awards and Recognition Nominations

I would like to nominate _____ for the following award (check one):

AWARDS

BOB PATON AWARD (Meritorious Service)
Members who have contributed exceptional services to the Association for at least fifteen (15) years. Such services may pertain to trail maintenance, trail utilization, administrative and/or management functions. Recipients must be living at the time of nomination.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD (Volunteer of the Year)
All active members of the Association are eligible for this award. The nominee shall have either shown exceptional commitment to an assignment(s), or have made some major contribution of special benefit to the Association during the past year. Nominees who would be eligible for a Certificate of Appreciation can be considered for the President's Award.

BILL MILLER AWARD (Conservation)
Any person or group responsible for actions that have notably preserved or restored the natural ecology or beauty of a locality by the Trail, or have brought under control a major threat to utility of the Trail in some locality.

SUPER STAR (Superior Service over Time)
Person(s) who have exhibited superior service in appointed or volunteer tasks.

Please write a brief statement of your reason for nominating this person or group. Include name, address and phone numbers for both nominee and nominator. If either has an e-mail address, please include it also, in case we have any questions.

All nomination must be postmarked by March 1, 2008.

Send nominations to: Mary Hamilton, 717 E. Third St., Dover, Ohio, 44622, or e-mail to oldbag@wilkshire.net.

RECOGNITIONS

TRUSTEE EMERITUS (Board Members Only)
This is the only recognition that is set aside for members of the Board of Trustees as they leave the service of the Board. The nominee should have accumulated at least ten (10) years as a Board Member and must have demonstrated consistent commitment and continued service to the Board, the Association, and the trail, through exceptional diligence at their assignments and at least one notable achievement to their credit.

2000 KM
For hiking the entire trail on foot and completed in the year 2003 for this year's award.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
Any individual, city, agency, business or organization who has demonstrated exemplary cooperation and diligence to perpetuate and improve the Trail and Association, and must have helped in some significant way to aid the Association attain an important objective.

STAR PERFORMANCE (Leadership Excellence)
Persons who have exhibited leadership in appointed or volunteer tasks.

Buckeye Trail Association Annual Meeting 2008 Registration

April 25–27, 2008, Napoleon

See www.buckeyetrail.org for Online Registration

FULL WEEKEND – \$40.00/PERSON

Programs, Friday snacks, all meals on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday, and a donation to the church for using their facilities.

SATURDAY ONLY – \$25.00/PERSON

Programs, lunch, supper, snacks, and a donation to the church for using their facilities.

Deadline for registration is April 18.

Contacts :

Mary Hamilton
oldbag@wilkshire.net or 330-602-4071

Ruth Brown
bandrbrown@accnorwalk.com or 419-935-0668

Name(s)

Address

_____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone

Email (for notification of registration received)

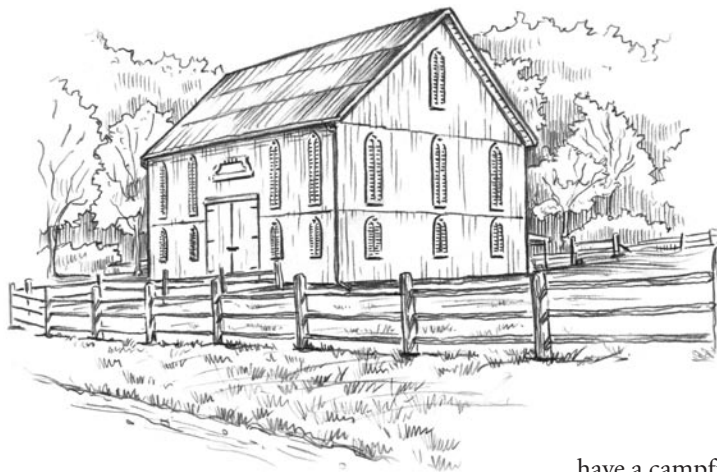
_____ Number of people attending entire weekend _____ Number of people attending Saturday only

Barn Talk

Russ Johnson,
BTA Barn Coordinator

The first work party of 2008 did not go well. I'll just say Mother Nature brought in some very cool air and it made it very difficult to get any work done. I have scheduled a few more work parties and I hope you will come to help. The Trail work takes priority and I try to schedule Barn work around those dates.

We have a stack of old barn siding washed, stacked and ready to be installed on the outside of the dorms to keep the old barn look. I would like to finish at least three of the dorms to accommodate anyone who would like to spend the night. This will consist of paneling the inner walls with T1 11 on the inside and hanging the doors. The floors will need a couple coats of polyurethane, then we can build bunk beds in the rooms. So



whenever possible, please come and give us a hand. I have everything needed to get these projects done.

For those who didn't know, the Barn is available for a birthday or any party that you would like to have. It's there for our use and you could not ask for

a nicer place to camp and

have a campfire. I need you to contact me for reservations. I would not want to double-

book. So plan a party or just a family getaway for the weekend. Contact me at oparuss1@msn.com or 330-666-3409. I want to thank those who have sent donations for the Barn, as you know it not only takes manpower it also takes a few dollars. Remember that your donations are tax deductible. Check the web site for dates of future work parties.

Volunteer Hole-Digger

Andrew Cook from Burton is presented with a Volunteer patch for all help he has given us at the Barn. Along with many other chores, he volunteered to dig the hole to plant the flagpole out front. The ground was so hard at that time, so hard that he had to carry water to where he was digging to soften up the ground to get it deep enough. Thanks, Andrew! Photo by Pat Hayes.



New Year's Campout 2008

John Rethman

This New Year's campout was January 5 at Serpent Mound. As with all my outdoor adventures, especially in the winter, the weather is a big concern. The weather report a week before the event predicted below-normal temperatures and dry. Then, January 4's forecast was for above-normal temperatures and rain. What actually happened was above-normal temperatures with rain and mist, turning to bone-chilling cold with rain that night, conditions not conducive to a great campout. Thirteen hardy people showed up and seven stayed overnight.

We had a great time and I wish to thank several people that made this an enjoyable trip. BTA's property adjacent to Serpent Mound has no shelter, but Serpent Mound State Memorial has a beautiful, brand new shelter and park manager Keith Bengsten encouraged us to use it with only one rule – no ground fires allowed. I solved the problem by bringing along an aboveground fire pit. The shelter kept us dry during hard rains and the fire pit kept us warm the rest of the time.

Bob Pond was a great help, and volunteered to be our guide. He got to know the area when he researched Follow the Blue Blazes. Bob also invited Delsey Wilson, James McKinzie and Ellen Shunaman from Friends of Serpent Mound. They gave us

a private tour of the Serpent Mound area. It is over a quarter-mile long, and the largest known effigy mound in the U.S. The effigy is built on a uplift inside an ancient meteorite crater that is 10 miles wide. Delsey then arranged for us to view the crater from a privately owned farm on the edge of the crater. We ended our tour with a visit to a Rock Shop in Locust Grove, The House of Phacops, owned by Tom Johnson. He had on display shattercones that proved the crater was created by an ancient meteorite. He also had the largest Trilobite in the Phacops family that I have ever seen. The Smithsonian Institute featured one of his displays. The House of Phacops is a very interesting place to visit.

Sunday morning we generally pack up and leave for home, but we decided to hike the Strait Creek Prairie Bluff Trail. This is a three-mile stretch of uncompleted trail on Nature Conservancy property. Pat Hayes was our guide since it isn't finished and not blazed we had trouble finding the trail. However, Pat persevered and his effort was well worth it. The trail that was completed was well done and laid out beautifully in a very scenic part of Ohio. Considering the cold rainy conditions, everyone that participated had a great time.

Hope to see you at the 2009 New Year's campout.



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Finger Lakes Day-Hiking

Susie Hulls

The September 2007 MAC trip was to the Finger Lakes Trail in New York. All the hikers gathered at Sned-Acres Campground in central New York the first night to finalize plans for the week. While the other hikers backpacked all week, Adrian Vanko and I day-hiked and visited as many waterfalls and state parks as we could.

We were off to an early start the first day and saw the beautiful 215-foot high Taughannock Falls from the rim trail. We reserved our campsite for the rest of the week at Robert H. Treman State Park south of Ithaca. It was interesting that we had to drive through a creek ford that separated the camp office from the campground. We visited a restored 1838 gristmill and took a short hike to a Civilian Conservation Corp memorial rock in this park. This short hike crossed the North Country National Scenic Trail and also had a segment of the Finger Lakes Trail. Another day we hiked both the gorge and rim trails here and decided that they both are uphill both ways! The 115-foot Lucifer Falls was the goal of that day-hike.

We spent one whole day at Watkins Glen State Park where we had a personal tour by a park ranger. We could ask all the questions we wanted and learned the history of the park and pre-park. We walked the Gorge and Indian Trails, saw 19 waterfalls and visited the large cemetery. Although all the state parks we visited were clean and well maintained; if you only have time for one New York state park, Watkins Glen State Park would be the one to visit. The CCC stonework of walls and bridges along the trails is outstanding, enhancing the natural beauty of the waterfalls and creek. We were astounded and impressed at all the state parks by the beautiful and extensive stonework done by the CCC in the 1930s.

Though not a state park, we spent another day at Cornell University's Sapsucker Woods. We walked their trails for several hours and although we didn't see anything unusual, we did see most of the common birds for that time of year – and two garter snakes, many painted turtles, burr marigolds and forget-me-nots. The visitor center is fascinating but we didn't have time to take advantage of all it offers. Be sure to see the hummingbird display if you go.

We saw the falls at Buttermilk Falls State Park in Ithaca and visited the falls at Fillmore Glen State Park. We stopped at Taughannock State Park again at the end of the week and saw the falls from the gorge trail with Russ Johnson and Herb Hulls. The hundreds of cairns built up in the creek bed by visitors were fascinating. Some were quite intricate and all will be gone when the water comes up!

Along the trails we were treated to several wildflowers: Bicknell's cranesbill, goldenrods, silverrod, grass of Parnassus, dolls' eyes, bittersweet nightshade, turtleheads and Indian cucumber root. Other treats were a bee tree and wild raspberries. Adrian heard the bees while we were walking but we couldn't identify them – they weren't honeybees. And the raspberries were delicious! We also heard screech owls almost every day or night at the campground and a great horned owl a couple of times. This is also lake and grape country for anyone interested in boating, fishing or wineries.

The last day all the hikers gathered at Sned-Acres Campground to clean up before going out for a group dinner. Lynn and Ann Snedaker were gracious hosts at their campground.

Pledge Form

THE BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 254 Worthington, Ohio 43085

E-mail: info@buckeyetrail.org

To show support for the Buckeye Trail Volunteer Trail Crew and its many hours of trail building, the undersigned pledges \$ _____ per volunteer hour of trail building in the year or years of _____.

As a pledger to the trail crew, your name or company name will be in each issue of the Buckeye Trail publication, the *Trailblazer*. In addition that name will be engraved on a plaque that will be displayed at the annual membership meeting and other events throughout the state.

You can be proud that you are helping protect a 1230 mile hiking trail encircling the state of Ohio and know that all money you pledge goes to the trail. The Buckeye Trail Association is an all-volunteer organization with no paid employees. The people who build new trail do so because they love being outdoors knowing that what they build will be enjoyed by many for years to come.

Company Name

Individual

Address

City

State Zip

Phone

BTA Representative

Date

The Buckeye Trail Association Inc. is a non-profit 501c3 tax exempt organization.

Dear Landowner on the Buckeye Trail,

On behalf of the entire Buckeye Trail Association, we want to thank you for allowing the BT to cross your property. One of the primary goals of our association is to get as much of our trail “off-road” as possible, and by letting us use your land you’re enabling us to reach that goal.

If you are thinking of selling your land, the Buckeye Trail Association would be very interested in buying it to protect our trail.

There is another way that you can help us protect the trail on your property. Through a “Conservation Easement” you help protect the trail while getting property tax breaks and in some cases, debt reduction, and you still have complete control of your land.

Please check with your legal advisor if you are interested in either of these options. There are also other options we could discuss.

Contact Jim Runk,
Jimsrunk@wmconnect.com,
937-289-2481; or write Buckeye Trail Association, P.O. Box 254,
Worthington OH 43085; info@
buckeyetrail.org.

Yours Truly,

*Herb Hulls,
President
Buckeye Trail Association*

*Jim Runk,
State Trail Coordinator
Buckeye Trail Association*

A Typical Work Party

Susie Hulls

No, that’s not a typo. The September 2007 work party in Brown County on Rumpke Waste Management property was not a typical work party. We could tell that from the very beginning when we saw that we’d be camping next to (and some of us in) a soybean field adjacent to Mt. Trashmore. A large empty field had been mowed for us but it was so full of ruts that it was only suitable for those with camping trailers. The bean field, being flat, was much superior for tents. Our shelter during sunny and inclement weather was a large, old, unused tobacco barn. Its middle aisle served us well and even had a couple of our campers stay in it.

A nice advantage of our camp was that we could walk through the soybeans to and from work each day. All the trail work paralleled White Oak Creek. It was mostly in the woods; a great advantage during the grueling high 80s heat the first couple of days. Besides the unusual camping facility, the trail work was different in that we didn’t have to do much benching. That was left for mechanical equipment to attack at a later date. It remains to be seen how well it will work out but it allowed us to make more progress than otherwise would have been possible. Clearing the rampant vine and bush honeysuckle and benching several creek crossings took up most of the trail crew’s time and energy. An interesting feature that will be along the finished trail is an

old weir built to keep water from washing a deep gully in a field.

Afternoons and evenings the Rumpke Company made a much-appreciated shower available at their service building. We had most evening meals in the nearby town of Georgetown but one night had a pizza party in the barn. Crewman Garry generously supplied ice cream several times for dessert. One evening’s entertainment, in addition to the usual unusual conversations, was Herb cutting Earl Garn’s five-month beard and hair growth. (That photo series made the Winter 2007 Trailblazer.) Earl had just finished hiking the Pacific Crest Trail a few days before the work party.

Nights were different in a couple of ways. The resident coyotes were not bashful about letting us know they were in the area. We heard them and owls several times during the night. We also soon learned that landfills work very early hours. Trucks arrive to dump their loads beginning around 3 a.m. Then the bulldozers that level the dumped loads start spreading it out, which includes lots of backing up which means lots of beeping noises. Thankfully most of us were tired enough from trail-building that the noises didn’t wake us every night.

It all goes to show that you never can tell what you’ll encounter at a Buckeye Trail work party. Come experience one yourself.

Adopter's Corner

Jim Sprague, Maintenance Supervisor

Behold the Heroes of the Buckeye Trail, Class of 2007. Of course, I believe that many more Trail Adopters than in the list got out on their adopted segment last year. However, the people listed submitted time reports to their Section Supervisors. And the Section Supervisors submitted their records so that their efforts could be applauded. To all active Trail Adopters, Buckeye Trail Association offers a special "Thank You". Without your efforts, BT could not exist.

Note particularly the efforts of Woody Ensor from Fairborn who once again visited his trail segment more often than any other Adopter. And Bob Merkle, who is probably also BTA's most senior Adopter, drove the most miles to reach his segment. Jim Sprague and John Heater were neck and neck in both the time working on the trail and the total time donated. For the record, total time includes both work and travel time.

The numbers show the values that were submitted. A blank signifies only that insufficient detail was submitted to make a determination.

If you should feel left out, let it be known that there are many trail segments open for adoption. A good selection of trail both on and off road is available. Unfortunately, or fortunately if you like to get away from things, most of the open sites are in the more remote parts of Ohio. Don't let the fact that you may not know much about the location of the trail. You can easily find out by going to buckeyetrail.org/SectionbySection, BTA's website. Short descriptions of each section reveal enough to let you know if you might have an interest in that area. Then contact Coordinator Jack Watkins at don-jackwatty@cs.com or 614-451-4233 and Jack can put you to work.

See you on the trail.

| NAME | VISITS | TIME WORKED | TOTAL TIME | TRAVEL MILES |
|----------------------|------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| Randy Bailey | 7 | | 20.09 | 172 |
| Mel Beers | | | 64 | 230 |
| Kristen Boyesen | 2 | 9.17 | 9.5 | 41 |
| Jack Brennen | 6 | 28 | 46 | |
| Bertha Brum | 2 | 13.33 | 20.07 | |
| Eldon Brum | 2 | 13.33 | 20.07 | 321 |
| Joni Burke | 2 | | 4.5 | |
| Ryan Burke | 2 | | 4.5 | 100 |
| Judy Clinebell | 3 | 16 | 25 | 390 |
| Judy Clinebell's Pal | 1 | 6 | 9 | |
| Jim Connor | 1 | 3.17 | 4 | 20 |
| Patti Cook | | | 4 | 36 |
| Lisa Daiber | 7 | 28.5 | 39.5 | |
| Mark de Saint-Rat | | | 14 | |
| Bob Dieffenbach | | | 28 | 320 |
| Garry Dill | 6 | 27.5 | 74 | 711 |
| Woody Ensor | 104 | | 111 | 1259 |
| Gary Evans | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Jan Geho | 6 | | 19 | 150 |
| Jim Gilkey | 4 | 24 | 74 | 220 |
| Bruce Grashel | 1 | 6 | 10 | 153 |
| Mary Hamilton | 12 | 54.12 | 68.21 | 364 |
| Mary Hayes | 1 | 2.75 | 4.25 | 114 |
| Pat Hayes | 2 | 11.6 | 16 | 199 |
| John Heater | 50 | 116.77 | 164.85 | |
| Jay Holwick | 6 | | 54 | 590 |
| Herb Hulls | 12 | 85.4 | 136.83 | 791 |
| Susie Hulls | 6 | 47.4 | 62.83 | 456 |
| Russ Johnson | 17 | 88.17 | 106.33 | 558 |
| Andy Jones | | | 4 | |
| Lynn Jones | | | 4 | |
| Joe Konen | 4 | 12.83 | 19 | 180 |
| Louisa Kreider | 1 | 8.33 | 9.4 | 63 |
| Peggy Kreider | 2 | 3.50 | 8.5 | 148 |
| Elmo Layman | 4 | 24.00 | 78 | 260 |
| Eric Lindahl | | | 6 | |
| Pat Lindahl | | | 6 | |
| Chris McIntyre | 3 | 20.00 | 57 | 200 |
| Bob Merkle | 10 | 46.00 | 76 | 1340 |
| Al Messenger | 2 | 3.00 | 5 | 52 |
| Rich Pfeiffer | 1 | 4.00 | 8 | 190 |
| John Rethman | 8 | 24.00 | 95.5 | 399 |
| Jim Runk | | | 87 | 784 |
| Bill Schultz | 8 | 39 | 101 | 850 |
| Connie Snyder | 1 | 3.5 | 4 | |
| Mike Snyder | 1 | 3.5 | 4 | 10 |
| Jim Sprague | 24 | 122.41 | 169.5 | 1153 |
| Dallas Watkins | | | 7 | |
| Harry Weaver | 8 | 0.25 | 17.75 | 129 |
| Sara Weaver | 8 | 0.25 | 17.75 | |
| Gary Williams | 1 | 7 | 8 | 30 |
| Dan Zawacki | | | 11 | |
| Dana Zintek | 12 | 48.75 | 67.25 | 409 |
| TOTALS | 372 | 952.53 | 2085.18 | 13392 |

Wild Neighbors

Paul Knoop, Jr.

MAYAPPLE

Podophyllum peltatum

LIFE HISTORY FACTS While walking in local woodlands one must kneel down to get a “toad’s-eye” view of the waxy white flowers hanging between the two large umbrella-like leaves. The mayapple is conspicuous and familiar wildflower, well known to morel hunters who search the woodlands in April when this plant makes its appearance.

The mayapple is well known for its ability to clone, to reproduce vegetatively by underground stems that grow outward each year producing new plants. These large circular colonies may be 40 or 50 years old or more.

This plant also reproduces sexually: the white bisexual flowers produce yellow fruits with numerous seeds inside. The flowers are pollinated primarily by bumblebees and other solitary bees and the ripe fruits are relished by box turtles. The box turtle is the main seed disperser of this plant as the turtle-ingested seeds germinate more successfully than seeds that drop directly from the plant.

The large, lemon colored fruits are edible and quite tasty. Just remember that all parts of the green plant are highly toxic and should not be consumed.

HABITAT Rich woodlands, shaded fencerows and forested streamsides.

HOW YOU CAN HELP Become familiar with this harbinger of spring and enjoy its simple beauty. Protect the rich woodlands where it grows and refrain from using the “weed eater” in wooded areas.

BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW

- All parts of the green plant act as a cathartic or powerful laxative and can dehydrate the body.
- Podophyllum, the toxic substance in the plant, has been found to be extremely useful in treating certain cancers and warts.
- The mayapple is a member of the Barberry family.
- Other names include mandrake, wild lemon, hog apple and umbrella leaf.



Winter Hike at Hueston Woods State Park

Pat Hayes hosted an annual ADT event, the frosty hike held every MLK Day. Benefits include a good long hike that could be shortened, the chance to prove to yourself you can stay warm in the cold by being outside all day, and a bean soup and corn muffin lunch. The American Discover Trail shares the BT on most of its Ohio route on its coast-to-coast journey.

End of Trail

Dana Zintek

The Buckeye Trail Circuit patch is awarded to any person who has completed the Buckeye Trail . . .

This issue's finishers are:

| HIKER | DATE STARTED | DATE FINISHED | MILEAGE OF BT WHEN HIKED * |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Laszlo Prisko | April 2003 | August 2007 | 1440 |
| Rose Prisko | April 2003 | August 2007 | 1440 |
| Mary Baldwin | April 2003 | August 2007 | 1444 |

*mileages vary because of reroutes and improvements

Laszlo and Rose Prisko both enjoyed the diverse communities and countryside of Ohio. Laszlo stated that he did not know what to encounter, but he just liked hiking. Rose likes long hikes in different places, so the BT fit her just fine.

Mary Baldwin who is also a Buckeye Trail Maintainer hiked the trail with two groups. She says as a co-leader she was doing it all! Mary's favorite part of the hike was seeing the northern terminus sign at Mentor Headlands and getting to know her fellow hikers.

Highlights of the BTA Board Meeting, December 8, 2007

STATE TRAIL COORDINATOR: RICK ADAMSON

- The senior engineering students at Ohio Northern University had been to the site of the swinging bridge project to do surveying, hydraulic and soil analysis. They have a good start on designing the bridge.
- Two large culverts had been installed side-by-side in a deep ravine on the Miami-Erie Canal towpath in Paulding County. This project was done by five men working eight-hours for three days. The labor and materials were all donated anonymously by friends of the Buckeye Trail.

BTA BARN: RUSS JOHNSON

- The warm room at the Barn was completed.

NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL: ANDREW BASHAW

- Andrew has worked with the Wayne National Forest (WNF) staff to access the BT/NCT through both the Athens and Marietta units of the WNF. He has gone over the trail with a GPS and spoken with BTA/ NCTA volunteers and made recommendations for a total of 26 miles of new and rerouted trail that removes the trail from public roads and oil and gas service roads. WNF has agreed to the proposals in general but needs to follow up with National Environmental Policy Act paperwork and process. This may take up to two years.

Moved or Moving? Send the BTA Your Change of Address!!

The *Trailblazer* will NOT be forwarded to your new address AND the BTA incurs 70¢ charge for each undeliverable *Trailblazer*.

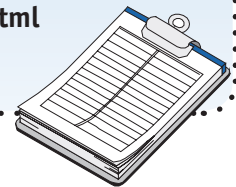
Mailing labels are printed 3 weeks before the *Trailblazers* are mailed, so send in your change of address right away!

Buckeye Trail Association, Inc.,
P.O. Box 254, Worthington, Ohio 43085

Maintainer's Log

The BTA web site has a Maintainer's web page. It has some basic info about maintaining, requests volunteers, and has a download for the maintainer's annual log.

<http://www.buckeyetrail.org/maintainers.html>



Welcome New Members!

Bev and Jerry Starcher

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Ellen Botnick | Akron |
| Carl and Karla Brun | Dayton |
| William Burke | McDermott |
| Daniel Clark | Delphos |
| Damon Clement | Kettering |
| John and Sue Cross and Family | Cuyahoga Falls |
| Mario W. Davenport | Cleveland |
| Mary Davis | Cleveland |
| Luis Dominguez | Cleveland |
| William German Jr | Chagrin Falls |
| Christine Green | Hillsborough, North Carolina |
| Mary Ruth Green | Maplewood |
| Harold J. Herring | Reading, Pennsylvania |
| Wesley W. Hinton | Milford |
| Nancy Johnson gift from Barbara Kienzle | Columbus |
| Robert Lorenzetti and Family | Fairborn |
| John Maderia and Family | Mobile, Alabama |
| Robert Miller and Family | Toledo |
| Oakwood Arbor #759 | Oakwood |
| Douglas Pearce | Mentor |
| Delbert Ruckle | Columbus |
| Darryl Smith | Milford |
| Amy J. and E.M. Sowers | Brecksville |
| Clarence Spencer | Fort Thomas, Kentucky |
| Tony Tenwalde and Family | Cloverdale |
| Grace Thornhill | Maplewood |
| Anthony Wanzer | Columbus |
| Dallas Watkins | Germantown |
| Leslie Weidenhamer | Defiance |
| Marcia Weller and Family | Liberty, Indiana |
| Dave Zuehlke and Family | Dublin |

Donations to BTA Funds

JULY-DECEMBER 2007

GENERAL FUND

Akron Metro Parks Hiking Club
Dorothy Anson
Garry Dill
Ruey Hodapp Jr Fund
Craig Hostettler
Sue and Allen Krueger
Robert and Margaret Baker
Roger Myers
Carol and Don Mong
Peter and Irmagard Bletzinger
John Condon
Evelyn and William Hewett
Mary Lou Leonard
Wilbur Priver
Rosemary Stagel
Robert Merkle
Matthew Smith

BARN

Carol and Don Mong
Phyllis Devlin

SCHOLARSHIP

Elmo Layman, Chairman
Carol and Don Mong
Ruth Brown

*We need \$150 more and we can
award two scholarships at the
2008 Annual Meeting! We hope
contributions will come in.*

TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND

William T. Schultz, Chairman
Richard C. Behymer
Bob Kratzenberg
Tony Fiscarelli *in memory of Bob Paton*
Jeffery Yoest
Connie and Bob Pond
James Crabtree
Matthew Smith
Dave and Kenny Janosko
Benjamin Carlson
Darlene Karoly
Leo Deininger
Carolyn and Ernie Wengler
Earl Staddon
Paul Gregor *in memory of Emily Gregor*
Jim Runk
Rick Adamson
Donald Mong
Chris McIntyre
Herb Hulls
H. B. Eagon
Phyllis and Robert Buchwalder
John Kunz
R. M. Kieffer
Greg Wisniewski

*We received \$1,657 in donations to the
TPF in the last 3 months. This will
continue our efforts to preserve the trail
and acquire additional land and
easements. Thank you!*

BRAMBLE #45

by Dana Zintek

Winner: Karl Hahn from Piketon
We had 28 entrants for Bramble #45.

1. W on map

REWAT
WATER

2. Our trail

KEYCUBE
BUCKEYEE

3. Love Town

LLIVEARTH
HARTVILLE

4. Buzzards

KEYLINCH
HINCKLEY



*Why did the banker bury his food
and water for backpacking?*

HE KNEW
CACHE VALUE

