

# Trailblazer

FOUNDED 1959

WINTER 2008 VOLUME 41 NO. 4

## Rock Movers on the Trail Crew Give the Buckeye Trail Their All

At the AEP work party in September 2008, the BTA Trail Crew worked for hours moving the rocks so hikers could walk through them. Pictured are Don Mong, Susan Stover, Jim Gilkey, Earl Garn, Jim Runk, Mark and Byron Henry, Herb Hulls. Photo by Susie Hulls.



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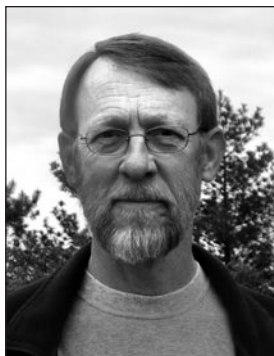
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# BTA Bits and Pieces

Pat Hayes, BTA President



By the time you get this winter 2008 *Trailblazer* issue, autumn will just be a recent memory. The cool, crisp days of low humidity and trees ablaze with color, and outdoor activities devoid of those pesky insects help make autumn my favorite time of year. I sometimes feel like I am the anti-bear. Unlike the bear, I come out of my summer torpor anticipating autumn and actually looking forward to winter. (Although I admit Ohio could use a little less “dreary” and a bit more sunshine in the dead of winter.)

The word autumn came into use around 1374 and is derived from the Old French word *autumpne*, from the Latin word *autumnus*, a word probably of Etruscan origin. The word Harvest was the English name for the season until autumn began to displace it in the 16th century. In Britain, the season is popularly August through October; in the U.S., September through November. The word fall, in the noun sense of “autumn” (now only in U.S.) came into use in America around 1664 and is short for fall of the leaf. I find it interesting that autumn is the only season with an alternate name.

With this yearend *Trailblazer*, I want to thank all of the BTA volunteers that make this organization work. Many volunteers are quite visible to the public because they are out building and maintaining trail or are representing the BTA at various public events or meetings. Then there are the people that work behind the scenes. These volunteers perform hundreds of tasks that are vital to a smooth running organization, but are out of the public eye. Several of these behind the scene volunteers typify the dedication they bring to the BTA. Many have served in their respective positions for years. Our mail secretary, Dorothy Anson, has handled the incoming BTA mail since June, 1991 and Connie Pond has served as our Treasurer since June, 1989. Beverly Starcher has served as membership secretary and Josh Gille served on the cartography team, both since 1997. These are just a few examples of the many dedicated volunteers the BTA is fortunate to have.

Our 50th Anniversary is just around the corner. Herb and Susie Hulls have already picked May 2nd as the date for their 50th anniversary hike in the Stockport section. I urge all section supervisors to plan a hike in their section in commemoration of our golden anniversary. Your hike information should be sent to [webmaster@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:webmaster@buckeyetrail.org) or mailed to the BTA address. Please look for information about the 50th anniversary celebration in this and future *Trailblazers* or on the web site at [www.buckeyetrail.org](http://www.buckeyetrail.org).

By the time you read this, we will be well into the holiday season. I want to wish the BTA board and staff and all the BTA members that make this organization possible, the best for the New Year. And remember, BTA memberships make great gifts.

I hope to see you all at the January 10, 2009 annual New Year campout at Fort Ancient in Warren County.



## Trailblazer

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May 1 for the Summer issue,  
August 1 for the Fall issue,  
and November 1 for the Winter issue.

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Disclaimer: The articles and all information in this publication have been prepared with utmost care. However, neither the Buckeye Trail Association nor the Editor can guarantee accuracy or completeness of information. Opinions expressed in the articles, columns and paid advertising are not necessarily those of the BTA.



*Trailblazer* is printed  
on recycled paper.

## BTeasers

Pat Hayes

**Q** What event took place on April 18, 1959?

**A** Roy Fairfield was elected as the first president of the newly formed Buckeye Trail Association.

## B T A S T A F F

**Dorothy Anson**  
Mail Secretary

**Ruth Brown, Mary Hamilton**  
Annual Meeting

**Josh Gille, John Heater, John Payton,  
Jim Sprague, Jack Watkins**  
Cartography Team

**Kathy Hamilton**  
Grants

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**Elmo Layman**  
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**Steve Miller**  
Computer Services Coordinator

**Constance Pond**  
Statutory Agent

**Gary Williams**  
Publicity

**William T. Schultz**  
Trail Preservation Fund

**Jim Sprague**  
Maintenance Supervisor

**Beverly Starcher**  
Membership Secretary

## B T A T R A I L C O O R D I N A T O R S

### S T A T E

**Jim Runk**  
**Rick Adamson**  
**Jack Watkins**

**N O R T H E A S T**  
VACANT

**E A S T C E N T R A L**  
VACANT

**S O U T H E A S T**  
VACANT

**S O U T H W E S T**  
**Jim Runk**

**N O R T H W E S T**  
**David Stilwell**

**N O R T H C E N T R A L**  
**Charles Huth**

## B T A B O A R D O F T R U S T E E S 2 0 0 8

### O F F I C E R S

Pat Hayes, President  
Greg Wisniewski, Vice President  
Ruth Brown, Secretary  
Constance Pond, Treasurer

### T R U S T E E S

Russ Johnson, Elmo Layman, Chris McIntyre,  
Liz McQuaid, Melissa Reed, John Rethman,  
Quincy Robe, Susan Stover, Adrian Vanko,  
Gary Williams, Jeff Yoest

# Join the Buckeye Trail Association's 50th Year Celebration

Start making plans now to attend the BTA's 50th Anniversary Annual Conference

on June 12-14, 2009. This celebration will be our biggest and best—special in many ways. For one thing, it will be held in June rather than April, so late-season snow will not be a problem. And rather than host this annual meeting in a remote corner of the state along the trail, this event will be centrally located at Camp McPherson in Danville, Knox County.

Camp McPherson is a full-service campground offering a wide range of services and amenities. Lodging options include camping and dormitory facilities, as well as some motel-type rooms.

- A top menu has been carefully selected.
- An extensive list of speakers and programs is being planned.
  - A bluegrass band will play Saturday night.
- Hiking and canoeing nearby in the Mohican State Park area.

Reserve the date now so you can be a part of our BTA 50th Anniversary celebration. More details will follow in the Spring 2009 *Trailblazer*.

## BTA Funds Report

### T R A I L P R E S E R V A T I O N F U N D

#### AUGUST-OCTOBER 2008

The Cleveland Hiking Club

Friends of the Preble

County Park District

Dennis Deitrick

Carol Fox

Dale and Barbara Roudebush

Paul W. McFadden

Lois A. Miller

Herb and Susie Hulls

in memory of Theodore Vanko

Lysle Dean Burky

Gene Barrett

Claude Hazen

William J. Masica

Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Huber

Kenneth Bordwell

L. J. Ahlum

Robert Simons

John J. Winkler

Barbara Kienzle

Patrick M. Frock

*In Memory of Theodore Vanko*

Herb and Susie Hulls

*In Memory of David Berggren*

Leslie Berggren

James and Gena Pugin

Elton Hammond Jr.

Gene Wright

Beverly and Frederick Billick

### G E N E R A L F U N D J U L Y - S E P T E M B E R 2 0 0 8

Charles Barrett

Dill Farms

Eric Drescher

Mary Beth Zak Lohse

Peter & June Mortensen

Betty Schwab

Louise Tincher

# Schedule of Hikes & Events

Always check [www.buckeyetrail.org/events.html](http://www.buckeyetrail.org/events.html) for updates

## DECEMBER

**December 6 NE Ohio BTA Hike, Annual Soup Sampler.** Meet at 10:00 am at the Joneses. Any BT member and guest welcome. The hike is an easy 5 mile hike. Contact: Joneses, [lynnandandy@windstream.net](mailto:lynnandandy@windstream.net), 330-467-4338

**December 6 BTA Circuit Hike, Caesar Creek Section (November 2007 map).** One-day Circuit Hike. Leave at 10:00 am from Point 19, Yellow Springs Station. We will shuttle to Point 16, Xenia Station, 150 Miami Avenue in Xenia. Xenia Station is a 1998 replica of Xenia's 1880s brick railroad station, built by the city of Xenia. Xenia Station houses a local history museum and an observation tower called the Hub Lookout. Xenia Station is the hub for 5 regional rail trails, two of which are segments of the unfinished Ohio to Erie Trail, which will run from Cincinnati to Cleveland.

This is an easy 10.1 miles on the Buckeye Trail/LMST from Xenia to Yellow Springs, the picturesque and charming home of Antioch College. Yellow Springs is known for its hippy-ish lifestyle, distinct shops and galleries, food, drink, art, cinema, theatre and music. On the hike we will pass the birthplace of Tecumseh and the former Shawnee village of Oldtown. For those with the energy, nearby Glen Helen, John Bryan and Clifton Gorge offer additional scenic walking.

Directions to Caesar Creek Point 19: Enter Yellow Springs using US-68. If coming from the south look for Ye Olde Trail Tavern on the left; after about 260 feet turn left onto Corry Street. At the T junction, turn right onto Dayton Street. After about 300 feet there is public trail parking to the left across from the station in the John Bryan Community Center.

Contact: Chris McIntyre, [Chris.McIntyre@fuse.net](mailto:Chris.McIntyre@fuse.net), 513.310.5860. Please contact me about ten days prior to the hike so we know how many hikers to expect and to notify you of any changes.

**December 13 BTA Board Meeting, 10:00 am at Command Alcon in Dublin.** Contact: Pat Hayes, [president@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:president@buckeyetrail.org).

**December 13 BTA Little Loop Hike.** Contact: Bill Doolittle, [bildoo@alltel.net](mailto:bildoo@alltel.net).

## JANUARY

**January 9 Andy Skurka's Great Western Loop Hike Presentation, Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP).** 7:00 pm, Happy Days Lodge in CVNP, Brecksville. Andy Skurka hiked the Sea-to-Sea trail and makes his living hiking. His trail went from eastern Canada and included the AT, BT, NCT and ADT. He is sponsored by the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Monthly Lyceum Series.

Contact: Andy Skurka at <http://www.andrewskurka.com>, or CVNP: 330-657-2909.

**January 10-11 BTA Annual New Year's Campout, Loveland Section.** Meet at 10:00 am Saturday at Fort Ancient to go hiking. Note: this is a different date this year. There is hiking on the BT and white blazed trails near the park. This park also has a great Indian museum and with a little persuasion, we may be able to talk manager Jack Blosser to give us a tour.

Contact: John Rethman, [ilovehiking3@embarqmail.com](mailto:ilovehiking3@embarqmail.com), 513-398-9527.

**January 19 Winter Hike at Hueston Woods State Park.** Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Leave at 9:00 am from Hueston Woods State Park Lodge. Arrive early and have breakfast with other hikers at the Lodge at 8:00 am. We will hike around Acton Lake, about 11 miles, on a variety of trails. A bean soup and corn muffin lunch will be available at the park office next to the Nature Center. Donations are accepted. For those wishing to hike only from the Lodge to the Nature Center, a shuttle back to the Lodge will be available. This is a free event.

Contact: Pat Hayes, [president@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:president@buckeyetrail.org).

**January 24 BTA Little Loop Hike.** Contact: Bill Doolittle, [bildoo@alltel.net](mailto:bildoo@alltel.net).

## FEBRUARY

**February 7 BTA Winter Hike, Findley State Park.** Join the Buckeye Trail Association and Findley State Park for this winter adventure. 10k, 5k and interpretive hikes. Leave at 10:00 am from the Nature Center located in campground. Ohio's Best bean soup and cornbread is provided

by the nonprofit Friends of Findley State Park for a donation. Cake will be served after the hike to help celebrate the Buckeye Trail's 50th year!

Contact: Findley State Park, 440-647-5749.

**February 20-21 The Adventure Summit.** Five Rivers MetroParks and Wright State University sponsor the Adventure Summit, an outdoor adventure celebration at Wright State University.

Contact: Tom Helbig at Five Rivers MetroParks, [tom.helbig@metroparks.org](mailto:tom.helbig@metroparks.org), 937-567-4478.

**February 21 BTA Little Loop Hike.** Contact: Bill Doolittle, [bildoo@alltel.net](mailto:bildoo@alltel.net).

## MARCH

**March 7 BTA Board Meeting.** 10:00 am at Command Alcon in Dublin. Contact: Pat Hayes, [president@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:president@buckeyetrail.org).

**March 14 NE Ohio BTA Hike, Bedford Reservation.** Leave at 10:00 am from Egbert Rd. Picnic Area, Bedford Reservation. Hike is fairly flat, 5 miles, led by MetroParks' Naturalist Valerie Fetzner.

Directions: From I-271 take Broadway exit (SR-14), Broadway north, turn west (left) at Union Street. First road on right is Egbert Rd. Road at Bedford MetroParks sign leads to Egbert Picnic area parking. Lunch at a local restaurant.

Contact: Joneses, [lynnandandy@windstream.net](mailto:lynnandandy@windstream.net), 330-467-4338.

## APRIL

**April 4 NE Ohio BTA Hike, Ft. Laurens/ Zoar Towpath Trail.** Meet at Ft. Laurens, two hours+ south of Cleveland, accessed from I-77 South. From Ft. Laurens, we hike 3 miles to Zoar, eat lunch at casual and good restaurant, then hike back to Ft. Laurens for a total of 6 miles.

Contact: Joneses, [lynnandandy@windstream.net](mailto:lynnandandy@windstream.net), 330-467-4338. You must register with Joneses so we can call you in case of flooding and for head count for Zoar restaurant.

**April 4-5 BTA Maintenance Weekend, Caesar Creek Section.** *Sorry, no Chuck Wagon.* Contact: Rick Adamson, [rmadamson@earthlink.net](mailto:rmadamson@earthlink.net).

**April 15-19 BTA Work Party, Scioto Trail Section.** \*BTA Chuck Wagon Event\* *Make your Chuck Wagon reservations early.* The food is FREE and is available to the first 25 who make reservations. See instruction for Chuck Wagon Reservations on this page.

Contact: Rick Adamson, [rmadamson@earthlink.net](mailto:rmadamson@earthlink.net).

**April 25-May 2 BTA MAC Backpacking Trip in Ohio.** Contact: John Rethman, [ilovehiking3@embarqmail.com](mailto:ilovehiking3@embarqmail.com), 513-398-9527.

## 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](mailto:oparuss1@msn.com), 330-666-3409

**April 15-19** BTA Work Party, Scioto Trail Section. \*BTA Chuck Wagon Event\* Make your Chuck Wagon reservations early. The food is FREE and is available to the first 25 who make reservations. See instruction for Chuck Wagon Reservations on this page.

Contact: Rick Adamson, rmadamson@earthlink.net.

## M A Y

**May 2** BTA 50th Anniversary Celebration Hike, Stockport Section. Save the date for this hike in the Stockport Section to help celebrate the BTA's 50th Anniversary. Details in Spring 2009 Trailblazer.

**May 5-9** BTA Work Party, Delphos and Defiance Sections. Paulding and Henry Counties. Sorry, no Chuck Wagon. Contact: Rick Adamson, rmadamson@earthlink.net.

**May 16** BTA 50th Anniversary Celebration Hike, Hocking Hills State Park. 10:00 am. Details in Spring 2009 Trailblazer.

**May 17-21** BTA Work Party, Pike Lake State Park. Note: Sunday through Thursday. \*BTA Chuck Wagon Event\* Make your Chuck Wagon reservations early. The food is FREE and is available to the first 25 who make reservations. See instruction for Chuck Wagon Reservations on this page.

Contact: Rick Adamson, rmadamson@earthlink.net.

## J U N E

**June 6** National Trails Day – Go to Blazes Day, Loveland Section. Celebrate BTA's 50th Anniversary and hike 5.7 miles of the Loveland Section near Fort Ancient. We will hike on the BT or bike trail and on white-blazed trails that include the Kern Effigy, "The Sun Serpent" and a ghost town. The white-blazed trails should be hiked in long pants: it has briar, stinging nettle, and poison ivy and its share of hills.

Directions: From I-71 take exit 32 SR-123 go SE a short distance turn left on SR-350 right in the first parking lot across the Little Miami River.

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

**June 6** National Trails Day – Go to Blazes Day. Celebrate the BTA's 50th Anniversary. Hikes on the BTA all around Ohio. Details in Spring 2009 Trailblazer.

**June 12-14** BTA 50th Anniversary Celebration, Camp McPherson, Knox County. Registration at 4:00 pm Friday at Camp McPherson on Friday. The annual meeting will take place at 9:00 am on Sunday. Guest speakers, hikes and outdoor activities, music and awards over three days.

Registration in Spring 2009 Trailblazer and www.buckeyetrail.org.

**June 27-28** BTA Maintenance Weekend, Shawnee Section. Sorry, no Chuck Wagon. Contact: Rick Adamson, rmadamson@earthlink.net.

## A U G U S T

**August 22-23** BTA Board Retreat, BTA Barn. Contact: Pat Hayes, president@buckeyetrail.org.

**August 29-September 2** BTA Work Party, Findley State Park, Medina Section. Sorry, no Chuck Wagon. Contact: Rick Adamson, rmadamson@earthlink.net.

## S E P T E M B E R

**September 12-19** BTA MAC Trip, Adirondacks, New York. Contact: John Rethman, ilovehiking3@embarqmail.com, 513-398-9527.

**October 14-18** BTA Work Party, AEP. \*BTA Chuck Wagon Event\* Make your Chuck Wagon reservations early. The food is FREE and is available to the first 25 who make reservations. See instruction for Chuck Wagon Reservations on this page.

Contact: Rick Adamson, rmadamson@earthlink.net.

**October 24-25** BTA Maintenance Weekend, Burr Oak State Park. Sorry, no Chuck Wagon. Contact: Rick Adamson, rmadamson@earthlink.net.

# 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

## N O V E M B E R

**November 7** BTA Maintenance Weekend, East Fork State Park. Sorry, no Chuck Wagon. Contact: Rick Adamson, rmadamson@earthlink.net.

## D E C E M B E R

**December 12** BTA Board Meeting. 10:00 am at Command Alcon in Dublin. Contact: Pat Hayes, president@buckeyetrail.org.

# 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*
Cliff Thorniley	February 1974	June 1974	514*

\*Mileages vary because of the ever-changing length of the BT when hiked.

In 1974 Cliff Thorniley was a teacher in the Newark, Ohio school system and decided to start a hiking and camping club. After several training sessions he narrowed his group down to four boys who would accompany him on the original 500-mile BT. Their adventure was completed in 28 days with full packs for an average of 18.4 miles a day! At the time Bob Paton said they were the 3rd- 7th people to complete the trail. Governor John Gilligan met them in his office and presented them with a plaque and little Ohio flag pins. The City of Newark, their school and the Buckeye Trail Association also honored the trekkers. They hiked on weekends and over spring break. Snow, sleet, hail, rain, mud and heat all had to be dealt with. Cliff is proud that they set a goal and met it, with no quitting.

The four students were: Craig Cooperider, age 15; Carl Cooperider, age 13; Roger Jones, age 14; Rick Welsh, age 14.

# Barn Talk

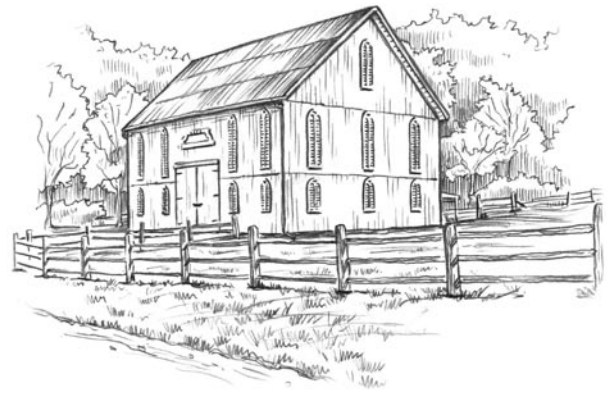
Russ Johnson, BTA Barn Coordinator

It has come to my attention that I must have missed place something. I have searched all around, I've looked through my calendar and cannot figure out what I did to lose summer. Maybe it is because I am getting older and lose track of time.

I must acknowledge the work we accomplished on the Barn was done with great effort from all those who helped. Now with the cooler weather coming along, our friends the bats who live in the Barn will be leaving. We need to do a little sealing up of places where they have a tendency to come in. We need to place slats over the cracks where the siding has shrunk up over the years. Foam needs to be sprayed to seal up a few more holes that they have found.

When we seal up the Barn, we need to find new homes for our friends. Anyone who would like to put their talents to work, we need at least six new homes for bats. If interested, please contact me at [oparuss1@msn.com](mailto:oparuss1@msn.com) for the plans. Think of it as Habitat for Bats. They also requested that we make them all alike and that we paint them black so the sun will warm them up early in the morning. I would like to get them up before next spring.

The boxes that we did put up are being well used and we don't want the bats to leave them. It's always nice to sit by the



fire or outside of a camper without the insects pestering you, because the bats are helping you out.

I took a walk around the field at the Barn and notice that skunks have turned up our well-groomed lawn looking for grubs. I also found a woolly bear and we had a little talk. He said it would be a mild winter. That means the driveway should be clear enough for us to have several work parties. If he lied to me, he had better not show his fuzzy little tail next year.

I want to once again thank those wonderful people who maybe cannot be at the Barn work parties, but who support the BTA Barn by sending in their donations to help us buy the materials that we need for the Barn work parties. See [www.buckeyetrail.org](http://www.buckeyetrail.org) to contribute to the BTA Barn. Remember your donations are tax deductible.

# State Trail Coordinator's Report

Rick Adamson

At the 2008 Maintainers' Dinner it was decided that painting the blue blazes, where appropriate and allowed, *is the most important duty* of the Trail Adopter. Hikers can always climb over downed trees and go around land slides, but if they cannot see or find the blue blazes they have no direction in which to hike. Then who will want to hike it again if they can't find the blazes? So PLEASE keep in mind that painting the blue blazes is top priority followed by the removal of obstacles and trees blocking the path and general trail maintenance.

The Trail Crew volunteers continue to move more of the BT from on-road to the off-road locations along the Miami and Erie Canal towpath. The area where we started this move, near Napoleon, has seen more work by the Renegade Chapter of the Buckeye Trail in the form of constructing three new fiberglass bridges across three ravines. These three bridges are 45 to 50 feet long and six (6) feet wide to accommodate bicycle activity as per our agreement with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for allowing us onto the Miami and Erie Canal towpath. The 145-foot long swinging bridge plus approaches, is moving forward from the dream stage. The engineering has been completed by the Ohio Northern University senior engineering class. By mid-November a BTA member and artist will have put together an artist's rendering of what the bridge will look like upon completion. This artist's view will be on display at BTA's 50th

Anniversary Celebration being held at Camp McPherson in June. Your comments will be appreciated.

Section Supervisors will be contacted to lead a hike in their respective sections between now and the end of 2009 to celebrate the Buckeye Trail's 50th anniversary. Everyone participating will receive a special patch commemorating the event.

Back to present-day reality. The wind storm of 2008 was indeed a terrific one, shutting down many schools and even large cities in Ohio—not to mention large portions of the Buckeye Trail. As of this writing there remains much work to be done in some sections, mainly the removal of downed trees across and blocking the Trail. We need to hear from Section Supervisors who need assistance in clearing the way for visitors to the Buckeye Trail. I am aware of several areas in northern Ohio that need work.

Garry Dill, Section Supervisor for the Scioto Trail section, has volunteered to take over the duties of Jack Watkins, who is retiring. Garry will be collecting data sheets of those wishing to adopt a portion of the Trail and following up with the Sections Supervisors, making sure all trail segments have trail adopters.



# Adopter's Corner

Jim Sprague, Maintenance Supervisor

## HAPPENINGS ALONG THE TRAIL DURING THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY YEAR

In addition to keeping their respective trails maintained, Section Supervisors (SS) will be conducting a variety of activities that will hopefully promote the Buckeye Trail, sometimes called "Ohio's Best Kept Secret", and the Buckeye Trail Association. At this writing, I have not contacted all of the Section Supervisors. And very few announcements contain explicit detail. Consequently, the listing below is a sampling only of the events. Since these events will occur mostly before the Annual Meeting at our 50th Anniversary Celebration in June, expect most of these events in the Spring.

Debbi Zampini (Bedford SS) will promote the trail at Lake Metroparks Earth Day event at Penitentiary Glen Metropark. Mel Beers, Burton SS, conducts 5-mile hikes along his section such that he regularly completes his entire Section 3 or 4 times a year. Contact Mel if you are interested in joining him. Erin Adams, Mogadore SS, will lead a short loop hike within Quail Hollow State Park near Hartville sometime in May. Watch for her announcement in the Spring Issue of *Trailblazer*. Mary Hamilton, Massillon SS, will lead a short hike on the BT along Willis Run in the Bowerston Section. Mary uses Community Service people from Tuscarawas County to maintain trail at several trail segments along Tappan Lake. Among other things, Scott Pendleton, Bowerston SS, intends to lead his Boy Scouts on a backpack trip on the north shore of Clendening Lake. Gary Williams, Belle Valley SS, will lead a hike from Ragan's Chapel in Hoskinsville (west of Belle Valley) into AEP's Recreation Area. Gary has tentatively scheduled this hike for the second Saturday in May. Herb Hulls, Stockport SS, will lead a hike on May 2 between Campground H (Stockport Pt. 3) and SR-78/SR-83 (Stockport Pt. 4). Herb's hike will follow sections of the Trail in a variety of rugged Ohio terrains. Jim Runk (Sinking Spring SS) also serves as the

primary Trail Crew Leader. Jim will lead a hike along the new trail in Nature Conservancy's Strait Creek Bluff Preserve after the Trail Crew completes the trail next Spring (hopefully). If you like Adams County, you will not want to miss this hike. Watch carefully for the announcement for this hike. John Rethman (Loveland and Shawnee SS) also is the Chairman of the Membership Activity Committee (MAC); the MAC activities keep John so busy that he has planned only one hike for the BT Golden Anniversary. On National Trails Day, the first Saturday in June, John plans a loop hike on wooded side trails to the BT that center at Loveland Pt. 25 near Fort Ancient. Chris McIntyre (Williamsburg SS) is planning a loop hike about May 1 that will feature the BT on the Backpack Loop in East Fork State Park. Although I did not contact Greg Wisniewski (BTA Board Member), I anticipate many hikes along towpath in Wood County. Some of this trail is already BT. And some will become BR as soon as more is converted from dense second growth to useful trail.

Watch for details about these events as they are posted by the Supervisors who are organizing their events. Details may appear in the Spring *Trailblazer*, regional newspapers or BTA's website, [www.buckeyetrail.org/events](http://www.buckeyetrail.org/events).

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

BTA needs people to serve as Section Supervisors of both the Old Mans Cave and West Union Sections. Garry Dill will be actively seeking volunteers who wish to serve.

This spring, Dr. Carl Boesel resigned from the post of Old Mans Cave Section Supervisor. He had filled this position for several years. Carl also hosts a piece of BT on his property and was a member of the Board a few years back.

Also this Spring, Mike Vogel resigned from the post of West Union Section Supervisor that he had filled for a long time. As is often the case in these remote Sections, Mike had served mostly without help throughout his term.

The assistance of both of these fine men will be missed.

## BTA Partnership Award

Dan West, Chief, Ohio State Parks, ODNR receives the Partnership Award from Rick Adamson, State Trail Coordinator. This is a new award the BTA will present to individuals, companies or entities throughout Ohio who display outstanding continued support to the Buckeye Trail Association.



# New Straitsville Section Update

Jay Holwick

As Section Supervisor of New Straitsville, I would like to thank those who attended the maintenance weekend on October 18-19. As most of you know, maintenance weekends are new this year and I was lucky to have had the chance to register for the Burr Oak State Park area in October. I am fortunate to have a good roster of maintainers that do great work in the area, but I still knew you can always find improvements that need to be done. Being familiar with Burr Oak, I knew that fall is a time to be outdoors enjoying the colors and weather. In both departments we had the best. Thanks to the Park Manager Mike Powers, we had access to the group camping area. Located on top of a hill and far from city lights, the evening stars were spectacular. With a campfire to take off the evening and morning chill, the 10 of us were in the right place at the right time.

I had to come up with a plan on what needed to be worked on for this weekend. Without knowing how many people might show up, I might have too much or too little work. And what about food? The solution for that was right in front of me. I was thinking about the project while BBQing K-bobs on my grill at home. I will cook dinner for all those who contact me before that weekend. We all know how the Buckeye Trail Crew loves to eat. The menu was simple – chicken and steak, peppers and mushrooms with onions, marinated and cooked over charcoal. Fresh bread and chocolate cookies made by a local bakery made a grand meal. I made sure I cooked extras and sure enough, we had no leftovers.

Now I had a good idea of how many would show up for the weekend. The next step was plan the work. I have an area near

Boat Dock #1, near the lake, that the Trail comes off a hill in what can be described as an “on your butt” section of the Buckeye Trail. The problem could be corrected, but you needed more than just one trail maintainer to get the job done. I was able to get twelve 32" x 6" treated lumber steps, and with a phone call to Skip the owner of the boat rental at Boat Dock #3, we were allowed to use a pontoon boat to ferry in the tools, workers and lumber. As I stated earlier in this article, I am lucky to have great maintainers, but I have about 6 miles of Trail on road without a volunteer. Now I had enough folks to get this section blazed for the first time in awhile. On Sunday, we had two chain saws and plenty of paint to keep us busy for the morning.

Thanks go to Elmo and Wilma Layman, Jim Runk (the design coordinator for the end of the “on your butt” Trail), Harold Koutz (who had hot coffee and a warm fire ready each morning), David George (college student doing an internship, new to us, who came away from this weekend one of us), Patti Cook, Paul Inoff, Byron and Zach Henry, Travis Neely, Pat Cook, James Gilkey. I would also like to say thanks to Skip (I do not know his last name) for the free use of a pontoon boat and Mike Powers for the free use of the group campground at Burr Oak State Park.

As a Section Supervisor, the work that these folks achieved that weekend made my job so very much easier. I can spend the winter knowing the Trail is in a good state for hikers. I can also spend some time this winter planning next year’s maintenance weekend in October 2009. I hope many of you can make it and remember—dinner is on me.



## Celebrating the Crossroads of Trails

Chris McIntyre hosted the BTA booth at the Third Annual Junction Trail Festival in Milford on September 27. The festival celebrates Milford’s unique position at the intersection of eight long distance trails, including the Buckeye Trail. See the Junction trail website at [www.thejunctiontrailfest.org](http://www.thejunctiontrailfest.org).



# Renegade News

Greg Wisniewski

The Renegade Chapter and local volunteers has been busy this year making improvements to the new trail built in Buckeye Trail's Defiance Section. Culverts have been put in place to provide drainage away from the trail, and four new bridges were constructed to link the trail together between Independence Dam State Park and Mary Jane Thurston State Park (North Turkeyfoot Area). The trail east of Napoleon is not designated BT at this time. The trail is currently available for walking, hiking and biking. White blazes have been used to identify the new trail starting at the concrete plant located on the east side of Napoleon along Rt. 424. The trail can be followed from Napoleon to the Maumee River access of the North Turkeyfoot Area. Primitive camping is permitted in the park.

Clark Hogan and Tom Ashbaugh constructed a wooden bridge between Vorwerk Park and the Rt. 24/Rt. 6 bypass. The bridge is 25 feet long x 36 inches wide. All materials were paid for by Clark Hogan. The bridge keeps the trail along the canal, eliminating looping around to avoid the canal breach.

The three remaining bridges are prefabricated fiberglass with wood decking. Two bridges are 45 feet long and the third is 50 feet. All three bridges are 5 feet wide with wood decking planks 5 feet x 2 feet x 3 inches; each bridge has a 3,000 pound load limit. Cost of the three bridges was \$62,000, purchased with grant monies secured by the Henry County Park District.

Thank you to all of the chapter members and local citizens who helped with our projects. Also, thank you to Hawks Pizza for providing the work parties with lunches this year.



## Renegade Workers Pose on Their New Bridge

The Renegade Chapter and volunteer bridge builders worked together in the Defiance Section of the Buckeye Trail to construct four trail bridges in northwest Ohio.

# Ohio's Gear Fest

John Heater, Troy Section Supervisor

John Heater hosted the BTA booth at the Gear Fest that was held at Eastwood Metropark in Dayton on October 4. Gear Fest is one of the largest expositions of new gear in the Midwest, allowing individuals, outdoor clubs and recreation-oriented businesses to buy, sell and share information about their gear. It's a celebration of the outdoors and this year's gear that makes it even better for hikers, campers and bikers.

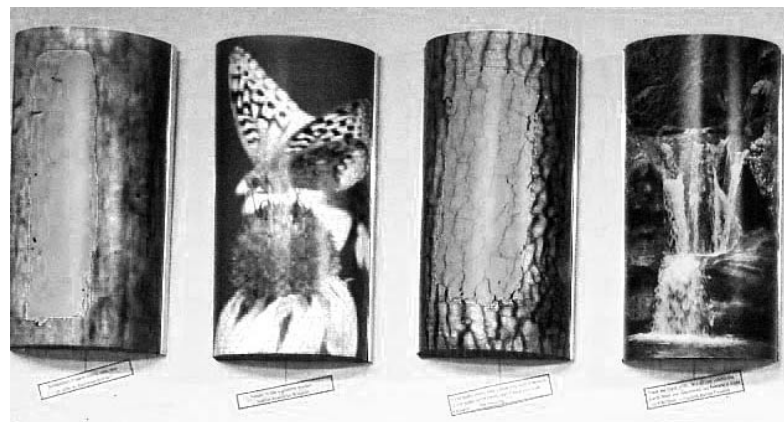
Eric Hutchinson volunteered to bring the Buckeye Trail display from Cleveland to the Gear Fest, which was an immense favor. Eric is a retired educator and is starting a business with friends creating wall hangings made from pictures of blue blazes and other nature scenes. He put them in an attractive display that got people's attention. They got information about the Buckeye Trail and about Eric's business.

BTA's booth was about 50 feet from the Buckeye Trail that runs through Eastwood Park, and John and Eric were able to promote the BT with every interested person. They distributed 300 brochures that day.

John would like to thank John Rethman and Charles Fitzpatrick for volunteering during the Gear Fest. However, without the wonderful help from Eric and Liz McQuaid, the BTA presence there wouldn't have been possible.

## Blue Blaze Portraits

An example of Eric Hutchinson's work. He developed this curved picture concept to take advantage of numerous tree bark patterns and the way blue blazes in particular weathered and took on unique designs. He helped man the BTA booth at the Gear Fest and has started a business based on his photography.



# BTA Middle Bass Island Trip

Lynn Jones

Do you know where Middle Bass Island Post Office is located? It's in the dining room of a cottage on Fox Rd. On October 11th several of the 17 Buckeye Trail members mailed postcards there. It was the 14th annual BT Northeast Group Island hike.

The Lonz winery closed in 2000 after a fatal balcony collapse, ending most of the partying on Middle Bass. Since then two new taverns partially fill the void, and the State of Ohio acquired land for a new Middle Bass Island State Park. Today, busy earth movers and mountains of dirt promise a huge new marina.

Andy & Lynn Jones "scout" each island trip ahead of time. September 16th we scouted Middle Bass and solved the problem of no public bathrooms. JF Walleye Tavern promised to open at 10:00 AM instead of noon for our hiker's coffee and bathroom stop. On Oct. 11th we arrived there after sailing in the fresh Lake Erie air on Miller's Ferry, grateful for the fine weather and the creation of the Great Lakes by prehistoric glacier.

After coffee, we took a 2 mile round trip to the exclusive Middle Bass Club and the charming 1874 Victorian cottages there. We then returned to JF Walleye's for lunch. Jan Helman, a charming blonde, arrived. She and her husband are the new owners of the East Point Manor, which they call "The Stone House", 3 miles NE at the island's tip. The stone house was designed by Milton Dyer, a student of Frank Lloyd Wright's, for Harry F. Payer in 1925. On our Sept. 16th scouting we met the Helman's son there. "Of course you're welcome on October 11th." He said, "Take all the photos you want outside."

At lunch on October 11th Jan Helman announced she would give the group a personal tour inside the house. The Helman's

purchased the property in February 2008 after it had been empty and neglected for ten years. Pumping two feet of water out of the basement began an incredible amount of labor and expense. What a treat that we would get to tour this legendary mansion.

Our route took us past the post office and the Middle Bass Airport, past the wildlife refuge where we saw herons and wood ducks, and along a 20 foot causeway with Lake Erie on each side. Tall trees, saplings and overgrown grapevines formed a thicket of green with just a touch of autumn color. What peace, with no traffic lights and very little traffic. Year round residents number a few dozen, but the population swells to over 400 in the summer.

How nice it was to arrive at the Stone House to a "Welcome Buckeye Trail" sign hand painted by Jan. The huge prairie style mansion's windows each held a view; a fireplace, wood paneled ceilings, flagstone floors and a long screened porch showed Milton Dyer's talent. "Everything was left" Jan explained, "Furniture, art, two sets of china service for 40." We felt we had stepped back into 1925. Our most gracious hostess also helped shuttle some of us back to the dock for the last ferry of the day.

If you would like to see more photos of the trip go to <http://www.flickr.com/photos/11553557@N07/sets/72157608150435332/>



Joel Vormelker, Juanita Adamson, Marie Corba, Joan Harris, Lynn Jones, Marilou Klecan, Roger Furhmeyer, Mary Ruth Grubs-Green, Jean Delaney, Andy Jones, Gerald Kinear, Jenny Walker, Rick Adamson, Lowell Walker, Char Callahan. Not pictured; Pete Miller and Liz McQuaid. Photo by Liz McQuaid.

## Answers to Bramble #48:

1. Station; 2. Yellow Springs; 3. Dutch; 4. Showers

ANSWER: They crossed paths

**Winner: Dwight Kline from Canton**

*We had 32 entrants!*

# Welcome New Members!

*Bev and Jerry Starcher*

Ruth Bassett	Upper Sandusky
Winford Bludworth	Salt Lake City, UT
Thomas Brown	Akron
Lorilee Cole	Newark
Tom Daniel and family	Tiffin
Steve De Nunzio	Pickerington
Ruth Epstein	Cincinnati
Nancy Frymier and family	Akron
David Gillespie and family	Troy
Paul Gingras	Port Clinton
Jan Helman	Sidney
Imhoff Family	Bellbrook
Hayley Kosmatka and family	Kent
Lady of the Lake Studio	St Marys
Daniel Moeller	Piqua
John Murray and family	Toledo
Dave Pampush	Rocky River
Susan Richards	Perrysburg
Gary Richmond	Stow
David Roberts and family	Fairborn
Rory Robinson	Peninsula
Michael Siewert	Bexley
Shawn Skillman and family	Dublin
Christopher Sparks and family	Lebanon
Darrell Stone	Manchester
Steven Sutton	Galena
David Tate	Amelia
Michael Wilsen	Brecksville
Terry Wolf	Bellville

## Highlights of the Board Meeting, Aug. 23–24

### STATE TRAIL COORDINATOR

- The swinging bridge across Blue Creek in Paulding County has engineering plans finalized. Look for updates on this construction project as they develop.

### MAP COMMITTEE

- The new Bedford Section map is out and the new Delphos Section map is being updated. Make sure your section maps are current before you head out on the Buckeye Trail.

### WEBSITE

- Trail Alerts page on the BTA website is being transitioned over to the section-by-section page. Click on [www.buckeyetrail.org](http://www.buckeyetrail.org) for the updated, easier to use page.

### SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- The BTA Scholarship went unclaimed in Spring 2008. If you think aiding Ohio students with a future in the outdoors is a good idea, please contribute to the Scholarship Fund. If you know an eligible student, please encourage him or her to apply by checking [www.buckeyetrail.org](http://www.buckeyetrail.org).

# MAC Committee Report

*John Rethman, MAC Committee*

## BACKPACKING CAN YIELD HIDDEN TREASURES

This past May the MAC committee kicked off BTA's 50th Anniversary by backpacking 72 miles of the Buckeye Trail. We had eleven participants and met at Morgan's Riverside Campground in the Loveland section I supervise.

We started the hike at the northern end of Caesar Creek State Park and hiked to the Buckeye Trail's southern terminus in Eden Park, Cincinnati. We camped at two different sites in Caesar Creek S.P., one night near Foster's on private property and one night at a Milford City Park along the Little Miami River. At the end of the hike we regrouped at Morgan's Campground. We went out to eat at the Houston Restaurant in Mason. We all had a great time with this hike; when I planned the event, I found two campsites in my section that I wasn't aware of. I encourage any Section Supervisor or member to organize a trip – maybe you'll also find more places along the Buckeye Trail to camp.

In 2009 I am planning another backpack trip April 25 to May 2 – keep this date open if you're interested. I will disclose the section in 2009.

## ALWAYS HAVE A PLAN B

In August eleven hikers participated in the MAC backpacking trip to the Wind River Range in Wyoming. Some flew out and others drove, then we all met at a campground in Pinedale, Wyoming.

I had everything planned for this trip. I'd been there before, I knew where to meet and where to start and end. I had every campsite picked, how many miles between campsites and routes out in case of emergency.

It took us three days to drive to Pinedale. As soon as we arrived, I could see we would not hike the trip as planned—large columns of smoke poured from the forest fires on the mountains. The fires were exactly where I had planned to hike.

Lucky for us, BTAer Rick Harris had planned on hiking the week after we left the mountains for Ohio, and had a different hike planned. So we were able to use his planned trip. Part of his route we had hiked in 2000 when the BTA MAC Committee spent a week there. The weather was great some days—almost too warm, and the nights were cool. I forgot how many stars there are in the sky when you get away FAR from the city. Water was abundant, which helped, as hiking at 10,000+ feet gets harder the older you are.

We had a great week on the trail. When we got back to Pinedale, the northern part of the Wind River Range had gotten rain and Rick Harris and his group were able to hike the section I had originally planned.

Next year's MAC trip will be Adirondacks in New York, September 12-19, 2009. I am looking seriously at the Northville-Placid Trail from Blue Mountain Lake Village to Lake Placid, but you can do your own thing.

Join us for a MAC trip! See the Schedule of Events for details and contact information.

# BRAMBLE #49

by Dana Zintek

Use the clues to unscramble the  
BRAMBLES about the Buckeye Trail.

For a chance to win the book  
*A Photo Album of Ohio's Canal Era 1825-1913*

Send your answers to:

Dana Zintek  
2369 Suncrest Drive  
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

Answers must be postmarked by February 1, 2009.

1. Wildlife area N.S. section **L I M B E R T**

	○	○	○	○		○
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2. Native creek Bed. section **W H I P C A P E**

○		○			○		
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Happy Holidays from the Bramble Staff

D	A	N	A	A	N	D	L	I	S	A
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Now arrange the circled letters to form  
the answer to the cartoon.



*What caused the hiking  
poet to slip?*

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## Buckeye Trail Association

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