



# Trailblazer



SPRING 2009 VOLUME 42 NO. 1



**“The diversity is endless. There is no better way to experience it than the Buckeye Trail”**

Circuit Hiker Chris McIntyre’s Buckeye Trail odyssey included (clockwise from above) amazement at ice sculptures in the Old Man’s Cave Section, and acquisition of rural-speak and home and garden ideas from the West Union Section.



## IN THIS ISSUE...

- |                                     |                                                            |                                               |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>2</b> BTA Bits and Pieces        | <b>8</b> Annual Meeting Information                        | <b>15</b> State Trail Coordinator’s Report    |
| <b>2</b> BTeasers                   | <b>10</b> My Memories on Completing the Buckeye Trail      | <b>16</b> Hello BT!                           |
| <b>3</b> Hiking Down Under          | <b>12</b> 2009 Winter Hike is Good and Cold – A Great Like | <b>17</b> Highlights of the BTA Board Meeting |
| <b>4</b> Schedule of Hikes & Events | <b>13</b> Little Loop Hike                                 | <b>17</b> BTA Funds Report                    |
| <b>7</b> BTA MAC New Year’s Campout | <b>14</b> Adopters’ Corner                                 | <b>20</b> Bramble #50                         |
| <b>7</b> Welcome New Members!       |                                                            |                                               |

# BTA Bits and Pieces

Pat Hayes, BTA President

This *Trailblazer* issue marks the beginning of the Buckeye Trail Association's 50th Anniversary. If we look back in time to November 1958, we see that Merrill C. Gilfillan wrote an article in the magazine section of the Columbus Dispatch suggesting that a foot trail should be established between Cincinnati on the Ohio River and Conneaut on Lake Erie.

In August 1959, Merrill Gilfillan, Roy Fairfield, Bill Miller, Robert Paton, Bill Price, Ken Crawford, Merle Marietta, Jim Robey, T.J. Frye, and Emma "Grandma" Gatewood met in the Columbus Ohio YMCA and decided to form the Buckeye Trail Association. Roy Fairfield was elected the first president of the BTA, and from that time on, the BTA grew, established a constitution and on September 19, 1959, opened up the first part of the trail in Hocking County between Old Man's Cave and Ash Cave.

The Buckeye Trail never did reach Conneaut, but it has grown in fifty years from that initial six miles of trail in Hocking County to over 1400 miles of trail passing through 48 of Ohio's 88 counties and touching all four corners of the state.

What started out as one man's vision has, through dedication, perseverance, and just plain hard work by many hundreds of volunteers, not only fulfilled his dream, but exceeded it.

You might think that after being in existence for fifty years there is not much left to do on the Buckeye Trail. You would be wrong as there is still much to do. According to the April 1982 *Trailblazer*, there were over 1100 BTA members. That is greater than the active membership today. We need to increase the public's awareness of the Buckeye Trail Association to increase our member base, while working even harder to retain our existing members. We need to continually work to move trail off of roads that once had little vehicle traffic and that are now too busy and sometimes unsafe. We need to be creative in finding ways to protect our trail corridor on private property and within state forests.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the founding members of the BTA for creating and nurturing the organization through its formative years and to all those who, following their lead, continued to extend and improve the trail. We can all show our appreciation by telling the world about the Buckeye Trail, continuing as members of the BTA, and by getting out and enjoying the trail.

*Happy 50th Anniversary, Buckeye Trail.*



## Trailblazer

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August 1 for the Fall 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** When and where was the unveiling of the memorial marking the completion of the Buckeye Trail circuit around the state?

**A** March 20th 1981, near Deer Lick Cave, Brecksville Reservation, Cleveland Metroparks at the junction of the Akron, Bedford, and Medina sections. July 1981 *Trailblazer* (Volume 14, Issue No. 3)

## B T A S T A F F

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Jim Sprague, Jack Watkins**  
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**Rick Adamson**  
**Jack Watkins**

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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

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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

# Hiking Down Under

*Steve Miller*

I had the great opportunity to spend much of 2007 and 2008 working in Sydney, Australia. Though much of my time was spent working on the client's project, I was able to get out of the city on several occasions to enjoy the countryside, including the beautiful Blue Mountains area, where I took several day hikes.

This got me thinking about the various units of measure in use there. Australia, like much of the 'less-sophisticated' world, bases most of their measurements on a belief in some mystical powers of the number 10.

Unfortunately, these units are very hiker-unfriendly.

For example, distance is measured in this thing called 'kilometers' (or kilometres, as they misspell it). These are designed to make you think you have much farther to go than you really do. "It's another 15 kilometers? I don't know if I can go that far!" Relax, that's really just 9 miles!

Weight is the opposite. They call it a kilogram, and it will deceive you into thinking you have a light pack! "Hey, my pack weight is under 20 kilograms!" "Holy \*\*\*, this thing is heavy!" What is worse is trying to shave weight. Back home, we know that we try to cut ounces from our pack weight. Cut 16 ounces and you have saved a pound. But in Australia, you have to cut grams. And it takes 1,000 grams to save just one kilo. ONE THOUSAND! They have to be kidding.

Even on your maps, the units are deceptive. Elevation is measured in meters – which is simply a yard that is a little too long. But we all know elevation should be in feet! We know how a 3000-foot climb will feel, even for those in shape. But would you know what to expect on a 900 meter climb? Doesn't sound too bad – but it is the same 3000 feet!

Despite these measurement handicaps, I really enjoyed getting out into the various parks and forests there. It's a beautiful country. And best of all I could get to the mountains very quickly – the speed limit is 120!!!

## Want to Lead the Way of the BTA

The Nominating Committee is searching for BTA members to serve on the Board of Trustees. The welfare of the Buckeye Trail is dependent on this governing body for its maintenance, development and promotion. Trustees serve for a three-year term. There are usually four to five meetings per year. Candidates are elected at the Annual Meeting in the spring. Would you be willing to offer your talents and time for the greater good of the BTA? Consider volunteering.

Contact Jeff Yoest at [jeffyoest@columbus.rr.com](mailto:jeffyoest@columbus.rr.com)



# Schedule of Hikes & Events

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

To commemorate this year's 50th anniversary of the Buckeye Trail, there will be a series of commemorative hikes around the state. Always check [www.buckeyetrail.org/events.html](http://www.buckeyetrail.org/events.html) for last-minute updates.

## MARCH

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

**March 14 NE Ohio BTA Hike, Bedford Reservation, Bedford Section.** Meet Saturday at 10:00 am at Egbert Rd. Picnic Area, Bedford Reservation. The hike is fairly flat, 5 miles, and will be led by MetroParks' Naturalist Valerie Fetzter. Lunch is at a local restaurant.

Directions: From I-271 take Broadway exit (SR-14), Broadway north, turn west (left) at Union St. The first road on right is Egbert Rd. at Bedford Metroparks sign leads to Egbert Picnic area parking.

Contact: Jones, [lynnandandy@windstream.net](mailto:lynnandandy@windstream.net), 330-467-4338. for a head count.

## APRIL

**April 4 BTA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Hike, Akron Section.** Leave at 10:00 am from Akron point 5. Hike from point 1 south to point 5 – 10.3 miles. Hike the entire Akron Section using the 2005 map (57.4 miles) over five Saturdays with the Akron section supervisor. Bring a lunch for yourself; we will eat about halfway through. Contact Dana Zintek or see [www.buckeyetrail.org](http://www.buckeyetrail.org) for directions.

Contact: Dana Zintek, [zintronics@sbcglobal.net](mailto:zintronics@sbcglobal.net), 330-928-8931.

**April 4 NE Ohio BTA Hike, Ft. Laurens/Zoar Towpath Trail, Massillon Section.** Meet Saturday 10:00 at Ft. Laurens, two hours-PLUS south of Cleveland and accessed from I-77 South. From Ft. Laurens, we hike 3 miles to Zoar, eat lunch at a casual but good restaurant, and then hike back to Ft. Laurens for a total of 6 miles.

Contact: YOU MUST REGISTER with Joneses 330-467-4338 so we can call you in case of flooding – also we need a head count for the Zoar restaurant.

**April 4–5 BTA Maintenance Weekend, Caesar Creek Section.** General maintenance is scheduled. Please provide you own food and water. Caesar Creek State Park campground has flush toilets, showers, fire rings and all sites have electric. We will depart camp at 8:30 am. We will quit work at 3:30 pm Sat. and until noon on Sunday.

Directions: Caesar Creek State Park, Warren County – From I-71, south of Columbus, take exit 45 and head east (left) on SR-73 toward Willington. Less than 0.25 mile after the exit, turn north (left) onto SR-380 for about 3 miles, then turn left onto Center Rd. Follow Center Rd. for about 1.5 miles until it dead-ends. The campground is located at the end of Center Rd.

From I-75, take exit 38 to SR-73 and head east toward Waynesville and Wilmington. Follow SR-73 east for about 20 miles, through Waynesville, past Harveysburg and over the overpass over I-71. Turn north (left) onto SR-380. Turn left onto Center Rd. Follow Center Rd. for about 1.5 miles until it dead-ends. The campground is located at the dead end of Center Rd.

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

**April 15–19 BTA Work Party, Scioto Trail Section \*BTA Chuck Wagon Event\*** Water is available via the chuck wagon. Port-o-let will be available and fire rings.

Directions: Scioto Trail State Forest – Former Air Strip Camping Area Ross County Scioto Trail State Park Office, 740-663-2125. From US-23 at the top of a ridge take SR-372 east uphill past Scioto Trail State Forestry Headquarters. Continue downhill on SR-372 past Stewart Lake and the entrance road to Scioto Trail State Park and State Forestry maintenance buildings. About here, SR-372 becomes Stoney Creek Rd. (C-199) with little fanfare. Continue generally east on Stoney

Creek Rd. In a total of 4.4 miles from US-23, make a hard right (SW) on Airport Road (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 State Park 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-200 and continue to Airport road (T-200). Turn left (SW) and follow remaining directions above.

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

**April 25–May 2 BTA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Backpack, Stockport and New Straitsville Sections.** We will backpack from the town of Stockport to the town of Shawnee, about 56.0 miles. This hike will include road and off-road hiking in the Wayne National Forest. This area has some steep hills as this is not the flat part of Ohio. You can hike the whole trip or part of it. Each campsite is accessible by car. Cost will be \$30.00 to cover camping fees only. The longest day is 12.0 miles, and the average is 10 miles per day.

Meet anytime Saturday April 25 at the main campground at Burr Oak State Park and leave Sunday. We will have a dinner together on Friday May 1 and leave for home Saturday May 2. This is a BTA Members Only activity; join the BTA and backpack in Ohio!

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

## MAY

**May 2 BTA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Hike, Stockport Section.** 6 mile hike in the Stockport Section between Points 3 and 4. This hike will be in reclaimed strip-mine land, owned by AEP Ohio, that has varied topography with many lakes and beaver ponds. A free permit is required that must be carried with you. Permits are available locally or online at [www.aep.com/environmental/recreation/recland/permit.aspx](http://www.aep.com/environmental/recreation/recland/permit.aspx)

Leave Saturday, 9:00 am from Campground H (Wood Grove) to begin hiking at 9:00 am. Directions to the campground from I-77: Take Exit 25 at Caldwell and head west on SR-78. Go 10 miles to CR-27 and turn right. Go about 0.5 mile to the campground which will be on your left. Water and pit toilets are available at the campground.

## 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

Contact: Herb & Susie Hulls, hulls@frognet.net, 740-585-2603.

**May 2 BTA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Hike, Akron Section.** Leave at 10:00 am from Akron point 11. Hike from point 5 south to point 11 – 12.0 miles. Hike the entire Akron Section using the 2005 map (57.4 miles) over five Saturdays with the Akron section supervisor. Bring a lunch for yourself; we will eat about halfway through. Contact Dana Zintek for directions.

Contact: Dana Zintek, zintronics@sbcglobal.net, 330-928-8931.

**May 5–9 BTA Work Party, Defiance Section.** The BTA Trail Crew will continue our excellent trail construction skills and techniques along the old abandoned Miami and Erie Canal towpath in Henry County east of Napoleon where we left off last year. We will leave camp to start work 8:00 am and will stop work at 3:00 pm. Sorry, no Chuck Wagon.

Camping: We will be at Mary Jane Thurston State Park, where there are fire rings and flush toilets providing we are not flooded out. If the campground is flooded, we will be camping right next door at the marina. PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR OWN FOOD AND WATER OR PURCHASE IT LOCALLY.

Directions: To Mary Jane Thurston State Park 419-832-7662 – HENRY COUNTY – From Columbus and Cincinnati areas, take I-75 NORTH toward Toledo. Take the US-6 exit, Exit 179, west for about 13.5 miles and turn right onto WAPAKONETA RD/CR189 for 2.8 miles to SR-65. Turn LEFT for 1.6 miles. Campsite is on the left. From the Youngstown and Cleveland areas take I-80 WEST (turnpike toll road) and exit at I-75 SOUTH toward Dayton for 3.8 miles. Merge onto I-475 NORTH/US-23 NORTH via Exit 192 toward MAUMEE/ANN ARBOR. Take the US-24 exit, Exit 4, toward NAPOLEON/MAUMEE for 14.9 miles. Turn left onto SR-578 for 0.2 mile. Turn right onto SR-65 for 1.9 miles. Campsite is on the right.

Contact: Rick Adamson, rmadamson@earthlink.net.

**May 16 BTA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Hike, Old Mans Cave Section.** Meet Saturday 10:00 am at Hocking Hills State Park. Participants will meet at the bookstore and restrooms area at Old Mans Cave. We will follow the Featured Hike that is in Follow the Blue Blazes which is to follow the Gatewood Trail in the gorge to the Old Mans Cave, where Ray Quackenbush, the naturalist will speak. After that, some will return to the beginning of the hike with him. Bob Pond, the hike leader, will continue with the rest to complete the hike to Cedar Falls, take the stairs to the rim, and return to the beginning via the A-frame bridge. We are hoping that one or more elected officials will be joining us.

Contact: Bob Pond, rjpond1884@yahoo.com.

**May 17–21 BTA Work Party at Pike Lake State Park, Scioto Trail and Sinking**

**Springs Sections \*BTA Chuck Wagon Event\***  
**Note the days – Sunday-Thursday.** Contact: Rick Adamson, rmadamson@earthlink.net.

**May 23 BTA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Hike, Bowerston Section.** Meet Saturday 10:00 am at the parking lot just past the dam on SR-250 at Tappan Lake. This is a thru-hike with a car shuttle. The hike is 6 miles and is hilly, but beautiful. Bring your lunch and fluids; we will eat on the trail.

Contact: Mary Hamilton, oldbag@wilkshire.net.

**May 30 BTA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Hike, Akron Section.** Leave at 10:00 am from near Akron point 18. Hike from point 11 south to point 18 – 12.0 miles. Hike the entire Akron Section using the 2005 map (57.4 miles) over five Saturdays with the Akron section supervisor. Bring a lunch for yourself; we will eat about halfway through. Contact Dana Zintek for directions.

Contact: Dana Zintek, zintronics@sbcglobal.net, 330-928-8931.

**May 30 NE Ohio Group Hike, Bedford Section.** Meet Saturday 10:00 am at Hermit's Hollow Picnic Area, Bedford Reservation. We'll carpool to hiking area for an easy 2.5 mile hike.

Directions: From the east: Take I-271 to Rockside Rd. Go right on Rockside to Dunham Rd. Turn right on Dunham and go down the Tinkers Creek Hill, over the bridge, and immediately turn left on the parkway. Take the parkway about 0.25 mile to shelter on left and parking on right.

Coming from the west, take I-480 to Granger Rd. Turn right and go to second light. (Dunham Rd.) Turn right and the rest is the same as the east directions.

Contact: Marylou Klecan, 216-663-5221.

## JUNE

**June 6 National Trails Day/Go to Blazes Day, BTA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Hike, Loveland Section.** Meet 10:00 a.m. from the State parking lot at SR-350 and the Little Miami River next to Morgan's Canone Livery. Celebrate our 50th Anniversary and hike 5.7 miles of the Loveland Section near Fort Ancient. We will hike on the B.T. or bike trail and on White Blazed Trails that include the Kern Effigy, "The Sun Serpent" and a ghost town. The White Blazed Trail should be hiked in long pants as it has briar, stinging nettle, and poison ivy and has its share of hills. Hike can be extended to 7.9 miles.

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.

## 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

**June 6 BTA Presentation Geauga Park District.** Celebrate BTA's 50th Anniversary with a presentation by Patti Cook at the Geauga Park District. Contact: Patti Cook, pcookburton@hotmail.com.

**June 6 National Trails Day, Go to Blazes Day.** Participate in a hike on the BTA at locations all around the state.

**June 12–14 BTA 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting, Camp McPherson, Knox County.** Registration: 4:00 p.m. at Camp McPherson near Danville on Friday. The Annual Meeting will take place at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday June 14. Guest speakers, hiking and other outdoor activities, music, and awards will take place over the three days. See detailed information in this issue.

**June 20 BTA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Hike, Akron Section.** Leave at 10:00 am from near Akron point 25. Hike from point 18 south to point 25 – 12.3 miles. Hike the entire Akron Section using the 2005 map (57.4 miles) over five Saturdays with the Akron section supervisor. Bring a lunch for yourself; we will eat about halfway through. Contact Dana Zintek or see www.buckeyetrail.org for directions.

Contact: Dana Zintek, zintronics@sbcglobal.net, 330-928-8931.

**June 27–28 Maintenance Weekend at Shawnee.** Contact: Rick Adamson, rmadamson@earthlink.net.

## JULY

**July 11 BTA Annual Picnic.** Our annual picnic at the BTA Barn on Tappan Lake. Contact: Mary Hamilton, oldbag@wilkshire.net.

**July 11 NE Ohio Group Hike – Frohing Meadows.** Meet Saturday at 9:00 am at Frohing Meadows Park, one of Geauga County

## Schedule of Hikes & Events *continued*

Metroparks newest parks, just east of Chagrin Falls.

Directions: From the west: Exit I-271 at Chagrin Blvd. Take Chagrin Blvd east to Chagrin Falls. Go through downtown and pick up Washington St. at the traffic light at the far end of town. Turn left and take Washington St. east to Savage Rd., about 2 miles. Go right on Savage Rd. to the park, about 1/3 mile on the right.

From the east: Take SR-306 to Washington St. and go west on to Savage Rd (about 1 mile) and turn left. Park is 1/3 mile on the right. Bring a covered dish for a potluck in the new pavilion.

Contact: Jan Geho, 440-256-8284.

**July 11 BTA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Hike, Akron Section.** Leave at 10:00 am from near Akron point 25. Hike from point 25 south to point 30 – 10.8 miles. Hike the entire Akron Section using the 2005 map (57.4 miles) over five Saturdays with the Akron section supervisor. Bring a lunch for yourself; we will eat about halfway through. Contact Dana Zintek or see [www.buckeyetrail.org](http://www.buckeyetrail.org) for directions.

Contact: Dana Zintek, [zintronics@sbcglobal.net](mailto:zintronics@sbcglobal.net), 330-928-8931.

### AUGUST

**August 8 NE Ohio Group Hike, Everett Road Covered Bridge Area.** Meet Saturday, 9:00 am Everett Rd. Covered Bridge Parking area. We'll carpool to the start, and hike 5 scenic, downhill miles on BT. Lunch is at a nearby restaurant.

Directions: From SR-303 in Peninsula, go south on Riverview Rd. for about 3 miles to Everett Rd. Turn right (west) for about a 0.5 mile to Everett Rd. Covered Bridge parking area on the left.

Contact: Phyllis Devlin, [pm61bd@yahoo.com](mailto:pm61bd@yahoo.com), 330-864-8872.

**August 22-23 BTA Board Retreat at the BTA Barn.** Contact: Pat Hayes, [president@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:president@buckeyetrail.org).

**August 29-September 2 BTA Work Party in the Medina Section at Findley State Park.** *Sorry no Chuck Wagon.* Contact: Rick Adamson, [rmadamson@earthlink.net](mailto:rmadamson@earthlink.net).

### SEPTEMBER

**September 12 Ohio Erie Canal Towpath at Cuyahoga Heights.** Meet Saturday at 10:00 am at Cleveland Metroparks Canalways Visitors Center, on E. 49th St., Cuyahoga Heights. The hike is 5 miles on the historic Ohio-Erie Canal Towpath. We'll go "up and over" two overpass bridges, so bring a camera for dramatic photos. Lunch is in a local restaurant.

Directions: As you drive north, Canal Rd. becomes 49th St. in Cuyahoga Hts.

Contact: Please make a RESERVATION: Jones, [lynnandandy@windstream.net](mailto:lynnandandy@windstream.net), 330-467-4338.

**September 12-19 MAC Trip to the Adirondacks in NY.** This backpacking trip is on the Northville-Placid Trail from Lake Durant SR-28/30 to Lake Placid and is about 53 miles. Maps and hiking guide are available through Adirondack Mountain Club (AMC) 518-668-4447 and cost \$19.95.

Deadline: Send \$25.00 for camping fees by July 12 to reserve

Alternate: If you are not happy with my plans, the AMC has many maps and guides. You can plan your own trip. One BTA member wants to base camp and day hike. Is anyone else interested?

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

### OCTOBER

**October 10 BTA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Hike, New Straitsville Section.**

Meet Saturday at 10:00 am at Boat Dock #3. This will be a 6-mile loop hike from Point #6 (Burr Oak State Park Boat Dock #3) to Point #9. We will return to Point #6 on the Bee Line Trail. The trail between Points 6 and 10 is dedicated as the Robert and Mary Lou Paton Trail for their enormous contribution to hiking in Ohio. They were charter members of the BTA. The Trail passes several rock shelters including the Buckeye Cave.

Directions: Boat dock #3 is located off SR 78 between the towns of Glouster and McConnelsville. Burr Oak State Park has a sign at turn off.

Contact: Please contact me if you plan on attending this hike. Jay Holwick, [jholwick@columbus.rr.com](mailto:jholwick@columbus.rr.com), 740-743-3813

**October 14-18 BTA Work Party at AEP \*BTA Chuck Wagon Event\*.** Contact: Rick Adamson, [rmadamson@earthlink.net](mailto:rmadamson@earthlink.net).

**October 24-25 BTA Maintenance Weekend, Burr Oak State Park, New Straitsville Section.** Contact: Rick Adamson, [rmadamson@earthlink.net](mailto:rmadamson@earthlink.net).

### NOVEMBER

**November 7 BTA Maintenance Weekend, East Fork State Park, Williamsburg Section.** Contact: Rick Adamson, [rmadamson@earthlink.net](mailto:rmadamson@earthlink.net).

### DECEMBER

**December 12 BTA Board Meeting at Command Alcon.** Saturday 10:00 am. Contact: Pat Hayes, [president@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:president@buckeyetrail.org).

## BTA Membership Application

The Buckeye Trail Association (BTA) is a nonprofit organization supported entirely by dues-paying volunteer members. The purpose of the BTA is to develop, maintain and promote a state-wide trail system. The Buckeye Trail is over 1,200 miles long, encircles the state, passes through state and metropolitan parks, and goes on canal towpaths, abandoned railroad rights-of-way and rural roads.

Membership benefits include receiving our quarterly publication, the *Trailblazer*, participating in scheduled outings and hikes, learning about trail maintenance and relocations, and meeting outdoor-minded people.

To join, fill out the membership application below and include a check for \$20.00 payable to the BTA (organizations \$35.00).

Name	
Address	
City	
State	Zip
Phone	

Mail with your check for \$20.00 (organizations \$35.00):

Buckeye Trail Association  
P.O. Box 254  
Worthington, OH 43085

Email: [info@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:info@buckeyetrail.org)



# Welcome New Members!

*Bev and Jerry Starcher*

Don Bashaw and Family	Dublin
Allen Benton and Family	Dublin
Craig Bowman	Heath
Linda Campbell and Family	Frazeyburg
Joe and Kate Colley	Toledo
Shane Cooke	Hilliard
Peter and Joyce Cottrell	Whitefield, NH
Barbara Crompton	Cleveland
Burt Dowden	Dublin
Keith Eubank and Family	Euclid
Byron Michael Guy	Hide-A-Way-Hills
James Alexander Guy III	Hide-A-Way-Hills
Vaughn Guzik	Parma
Jane Hall-Nemeth	Chagrin Falls
Elizabeth Hansen	Euclid
Patrick Hefferman	Carnegie, PA
Mark Henry	Dellroy
Lee Hisey	Grafton
Troy Homrighausen	Canfield
Kenny Janosko gift from David Janosko	Mentor
Michelle Jones and Family	Dulles, VA
Theodore Kyle and Family	Pittsburgh, PA
Pam Leonard	Mt Vernon
Bob Morecki	Willoughby Hills
Bruce Purdy	Grove City
Daniel Rogers	Franklin, NC
Robert Smith	Akron
James Stahl	Paulding
John Paul Tolson	Salem
Carol Trosset	Leverett, MA
Lynette Werning	Perrysburg
Barbara Whitsett	Atwater

# BTA MAC New Year's Campout

*John Rethman*

In January, the MAC held the annual New Year's Campout at Fort Ancient in South-west Ohio. We had a group of 18 hike and tour the park and museum. Seven hardy souls stayed overnight. Saturday morning dawned with a rain-snow mixture. By the time activities started at 10:00 a.m. the precipitation had stopped but the cold weather remained. The weather probably kept some people from participating at this event.

Jack Blosser, the Site Manager, had invited the group to the museum. He talked about the Hopewell Indians, who lived here more than 2,000 years ago and were constructors of Fort Ancient. Fort Ancient features 18,000 feet of earthen walls. They used the shoulder blades of deer, split elk antler, clam shell hoes and digging sticks to dig the dirt. They then carried the soil in baskets holding 35 to 40 pounds. Fort Ancient isn't a fort at all; these walls were used in conjunction with the sun and moon to provide a calendar system. We had the site to ourselves; Fort Ancient is closed for the season and was opened for us.

Next, we hiked down to the Buckeye Trail/Little Miami Scenic State Park (LMSSP). In 2 miles we encountered several large buildings in a field that looked out of place for a farm. Our map tells us this is a ghost town named Millgrove, site of the second paper mill in Ohio. From here we left the BT/LMSSP and started on the South Loop Trail through private property, owned by the Morgan Family and Camp Kern and blazed in white. In 2008 when we backpacked the BT and stayed at the Morgan's Riverside campground, we were told not to miss the memorial to the late June Morgan. Now we visited the memorial. It was well done and told the history of June and Bob Morgan, who pioneered the canoeing and campgrounds in Ohio on the Little Miami River and also in Indiana on the White Water River. They also offer a taste of tropical paradise on Osa Peninsula in Costa Rica. Their memorial pointed out a few facts that I was not aware of: we call it the white-blazed BT, the Boy Scouts call it the Silver Moccasin Trail, and it is also called the Warrior Path. Daniel Boone, whose mother was a Morgan, used this trail when he escaped from the Shawnee.

The next interesting thing on this trail was the Kern Effigy, also call the Sun Serpent, dated to 1200 A.D. It may have been built by ancestors of the Shawnee. When we returned to the BT/LMSSP we headed back to Fort Ancient. We cooked and shared some food and built a large campfire. We told stories and listened to the howls of the coyotes in the distance.

The next morning we had a hardy breakfast at a local restaurant and left for home. A good time was had by all. It will be hard to top Fort Ancient for 2010's New Year's campout. A special THANKS to Site Manager Jack Blosser for his hospitality. If this hike sounds interesting I will lead another hike at Fort Ancient on National Trails Day, June 6. For details see the Schedule of Hikes and Events in the *Trailblazer*.



# Celebrate Buckeye Trail's 50th Birthday

Gary Williams

Make plans now to attend the 50th Buckeye Trail Annual Meeting from June 12-14. This celebration will prove to be a once in a lifetime event you won't want to miss. This year's Annual Meeting will continue all the traditions you associate with Annual Meetings—the hikes, the programs, the camaraderie. But the special celebration associated with our 50th birthday means that there will be several added and unique features.

For one thing, this year's conference has been moved to June 12-14, so there will be no worries about Ohio's sneaky April snows. And the venue has been changed to a centrally located site so that folks from all across the state can attend easily. The BTA has booked Camp McPherson near Danville to host this special celebration. Camp McPherson is a full service site that offers a wide range of accommodations. In addition to camping and dorm style facilities, there are also a limited number of

motel type rooms available. Even the menus have been carefully selected for your dining pleasure. An added feature is a band has been added for a Saturday night barn dance. The annual business meeting has been moved to Sunday to provide you with a more active Saturday program of speakers, hikes and special events. And while the site is not along the BT, it is conveniently near the Mohican region that offers ample opportunity for short and long hikes as well as canoeing.

There are many special events planned in a year long celebration of the 50th birthday of the BTA. But the biggest of all will be the Annual Meeting from June 12-14 at Camp McPherson near Danville. The schedule and registration forms are available in this issue on on but be sure to save the date and book now to get your choice of accommodations for this very special celebration.

## 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.

### 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 2008 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.

All nomination must be postmarked by May 10, 2009.

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



# Buckeye Trail Association 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting Registration

June 12–14 2009, The Lodge at Camp McPherson, Danville

See [www.buckeyetrail.org](http://www.buckeyetrail.org) for Online Registration

*All kinds of activities are available (some by request) for your enjoyment:*

*Hiking . . .* Trails all over the 158 acre property.

*Fishing . . .* catch and release trout, bass, bluegill, cat fish; bring own pole/bait.

*Canoeing on Pond . . .* can fish from canoe, 6 available.

*Swimming . . .* must schedule for swimming, must have a life guard. (near Olympic size)

*Paintball . . .* \$20.00 per person includes gun, balls, face mask, (coverall type clothing recommended) \$5.00 ea refill/100 balls, 2 teams of 3 each minimum needed to play

*And there are . . .* softball, soccer, basketball, and football areas available to play in.

**Special 50th Anniversary shirts and patches will be passed out at registration!!**

**Meal times are:**

Friday dinner 6:30 pm

Saturday 3 meals 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, & 5:30 pm

Sunday Breakfast 8:00 am

*Special dietary needs will be accommodated if submitted in writing with your registration.*

*Several options are available for your weekend's enjoyment:*

**THE LODGE**

		2 NIGHTS & 5 MEALS	
1 person per room	# _____	\$170.00	23 rooms w/2 queen bed
2 persons per room	# _____	\$250.00 (125.00 ea)	1 room w/1 queen bed
3 persons per room	# _____	\$330.00 (110.00 ea)	
4 persons per room	# _____	\$410.00 (102.50 ea)	

**THE RETREAT CENTER**

		2 NIGHTS & 5 MEALS	
1 person per room	# _____	\$120.00	6 rooms w/1 double bed
2 person per room	# _____	\$200.00 (100.00 ea)	2 rooms w/ 1 twin bed

**DORMS**

Per person	# _____	2 NIGHTS & 5 MEALS	\$90.00	each dorm houses 60
				2 male & 2 female

**CAMPERS AND TENTS**

		2 NIGHTS & 5 MEALS	No Electric
1st person on camp site	# _____	\$90.00	
Each additional person per site	# _____	\$75.00	

**CAMPERS AND TENTS**

		2 NIGHTS & 5 MEALS	Electric
1st person on camp site	# _____	\$110.00	
Each additional person per site	# _____	\$80.00	

**DAY VISITORS**

# _____	\$7.00 day fee & \$14.00 per meal
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*Get your registration in early!! Rooms are limited in number, first come...first served . . . Registration Deadline is May 1, 2009*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for notification of registration received) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people attending entire weekend \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people attending Saturday only \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to: Buckeye Trail Association Inc.  
Send Registration to:  
Ruth Brown  
PO Box 151  
New Haven, OH 44850

# My Memories on Completing the Buckeye Trail

Chris McIntyre

My greatest memories of hiking the Buckeye Trail come from the people, the friendships and the experiences shared while enjoying the fun and challenges of the Trail, and learning so much about our great Buckeye State. Along the Trail, the hiker is exposed to a variety of nature's treasures. The Trail passes through the only true wilderness in Ohio, the Shawnee Wilderness Area, 8,000 acres where human influence is absolutely minimal. It was designated in 1972 and reserved for management of forest wildlife and state-listed rare and endangered species. The area is a habitat for rattlesnakes and copperheads; I have twice been privileged to see rattlers up close in this area. At the right time of year the Buckeye Trail hiker can experience an abundance of wildflowers, animals, birds and unusual plants. Those who know where to look even find morels and ginseng.

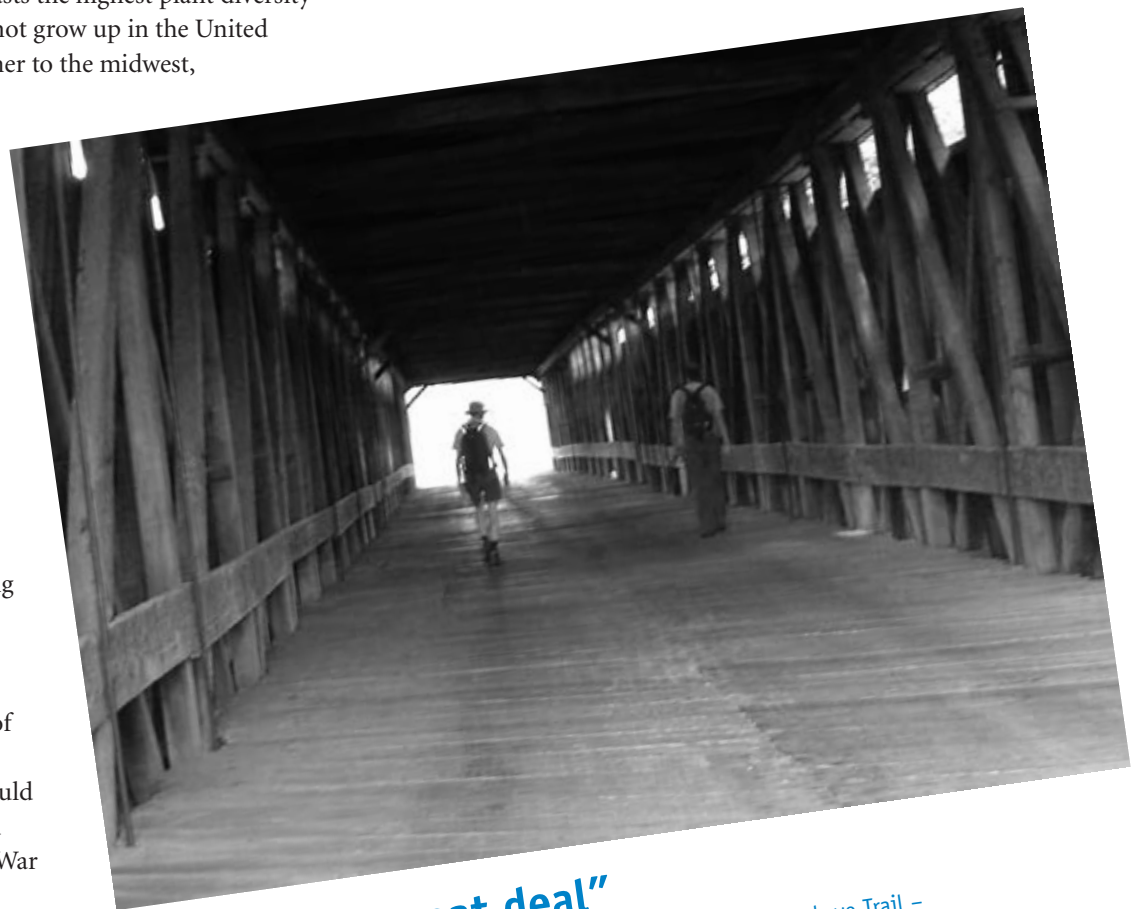
The Trail meanders through parts of Adams County that have as many native botanical species as can be found in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Of all the non-metropolitan Ohio counties, Adams County boasts the highest plant diversity in the state. As someone who did not grow up in the United States and being a relative newcomer to the midwest, I learned a great deal about trees, birds, flowers, wildlife, history and the folklore of Ohio, thanks to the extremely knowledgeable people I was fortunate enough to hike with.

Hiking on the BT I experienced plentiful reminders of Ohio's early development; from the arrival of the first settlers to the events leading up to French and Indian wars. I also witnessed frequent reminders of the development of transportation, canals, railroads and motor roads. Looking back I gained a lot of knowledge about our Great State of Ohio, its history, its accomplishments, its contribution to the development of the United States. On many occasions, after completing a hike I would go home and research things I had observed along the way: from the War

of 1812 to the Battle of Fallen Timbers to the forts along the rivers and the monumental task of constructing the canals. On the Buckeye Trail, I saw it all up close and personal in a way I could have never experienced in an automobile or even on a bike.

Part of the BT's great attraction is that it travels both on and off-road. It takes the hiker through the country and some towns. Because it is not always in the woods, the hiker gets to see a variety of fascinating small towns and woodsy hamlets as well as some urban and historical sites. I remember quiet country backroads where I hiked for over two hours without seeing a single vehicle, then suddenly needing to step aside to avoid a fast approaching Amish buggy.

The weather is a permanent presence when you are outdoors all day. It can be delightful or it can be demanding. Some of my most memorable hikes were in snow and ice. Many others were on clear crisp autumn days enjoying the beauty of the fall colors.



**"I learned a great deal"**

Chris McIntyre hiking through one of many covered bridges on the Buckeye Trail – this one is in the Troy Section.

Some days were 95 degrees with the humidity numerically similar. By Circuit Hiking the Buckeye Trail I gained the knowledge and capability to cope with, wind, rain, snow, ice, extreme cold, hot sun, humidity and the importance of proper hydration.

There are times when Mother Nature, or the logging industry, can overwhelm the efforts of our volunteer trail maintainers. Thus I became adept at the challenges of crossing swollen creeks, propelling my weary body up steep hills, finding my way when the Trail became overgrown and when blazed trees had been downed by ice or wind storms or logging. I gained a sense of self-sufficiency and confidence from clambering over fallen trees, navigating through overgrowth, path-finding through recent clear-cutting and accepting the realization that logging activity means blazes disappear to the saw mill. Fortunately for me during those times I had help and support from experienced, knowledgeable and enthusiastic companions. Our group of Circuit Hikers developed friendships and a family-like bond that came from sharing experiences and challenges.

When I think about my memories of the Buckeye Trail I especially recall the great pleasures of overnight camps. As a prior backpacker, the relative luxury of car camping was a new experience. Memorable also were the state parks with showers and bathrooms and the more primitive camps where solar showers were the order of the day, all with the camaraderie around the campfire. Hot sultry nights, some cold or rainy nights, motel rooms shared on winter nights, morning coffee generously prepared in camp by those very special “morning people” and willingly shared with late-rising types like me. Saturday nights normally led to dinner at a locally owned restaurant or diner. We always looked for a place with local ownership and character and usually found one.

The diversity of Ohio is amazing from the flat northwest on the former great Black Swamp to the Appalachian foothills and plateaus in the southeast to the canals that joined the Ohio River to Lake Erie. The diversity is endless. There is no better way to experience it than hiking the Buckeye Trail.



## “The weather is a permanent presence”

*Chris McIntyre enjoying a frosty hike in East Fork State Park in the Williamsburg Section. Good things about winter hiking: different views because you can see through the leafless woods, animal tracks in the snow, and a hiker generally has the trail to himself.*

## “Our group of Circuit Hikers developed friendships and a family-like bond”

*Circuit Hikers near the northern terminus of the Buckeye Trail in the Burton Section in Mentor Headlands State Park. Lake Erie’s sandy shore can be magical.*





# 2009 Winter Hike is Good and Cold – A Great Hike

Pat Hayes

The prospect for a perfect hiking day filled me with anticipation. As I drove to the park lodge to meet those arriving early for breakfast, the temperature hovered in the single digits with an expected rise to the mid-20's.

When I arrived at the lodge at 8:00 a.m., several people were already enjoying the breakfast buffet. I joined a group of friends that have made this hike several times in the past. Just before the 9:00 a.m. appointed start time, more hikers arrived to join the group; I gave some general hike information and a group photo was taken. Shortly thereafter we set out on the 11+ mile circuit around Acton Lake.

Given free rein, some hikers chose to hike around the lake clockwise while others chose to hike it counter-clockwise, the difference being five miles to the Nature Center and lunch if hiked in one direction and six and one-half miles if hiked in the

other direction. I chose the longer route since it put me at the Nature Center closer to my normal lunchtime. The hike around the lake was accomplished on a variety of trails including hiking trails, mountain bike trails and horse trails. Since the temperature didn't rise above the mid-twenties all day, the ground remained frozen and made for pretty good hiking. I remain surprised at the distances people are willing to travel to attend this annual event. As usual, mostly local people attended the hike, but we also had several people drive in from one or two hours away. I was very pleased to have Buckeye Trail members Bob Leon and Gary Uszak, who traveled 230 miles from Elyria join us in our hike around Acton Lake.

With the hike taking place the day before Barack Obama's Presidential Inauguration, there was much talk about the upcoming historic events taking place in Washington D.C. At the pre-hike briefing, Buckeye Trail member and longtime Hueston Woods hiker Jim Runk reminded everyone that the hike was started in the early 90's by Dr. Paul Daniel of Miami University, to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

I want to thank BTA members John Rethman, Charles Fitzpatrick, and Mary Hayes for once again setting up the BTA display and preparing and overseeing the serving of lunch. John's bean soup and corn muffins and Mary's brownies were both big hits with the hungry hikers. I also want to thank John for helping me flag the route around the lake the previous week.

After returning home and looking at the group photo, I was able to count



## Hueston Woods State Park Hosts a Successful Hike

Hikers assemble post-breakfast and pre-hike. A moment later – out into the cold around Acton Lake for a bright and beautiful hike.

# Little Loop Hike

Sue Doolittle

On a frosty February day in 2008 a group of 14 hikers embarked on a 250-mile journey. Our goal was to hike the “Little Loop” of the Buckeye Trail in northeastern Ohio. The trail begins in Mentor Headlands State Park on Lake Erie, goes south through Geauga County to the Akron-Canton area, then returns to Mentor partly following the old Ohio and Erie Canal route. Our plan was to meet on the fourth Saturday of each month and complete approximately ten-mile segments of the loop.

We will reach the turnaround point in Summit County and head north. Following the blue blazes through the seasons, we have hiked in four counties and traveled through parks, natural areas and scenic byways of rural Ohio. A total of 24 people at various times have joined us. We have enjoyed the camaraderie and shared adventures along the trail.

Sometime in the spring of 2010 we will arrive back at Headlands Beach at the northern terminus of the Buckeye Trail. If anyone would like to view photos and read accounts of our hikes go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/> and search for “Little Loopers”. To join us on a hike email [bildoo@windstream.net](mailto:bildoo@windstream.net) for information.



Hueston Woods Loop Rd. bridge over Four Mile Creek below the dam. The road was closed due to ice beneath the snow and all you can see are the hiker's footprints.

## Little Loopers Start their Journey through Northern Ohio

Hardy hikers opened their Little Loop Hike in February 2008 from the Buckeye Trail's Northern Terminus in Metro Headlands State Park. Right now they're about halfway through the Little Loop. Join them in a hike, and follow their progress on their website.

31 people ranging in age from pre-teen to folks in their 70's. We had four or five other hikers join us after the photo was taken. The Buckeye Trail Association and the Tri State Hiking Club out of Cincinnati were both represented by a good number of the hikers. Not bad for a day that started out just above zero degrees.

A special thank you goes to Hueston Woods Park Manager Lonnie Snow for again allowing us to use the Hueston Room for our lunch spot.



# Adopters' Corner

*Jim Sprague, Maintenance Supervisor*

Behold the Heroes of the Buckeye Trail, Class of 2008. As usual, I believe that many more Trail Adopters got out on their adopted segment last year than are shown in the list. However, the people listed sent their time reports to their Section Supervisors. And the Section Supervisors in turn passed the reports along for tabulation. 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 Debbie Zampini, Bedford Section Supervisor, drove the most miles to work on her section. John Heater, Troy Section Supervisor, donated both most time working on the trail and most total time. Total time includes both work and travel time.

NAME	VISITS	TIME WORKED	TOTAL TIME	TRAVEL MILES
Jay Abercrombie	13	39.5	46.0	271
Erin Adams	7	14.4	18.7	172
Mary Baldwin			4.0	58
Dianne Abney			16	40
Gloria Baughn		4.50	4.50	
Will Baughn		4.50	4.50	23
Roxann Baumgartner			1.00	35
Tom Bishop			9.00	217
Carol Bowers	2	7.83	11.58	98
Don Bowers	3	12.33	18.08	286
Jack Brennen	2	9.00	16.50	
Char Callahan			5.00	
Lisa Daiber	11	49.17	60.31	
Phyllis Devlin	13	41.25	53.25	390
Woody Ensor	108		120.20	1,004
Priscilla Fuhrman	9		7.20	
Matthew Funk	15	66.00	81.00	360
Terri Funk	15	66.00	81.00	
Mary Hamilton	6	27.75	36.51	223
Cecilia Hartman	3	8.50	10.75	158
Pat Hayes	2	10.75	13.47	161
John Heater	31	102.50	123.00	1,048
Herb Hulls	10	65.08	83.00	686
Susie Hulls	7	52.08	65.00	
Russ Johnson	14	61.16	75.00	461
Joe Konen	8	16.90	28.00	440
Joy Kosiewicz			2.50	

The numbers show the sum of the values that were submitted. A blank means that insufficient detail was submitted to make a determination.

If you should feel left out, be assured that many trail segments are ready for adoption. A wide selection of trail both on and off road is available. Unfortunately, or fortunately if you like to get away from things, many of the segments available are in the more remote parts of Ohio. Don't be concerned that you may not know much about the location of the trail. You can easily learn more by visiting [www.buckeyetrail.org/SectionbySection](http://www.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 Garry Dill at (614) 451-0233 or then321elm@yahoo.com and Garry will put you to work.

*See you on the Trail.*

NAME	VISITS	TIME WORKED	TOTAL TIME	TRAVEL MILES
Harold Koutz	7	27.75	41.75	560
Eric Lindahl			2.00	40
Liz Mc Quaid			5.00	
Bob Merkle	2	9.00	16.5	380
Joe Milicia			2.50	60
Larry Morton	5	22.63	30.39	342
Sophia Morton	5	22.63	30.39	
Tim Murphy			72.10	
Cliff Reeves			2.00	
Charlotte Robe	3	5.50	8.00	
Quincy Robe	7	16.75	25.75	250
Del Ruckle	2	9.75	16.75	290
Jim Runk	3	13.75	22.50	324
Mark Shelton	15	24.83	32.20	190
Connie Snyder	4	10.42	12.50	78
Mike Snyder	4	10.42	12.50	66
Jim Sprague	4	10.75	14.08	172
Steve Trimble			14.00	153
Millie Wamsley			6.83	21
Les Weidenhamer	17	58.52	76.60	160
Weidenhamer's Pals	3	9.25	10.20	
Jeff Yoest	1	3.00	7.50	210
Debbie Zampini			103.75	1,289
Dan Zawacki			6.00	
Dana Zintek	16	71.59	86.06	526
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>951.84</b>	<b>1,642.70</b>
			<b>10,961</b>	



# State Trail Coordinator's Report

Rick Adamson

As I write this report the snow has been falling for about 24 hours accumulating to about 15-18 inches. The only traffic on this back rural road all day has been two snowmobiles, but it is absolutely beautiful and peaceful.

Now on with the report. I have been working on ways to fund the swinging bridge constructing project over Blue Creek in Paulding County along the western edge of Ohio. We have a construction estimate form one construction company and are seeking another in northwest Ohio.

We are exploring several separate routes to get more of the Buckeye Trail to off-road locations around the state including several segments in Portage County thanks to a private land owner, and to our new Mogadore Section Supervisor, Matthew Funk. As plans are firmed up we will also finish the off-road addition through Plum Creek Park in the Medina Section this summer. Watch for this to appear on our web site as it is not part of our regular work party schedule. Those wishing to assist with this Medina off-road reroute please contact me.

There is a need to construct another bridge in Henry County in northwest Ohio. This bridge will be approximately 55 feet in length. After contacting several local power companies request- ing used poles, we have been informed they are unavailable and it appears the BTA will need to purchase new power poles for this project. We are working with a company that supplies these needed poles and hoping we will get a good deal.

BTA is interested in writing grants so please if anyone out there has any experience in grant writing contact me. The BTA feels that much more can be accomplished along the trail if more grants are written.

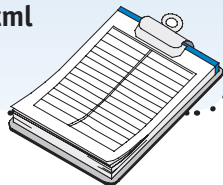
As the BTA begins to celebrate their 50th anniversary I am asking each BTA member to come aboard with your skills and suggestions and to join us as we move forward. There are those of you that can assist on many fronts from becoming a new board member to working on the trails with the Trail Crew throughout Ohio or an adopter in a particular corner of the state, in a state park, forest, nature preserve, wildlife or wilderness area. What can you do to make the BTA stronger for the next 50 years? Come on out, join us, and become a part of the Buckeye Trail Association.

Throughout 2009, the 50th year of the Buckeye Trail Association, we are asking that all Section Supervisors plan a hike in their respective sections and email those plans to Pat Hayes, BTA President at [patih@wor.rr.com](mailto:patih@wor.rr.com) and Ruth Brown at [ruthbrown@wor.rr.com](mailto:ruthbrown@wor.rr.com) so it can be listed on our web site under UPCOMING EVENTS. Some Section Supervisors have already done this but we need many more to come aboard with this opportunity to help celebrate the 50th Buckeye Trail Association anniversary.

## 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>



## Discount on Blaze Paint

**WHAT** Either Sweeping Blue 2408 or Yuma Green 2090 or brushes or scrapers

**WHERE?** Any Sherwin-Williams store in Ohio

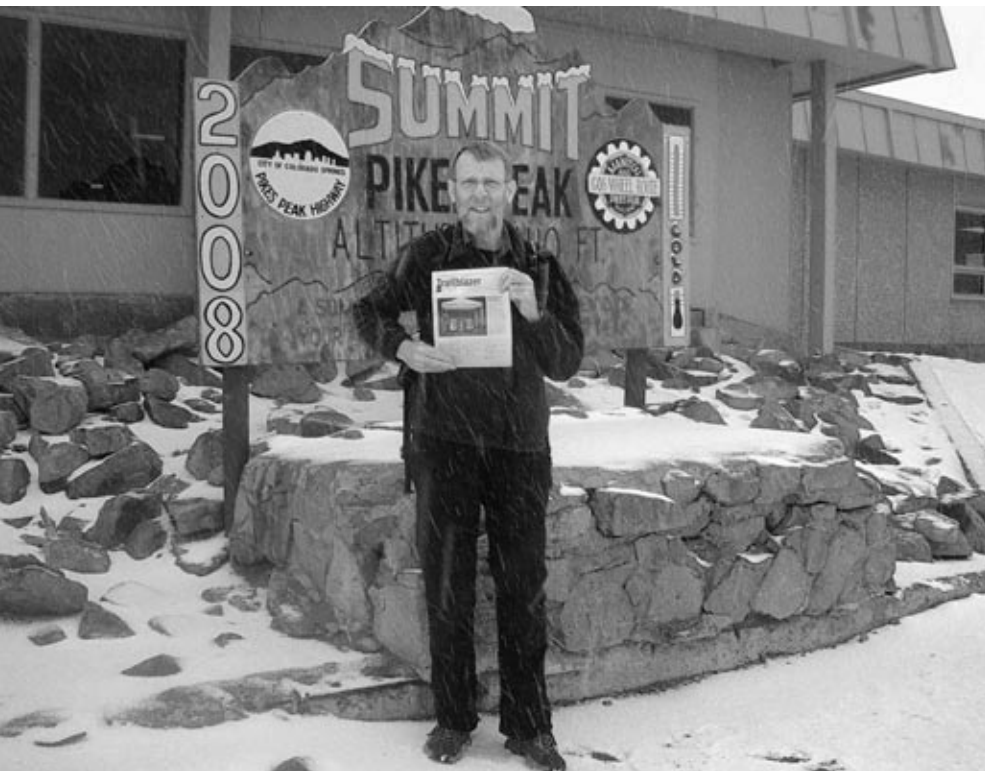
**HOW?** Mention BTA Account No. 9321-7886-6. You pay, then turn in receipts to get reimbursed

**REALLY?** 25% Discount and you pay no tax

# Hello BT...



Howard Hintz and his grandson hiking near Sandusky.



BTA President Pat Hayes on Pike's Peak in September. Luckily, he says, it didn't start snowing hard until after we reached the summit.

## Pledge Form

### THE BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 254 Worthington,  
Ohio 43085

E-mail: [info@buckeyetrail.org](mailto: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

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Individual

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Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

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Zip

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Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
BTA Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

# Highlights of the BTA Board Meeting, December 13, 2008

## STATE TRAIL COORDINATOR—RICK ADAMSON

Rick read a letter from Terry Robinson, Manager of Field Research for the Cleveland Metroparks, that complimented the 15 BTA volunteers and Rick on their excellent work on the trail restoration project they had done in the Bedford Reservation on November 1.

## MAINTAINER'S REPORT—JIM SPRAGUE

40 people had attended the Maintainers' Lunch in October.

## NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL REPORT—GARRY DILL, ANDREW BASHAW

The BTA now has a tentative Alliance Agreement with the NCTA. They hope to increase the number of BTA members who also are members of the NCTA. The North Country Trail wants to have more of a presence in Ohio.

Travis Neeley is the new president of the Little Cities of the Forest Chapter, which is now an official chapter of the NCTA. The BTA and the NCTA will work closely together. The chapter has flagged a new piece of trail that will connect the northern end of Burr Oak to the Wildcat Hollow Trail. A group called the Trail Trolls will maintain trails in the Hocking State Forest and the State Nature Preserves in the area.

The NCTA Volunteer Venture Program involves having a trail work party in all seven states that the trail goes through every year. In 2009 the one in Ohio will be in the Scioto Trail section from April 15-19.

The NCTA meeting will be held in Ohio in 2011 so the BTA will help to host the meeting.

## 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*

## BTA Funds Report

### TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND NOVEMBER 2008—JANUARY 2009

You might like to pledge a few cents for every hour the Trail Crew works each year. Last year, the Trail Crew worked more than 3000 hours; thus a pledge of \$.05 per hour would mean a donation of \$150. You can also solicit local businesses because these donations are tax-exempt and we mention their name in the *Trailblazer*. Your contribution to the Buckeye Trail Preservation Fund (a 501(c)(3) organization) is tax deductible. All contributions of \$20 or more are acknowledged for tax purposes. We hope to include your name in the list of contributors in the *Trailblazer*.

*The following persons recently made donations to the Trail Preservation Fund.*

Rick Adamson	Darlene Karoly
Don Beattie	Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Miner
Michael Shumway	Donald Mong
Rainard Beer	Bob Simons
Phyllis Devlin	Jeff Yoest
Ray and Holly Henry	Carroll County OHC
L. A. Deinenger	Mr. and Mrs. Philip Conaway
Paul and Donna Floyd	Mr. and Mrs. Richard Powell
Herb Hulls	

### GENERAL FUND OCTOBER—DECEMBER 2008

Rick Adamson  
Akron Hiking Club  
Garry Dill  
Herbert Eagon  
Johnson-Kazar Charitable Foundation, Inc  
Don Mong  
Bob Merkle  
Connie and Bob Pond  
Richard Powell  
George Schubert  
Eugene Wilson

### BARN OCTOBER—DECEMBER 2008

Rick Adamson  
Phyllis Devlin  
Don Mong

### SCHOLARSHIP OCTOBER—DECEMBER 2008

Rick Adamson  
Don Mong

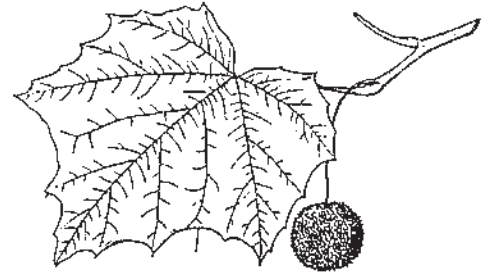


# Wild Neighbors

Paul Knoop, Jr.

## AMERICAN SYCAMORE

*Platanus occidentalis*



**LIFE HISTORY FACTS** It is now autumn, a time to find comfort in the somber blacks, browns and grays of the woodlands. The trees are now bare of leaves and attention turns more to the color and texture of trunks, limbs and twigs. Who can resist noticing the beauty of the great sycamore trees that follow the shorelines of local rivers and small streams. The snow white upper limbs seem to glow in the subdued sunlight.

Sycamore trees are ecologically valuable because of the role they play in protecting streams. Their intertwining root systems prevent stream bank erosion and the arching trunks and limbs shade and cool water in the stream. In addition, mature sycamores often develop natural cavities and hollows, making them favorite denning sites for wild birds and mammals.

In late spring flowers of both sexes appear on the same tree. The male flowers, found in the twig angles, are small and dark red; the female flowers are greenish, wind pollinated and appear at the twig ends. After fertilization the round fruits consist of many dozens of small seeds. Seed balls remain on the tree during winter, breaking apart by early spring.

**HABITAT** Sycamores prefer to be near water – small streams, rivers, lakes, ponds and wetlands. Since seed do not germinate unless deposited on very moist soil these trees will occasionally grow near spring seeps on steep hillsides.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP** This tree is a visual and botanical treasure and deserves our protection. Streamside sycamores should not be cut because of their role in protecting the stream.

### BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW

- One hundred million years ago sycamore trees grew on Disco Island, Greenland.
- The sycamore attains the greatest trunk diameter of any American deciduous tree.
- A young sycamore may grow to 70 feet in height in 17 years.
- Leaves and fruits of sycamores inhibit the growth of competing grasses and other plants beneath the tree.

# End of Trail

Dana Zintek

This issue we hear from one finisher of the BT who now sits on the Board of Trustees.

HIKER	DATE STARTED	DATE FINISHED	MILEAGE OF BT WHEN HIKED*
Chris McIntyre	September 2003	December 2008	1456

\*mileages vary because of reroutes and improvements

Chris got enthusiastic on his first hike when two things happened to him. He realized there really are lakes, hills and forests in Ohio and he met really great people. By his second or third hike he was hooked and knew he would finish the whole trail. Chris feels that part of the BT's attraction is that it travels both on and off road. It takes the hiker through town and country. It goes through the woods and a variety of sleepy hamlets as well as urban and historical sites. He also mentioned that he walked on a quiet country back road one day for over two hours without seeing a single vehicle.

# 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: The Buckeye Trail Association at P.O. Box 254, rthington, Ohio 43085 or Jim Runk at [Jimsrunk@wmconnect.com](mailto:Jimsrunk@wmconnect.com) or 937-289-2481; or send an email to [info@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:info@buckeyetrail.org)

Yours Truly,

Pat Hayes,  
President  
Buckeye Trail Association

Jim Runk,  
Property Manager  
Buckeye Trail Association



*One Environment...  
One Simple Way to Care for It.®*

Earth Share of Ohio is a great way to donate to the Buckeye Trail Association. ESO represents dozens of local, national and international groups working to preserve, protect and defend Ohio's and the world's environment. ESO's beneficiary organizations are some of the most respected and responsible environmental and conservation nonprofits in the country. You can designate your gift to ESO to benefit the BTA. There are two ways for you to do this:

- First is through your workplace giving program. More than 79 workplaces in Ohio now partner with ESO to offer their employees an environmental choice in their annual workplace giving campaign. Employees can check with their payroll offices or with ESO to determine if they have the option to contribute to ESO. If your workplace already partners with ESO, you'll just need to fill out a pledge form when your campaign runs! If your workplace does not have a giving program or does not include ESO in an existing one you can ask your employer to do so. ESO will help you.
- Secondly, you could give through your United Way Campaign. If your workplace offers a United Way giving drive and your local United Way includes ESO in its list of charities, you can select it from the list.

Using Earth Share Ohio is an easy method for giving to the BTA through payroll deductions.

[www.earthshareofohio.org](http://www.earthshareofohio.org)

## BRAMBLE #49

by Dana Zintek

1. Wildlife area N.S. section **LIMBERT**  
T R I M B L E
2. Native creek Bed. section **WHIPCAPE**  
C H I P P E W A

Winner:  
Jeff Yoest from Westerville

We had 27 entries in Bramble #49



What caused the hiking poet to slip?

R I M E I C E

# BRAMBLE #50

by Dana Zintek

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

For a chance to win a Leki hiking pole,  
Send your answers to:  
Dana Zintek  
2369 Suncrest Drive  
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221  
Answers must be postmarked by May 1, 2009.

1. P.O. Box

WRINGOTTHON  

○	○	○	□	□	□	□	□	○	○	□
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2. Seed Road

NARCO  

□	□	○	○	□
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3. 1860 Church in B.V.

MEALS  

□	□	□	□	○
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*A big thanks to Don Beattie of Commerce, MI,  
for the Bramble idea and participation.*

Now arrange the circled letters to form the answer to the cartoon.



*Where did the procrastinating hiker plan to go in the Loveland section?*

□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
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## Buckeye Trail Association

P.O. Box 254  
Worthington, Ohio 43085

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