



Trailblazer

FALL 2009 VOLUME 42 NO. 3



IN THIS ISSUE...

- 2 BTA Bits and Pieces
- 3 On the Trail
- 4 Schedule of Hikes & Events
- 6 Hiking, Music and Even a Little Education at BTA's Annual Meeting
- 7 BTA Members Honored at the Annual Meeting
- 7 50th Anniversary Items for Sale in BTA Store
- 8 Trail Adopter's Corner
- 9 Hello BT!
- 10 We Are Finished!
- 11 End of the Trail
- 11 BTeaser
- 12 Attention BTA Members!
- 12 BTA Funds Report
- 13 Highlights of the BTA Board Meetings
- 14 MAC Committee
- 14 A Sincere Thanks to Roy Fairfield
- 14 Welcome New Members!
- 16 Bramble #52

BTA's Annual Meeting—Hiking, Music and Even a Little Education



BTA Hikers in the Woods

Photo by Gary Williams

Morning Bird Walk Led by Jim McCormac

Photo by Andrea Bartel



BTA Bits and Pieces

Pat Hayes, BTA President

Great things are happening with the Buckeye Trail in this our 50th year. It is with great pleasure that I am able to introduce our first Executive Director in 18 years. Andrew Bashaw of Glouster, Ohio officially started August 1st, and has hit the ground running. Andrew who is also the Regional Trail Coordinator for Ohio and Pennsylvania for the North Country National Scenic Trail will split his time between our two organizations. Andrew and his wife Claudia have just had their first child, Adelaide, so he will be busy with more than just trail business.

Andrew comes to the BTA with a background in trail analysis and building, GIS/GPS, community organizing, and volunteer leadership. Andrew will be working out of his office in the Village of Shawnee, Ohio to meet the following objectives.

- Seek funding and grants for Board approved projects.
- Develop strategies to increase Association membership.
- Work to increase public recognition and awareness of the Association.
- Develop and maintain landowner relationships.
- Work with State Trail Coordinators to improve trail building and maintenance capabilities.
- Build active partnerships with trails organizations, county, state and federal agencies, local park districts, businesses, non-profit organizations, and others entities that further the mission of the Association.

The BTA expects great things from Andrew and we are sure he can deliver.

The second big event is our purchase of approximately 190 acres of property in Vinton County to help preserve existing trail. The land, owned by Riddle Forest Products, is being sold for capital to construct a new sawmill. If we had not purchased the property, we could have lost trail that we have spent five years developing as well as a critical piece of property in the planned protected off-road corridor between Hocking Hills and Tar Hollow. We will be using money from our Trail Preservation Fund as well as additional donations. Our plan is to protect the property with trail and shelter easements then resell it. We have several options on how to proceed after the purchase of the property. We can try to sell it to a private land trust or the National Park Service thereby guarantying permanent protection or we can place deed covenants and restrictions on the property and sell it to a private individual. Whatever we do, we will place the proceeds back in the Trail Preservation Fund for further trail corridor protection.

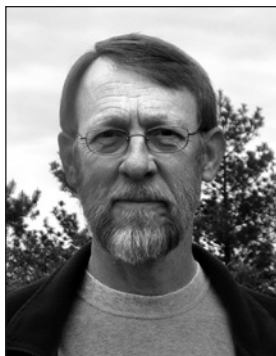
The third big event is the sale of our Horner Chapel Road property, located adjacent to Serpent Mound, on the same day as the purchase of the Riddle property. This property was sold with deed covenants and restrictions that allows for our trail and a shelter.

Our first of two BTA backpacking trips this year was a success. To help celebrate our 50th Anniversary, at the end of April and the beginning of May we hiked about 55 miles in the Stockport and New Straitsville Sections. We had 12 members hike either part or all of the distance and were happy to have new members C.W. Spencer, Peggy Kreider, and Peggy's son Jacob join us on the hike.

The 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting at Camp McPherson in June was also a great success. We had over 80 members attend and partake of the activities. I was honored to have my picture taken with four past BTA Presidents. A special thanks to Connie Pond who has served as BTA Treasurer for over 20 years and received the Bob Paton Award at the annual meeting for her service. A picture of Connie and the 5 BTA presidents appears elsewhere in this issue. A special thank you goes to the 50th Anniversary Committee for all their hard work in making the Annual Meeting a success.

More events are planned for this year. We still have the backpacking trip to the Adirondacks in September and more work parties and maintenance weekends scheduled, so don't be shy, join us for one or all of the events.

By the time you read this, Joyce and Peter Cottrell of New Hampshire will have finished backpacking the BT in commemoration of our 50th Anniversary. Many thanks go to Peter and Joyce for spreading the word about the Buckeye Trail.



Trailblazer

Published Quarterly by the
Buckeye Trail Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 254
Worthington, Ohio 43085
Circulation: 1,200

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DEADLINES

Deadlines for submission are
February 1 for the Spring issue,
May 1 for the Summer issue,
August 1 for the Fall issue,
and November 1 for the Winter issue.

SUBMISSIONS & ADVERTISING

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and advertising inquiries:

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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.

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Quincy Robe, Susan Stover, Adrian Vanko,
Gary Williams, Jeff Yoest

On the Trail

*Andrew Bashaw, Buckeye Trail Association's
New Executive Director*

Summer of 2009 has shaped up to be a very memorable time for my family and me. As I write this, my wife Claudia and I are several weeks into proud parenthood of our new baby daughter Adelaide, and I woke up this morning as the proud new Executive Director of the BTA. As we begin a new family ourselves we are also joining another larger one.

Last week I found myself strolling along a rocky creek bed within a beautiful high-walled gorge in Southern Ohio. Under the full canopy of mature forest I reflected on the possibility of the Buckeye Trail being developed here and of my new station in life. It has been estimated that approximately 500 hours of work go into building one mile of new Buckeye Trail and I feel fortunate to put in the first hour here. How will the trail seamlessly connect to the next segment of trail? Will the trail have a lower impact above that rock face or below? What will a hiker experience from this perspective? How many hikers will this new segment draw? What will the landowner think? What will their concerns be? Where would the volunteers camp? How long will it take to finish? Will the trail be protected?

I realize that these sorts of questions have been answered time and time again around the 1,440-mile length of the Buckeye Trail for 50 years now. As a hiker my gratitude for all the work that goes into building, maintaining, and protecting the trail by volunteers, private landowners and public agencies together towards this common and worthy goal has grown exponentially as I continue to grow in awareness of all it takes to create that perfect hiking experience.

I wonder what Adelaide will experience of the Buckeye Trail on its 100th anniversary. Will she walk the Trail here in this gorge? Will it help to connect her to the natural world and inspire a land ethic in her life? Will she continue to wander down the trail wondering what lay just beyond the next bend? What treasures of Ohio will she encounter, a new wildflower, a waterfall, a black bear, a historic site, a small Ohio community?

As I contemplate these questions I am humbled and excited to be a part of the family and legacy of the Buckeye Trail, its completion and enjoyment. I am looking forward to working closely with our volunteers, members and partners to accomplish even more with the foundation that has been built over the last 50 years and be a part of growing the Trail and the organization for the next 50 years. Far from a one-person job, I am looking forward to serving the Buckeye Trail Association and those that have grown to love the trail, by working with groups and individuals that share the vision of a completed 1,440 mile hiking trail highlighting many of the sources of Ohio's pride.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you, working with you and seeing you out on the trail. I am grateful for your continued support of the Buckeye Trail, a great source of Ohio's pride in itself.



Andrew and family live in Glouster, OH. Andrew works from the "Harrop House" at 127B West Main Street (PO Box 5), Shawnee, OH 43782. He can be reached at director@buckeyetrail.org or 740-394-2008.



Schedule of Hikes & Events

Always check 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 for last-minute updates.

SEPTEMBER

September 12 Walk for Sunshine, Maumee. Meet Saturday at 9:00 am for the 12th Annual Walk for Sunshine on Monclova Elementary School on Monclova Road, Maumee, OH, to raise funds for Sunshine Acres. Registration fee is \$15.00.

Visit <http://www.sunshinefnd.com> or 419-335-3763 for additional information.

September 12 BTA Northeast Group Hike, 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, 330-467-4338.

September 12-19 MAC Trip, Adirondacks in New York. 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.

(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? Only 8 people per group can camp together in this area. I have 6 hikers signed up now. If we get more, we can have that group start at our end.

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

September 26-27 4th Annual Junction Trail Festival, Milford. Most activities take place on Saturday, Sept. 26, 5:00-8:00 pm at Riverside Park in Milford.

Visit <http://www.thejunctiontrailfest.org> for more information.

OCTOBER

October 3, 2009 GearFest, Eastwood Metropark, Dayton. Saturday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm – Five Rivers MetroParks in Dayton presents its GearFest, a great way to find out about the latest products. It's a celebration of outdoor culture, recreation, and camping; live music competitions, exciting outdoor athletes' demos and a youth adventure zone. Visitors can have an enjoyable weekend at GearFest for FREE.

Visit <http://www.metroparks.org/gearfest> or 937-277-4374 for more information.

October 10 BTA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Hike, New Straitsville Section. Saturday: 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 notify me if you plan on attending this hike. Jay Holwick, jholwick@columbus.rr.com, 740-743-3813.

October 10 BTA Northeast Group Hike, South Bass Island. 9:00 AM. Meet at Miller's Ferry on Catawba Island for the annual NE Group Island hike. This year we are going back

to South Bass Island. Hike is 6+ miles. Lunch at a local restaurant. To reserve your space please send a check for \$13 by September 4 made out to Andy Jones to: Lynn & Andy Jones, 321 Stonebridge Dr., Sagamore Hills, OH 44067-3274. Fee covers mailing of directions, and ferry tickets at a group rate. Limit 25 people.

Please make a reservation. Contact: Lynn and Andy Jones, lynnandandy@windstream.net, 330-467-4338.

October 11 4th Annual BTA Adopter's Luncheon, Harbor Hills Country Club, Hebron. Meet at noon at Harbor Hills Country Club 225 Freeman Memorial Dr., Hebron, OH 43025-9710, (740) 928-3596. All Adopters who were signed up at any time during 2009 are eligible for this luncheon. Complete details will be mailed to Adopters of record in mid-September

October 14-18 BTA Work Party at AEP. *BTA Chuck Wagon Event* Contact: Rick Adamson, rmadamson@earthlink.net.

October 17 BTA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Hike, Shawnee Section. Meet at 10:00 am at the campground office off S.R. 125. 7-mile hike—3.5 miles of the hike on the BT. It will be in conjunction with the State Parks Fall Hike at Shawnee State Park. The state will run a shuttle from 8:00-11:00 am. At our halfway point, Turkey Creek Lake, we will be offered apple butter and drinks. The terminus of the hike we will at the campground. A bean dinner with music will be available after 6:00 pm. The campground will be crowded but not full. It will be a great way to celebrate our anniversary and the fall colors on the BT; the Trail Crew has spent a lot of time here improving the Buckeye Trail.

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

October 24-25 BTA Maintenance Weekend, Burr Oak State Park, New Straitsville Section. *Saturday dinner supplied if you contact Jay Holwick, jholwick@columbus.rr.com, 740-743-3813 by October 21.* Camping at the group campground located at Boat Dock #3, off State 78 between McConnelsville and Glouster.

Contact: Rick Adamson, rmadamson@earthlink.net.

October 24 BTA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Hike, Belle Valley Section. Meet Saturday at 10 am at Ragans Chapel in Hoskinsville. Hike will be 6 miles from Point

BTA Barn Directions

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

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

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

26 to Point 28. Directions: At Exit 28 (Belle Valley) of I-77, take County Road 20 (Chapel Road) for 2.5 miles.

Contact: Gary Williams, maryangary@earthlink.net, 740/732-7291

NOVEMBER

November 7 BTA Maintenance Weekend, East Fork State Park, Williamsburg Section. Contact: Rick Adamson, rmadamson@earthlink.net.

November 7 BTA Northeast Group Hike. Meet Saturday 10:00 am at Bradley Woods for hike through woods to the quarry & beyond. About 4 miles in all. Lunch at local restaurant.

Contact: Liz McQuaid, dreamhikeream@aol.com, 216-941-3443.

DECEMBER

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

December 12 BTA Northeast Group Hike, Annual Soup Sampler. Meet Saturday 10:00 am at the Jones'. Hike first, then feast on everyone's soups after.

Contact: Lynn and Andy Jones, lynnandandy@windstream.net, 330-467-4338 for directions and suggestions.

FEBRUARY

February 6, 2010 Annual Winter Walk, Findley State Park. Hike starts at 10:00 am. See <http://www.findleystatepark.org>.

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

2010 Buckeye Trail Association Annual Meeting

The 2010 BTA Annual Meeting will be from June 11-13 at the BTA Barn at Tappan Lake. Notice we have changed from having the meeting at the end of April to the second weekend in June since there is a chance of having better weather. Mark your calendars and watch for more information at www.buckeyetrail.org and in the Winter *Trailblazer*.

Celebrate the Outdoor Lifestyle!



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SATURDAY, OCT. 3, 2009
10 A.M.-6 P.M.

EASTWOOD METROPARK
DAYTON, OHIO

Free Camping and Live Music!

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The Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest.



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Hiking, Music and Even a Little Education at BTA's Annual Meeting

Gary Williams

The BTA's 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting proved to be a case where the event actually lived up to the hype. For such a unique celebration, the date was changed and the venue was moved to a location not on the Buckeye Trail. But the event at Camp McPherson near Danville from June 12–14 was a rousing success, with a higher than usual number of people registered for Saturday night's dinner.

The mainstays of the Annual Meeting remained the same, with an abundance of programs, hikes, food and camaraderie. Featured speaker author Jim McCormac

Photos Courtesy of Andrea Bartel



started out Friday's festivities talking about fascinating behavior in the animal kingdom. (Fans: See Jim's blog at <http://jimccormac.blogspot.com>.) Jim led our traditional early morning bird walk on Saturday. Steve McKee of the Gorman Nature Preserve led a large group on a Saturday morning educational tour of the Mohican forest. Saturday's options included programs and long and short hikes, and other activities—canoeing, paintball and even a local wine festival.

After a steak dinner on Saturday evening, the silent auction netted over \$800, plus another \$500 for a Buckeye Trail quilt. Then came awards given to several deserving members. We wound up the night with a campfire and barn concert featuring Crookneck Chandler and the Tibbee Bottom Boys.



BTA Members Honored at the Annual Meeting

PRESIDENT'S AWARD: *CONNIE POND*

For Connie's 15 years of dedication to the position of Treasurer of the BTA. She has kept the BTA running smooth financially. Connie also cheerfully manages our Earth Share Ohio relationship.

TRUSTEE EMERITUS AWARD: *HERB HULLS*

For Herb's continued service to the BTA first as a member, then a Board Member and then 11 years as President. He shows his dedication to the BTA by maintaining and building Trail, feeding the Trail Crew with the BTA Chuck Wagon, and representing the BTA at festivals and meetings.

BOB PATON AWARD: *SUSIE HULLS*

Susie Hulls, who has been an active member since 1991. She maintains Trail in the Stockport section, builds Trail with the Trail Crew and leads hikes. Susie prepares the meals served from the Chuck Wagon: planning menus, buying the food and preparing meals before the Chuck Wagon ever hits the road.

APPRECIATION: *DOROTHY WILLIAMS*

A desk plaque of sincere appreciation was awarded to Mrs. Dorothy Williams of Dayton, Ohio for her significant financial contributions to the BTA Scholarship Fund for years. Thank you, Dorothy.

STAR AWARDS:

Byron and Jamie Guy – Old Man's Cave section supervisors who have worked diligently to improve the Trail, especially hard work after 2009's spring storms. They are continually improving the Trail on what could arguably be our most visible section.

Earl Garn – Trail Crew member extraordinaire, Earl comes out with just a few days notice and is ready to assist in whatever needs to be done

Beverly Starcher – Bev makes for years welcomed new BTA membership by managing membership packets. She's also a maintainer and a longtime Trail Crew member.

TRAIL CREW AWARDS

Bill Schultz was recognized for 1000 hours of Trail Crew work.

100 hour Awards: Devon Atkinson, Keith Brown, Les Weiderhammer and Gene Wimmer

30 hours Awards, the coveted Trail Crew works shirts: Estelle and Floyd Benner, Patti Cook, Eric Drescher, Amy Finn, Jim Gilkey, Byron Henry, and Jeff Smith.

BUCKEYE TRAIL FINISHERS

Dave and Kenny Janosko – Completed the BT (present length: 1400 miles, or 2253 km) in June of 2008. They started in January 2002, when Kenny was 10. This father-son team hiked and ran the Trail to spend more time together. They finished with an official time of 409 hours, 30 minutes, over 124 outings.

Chris McIntyre – Chris started the BT in September 2003 and finished December 2008. He got enthusiastic on his first hike when two things happened: he realized that there were forests and hills in Ohio; and he met some really great people. He says the BT's attraction is its variety—woods and villages, country roads, historical sites and right through big cities.



50th Anniversary Items for Sale in BTA Store

These new items have been added to the BTA Store in honor of the BTA's 50th Anniversary:

Please see the online store web page to order an item or download the Sales Catalog at www.buckeyetrail.org/onlinestore.html.



BTA 50TH ANNIVERSARY PATCH

Special Anniversary Design

3" Round

Member Price \$3.00

Non-Member Price \$3.50



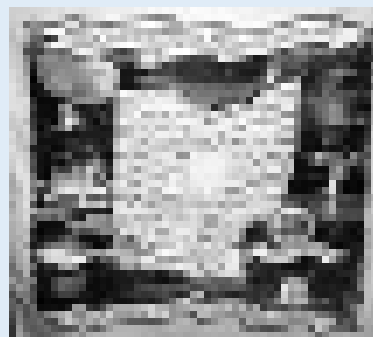
BTA 50TH ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRT

Large BT logo on front, BT map on back

Color: Athletic gray; Sizes: S, M, L, X,L XXL

Member Price \$10.00

Non-Member Price \$12.00



BTA 50TH ANNIVERSARY BANDANA

BTA Scenes – 21.5" x 21.5"

Member Price \$8.00

Non-Member Price \$9.00

Trail Adopter's Corner

Jim Sprague, Maintenance Supervisor

BTA's Golden Anniversary is in full progress. And some have wondered if the trail would be in the excellent condition for which we all hoped. So far, reports are good. BTA has received few complaints at info@buckeyetrail.org. Isn't that great news? Congratulations to all you Adopters who have worked so hard to keep your segment of the Buckeye Trail readily accessible.

Fortunately or unfortunately, depending upon your point of view, trail maintenance is never quite done. An Adopter always has a good reason to return to his/her trail to take care of at least one more item. By the time you receive this column, color will be returning to Ohio's woodlands. Leaf fall will not be far behind. I love to hike the woods like a youngster kicking the freshly fallen leaves to make them fly and crunch. With that attitude, I don't see many animals but that is a small price to pay for the pure joy of kicking leaves and making noise.

However, sometimes, what I do see is troublesome. For example—sometimes ditches, which have been dug along the trail in conjunction with culverts to drain wet areas, have become partially, or even totally, blocked with fallen branches and leaves. Some of the branches get there because passing hikers kick the branches from the trail and did not kick them quite far enough. Sometimes, clearing details leave deadfall in the ditches because they did not cut the debris back quite far enough from the trail. The Adopter should remove all of this debris from the drainage to keep water flowing away from the trail. The presence of a mud hole in the trail is the usual reason for a ditch along the uphill side of the trail. Keeping water off the tread will avoid recurrence of those nasty mud holes. The people who dug the ditch did not do it because it was fun. Somebody felt the need justified the work. Adopters should recognize and value the effort of their predecessors.

Another troublesome example is trail overgrown with tall grass or weeds. It is even more troubling when a well-defined tread can be seen or felt at ground level. This condition clearly shows both the presence of a trail that is used by many people before the surrounding herbage grew so tall and an Adopter who does not deal well with summer problems. There are many alibis for such behavior—lack of tools, lack of time, too hot, etc. But the fundamental responsibility of any Adopter is to Fix the Problem. That responsibility does not mean that he/she must actually do the work. It does mean that, if he/she cannot handle the problem alone, he/she must admit that fact and pass the issue on up the line, i.e., ask for help! With luck, the trail may lie within a Park or Forest whose management plan finds this trail important. In that case, help may come from the park or forest management. Increasingly however, responsibility falls on BTA to correct the problem.

Another troublesome example is recurrent across many trails, not just the BT. A probable answer has proved difficult for me to present in a convincing way. Let me try again “from the top.” The Trail Crew builds much well-benched trail on side slopes. Over time, the tread breaks down on the side of the tread away from the hill. One possible reason is the method used for tread construction. Many construction teams use the dirt excised from the

slope above the tread to build the outer tread, a method called half benching. Except on very steep slopes, the Trail Crew does use this method. Although poorly compacted tread of this type may actually slide down hill under a hiker's weight, in my view, if that was the primary reason for tread degradation, the action would stop or, at least, slow down significantly after a year or two. But it does not. Because the rate of tread degradation does not slow appreciably over time, I think that the primary reason lies elsewhere: People often walk on the outer edge of the tread. The evidence is plain. The compacted soil itself shows where hikers walk. On benched trail, that tends to be along the outer edge of the trail. A deeper question becomes, “Why do hikers walk on the outer edge of the trail?” The answer to this question is that hikers react much like horses to even small objects that visually intrude into their space. And those objects include all the weeds, shrubs, rocks and trees on the slope and, probably, even the slope itself. Being much closer, objects on the slope above the tread have far greater impact than objects on the slope below. It becomes very important that brush and weeds on the upslope side of the trail be cleared back for 3'–4'v from the tread. Similar stuff on the downslope side of the tread can be completely ignored until it intrudes into the tread space and actually scratches, trips or otherwise impedes the hiker. Usually, the worst that can happen is that the hiker will walk a little higher up the slope. Wouldn't that be a shame since that is where you want the hiker to walk anyway?

I had better let you get back on your way. May I leave you with one thought? Learn to listen to the trail. The trail and its immediate surroundings will tell you as an Adopter what should be done.

All Buckeye Trail Adopters please mark your calendar for the 4th Annual Adopter's Recognition Luncheon on Sunday, October 11. All Adopters who were signed up at any time during 2009 are eligible for this luncheon. The luncheon will take place at Harbor Hills Country Club in Hebron around noon. Complete details will be mailed to Adopters of record in September.

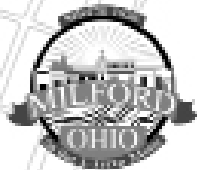


THE 4TH ANNUAL JUNCTION TRAIL FESTIVAL MILFORD, OH

"Join Us Where the Trails Meet"

September 26—27, 2009

Hikes
Bikes
Canoes
Music



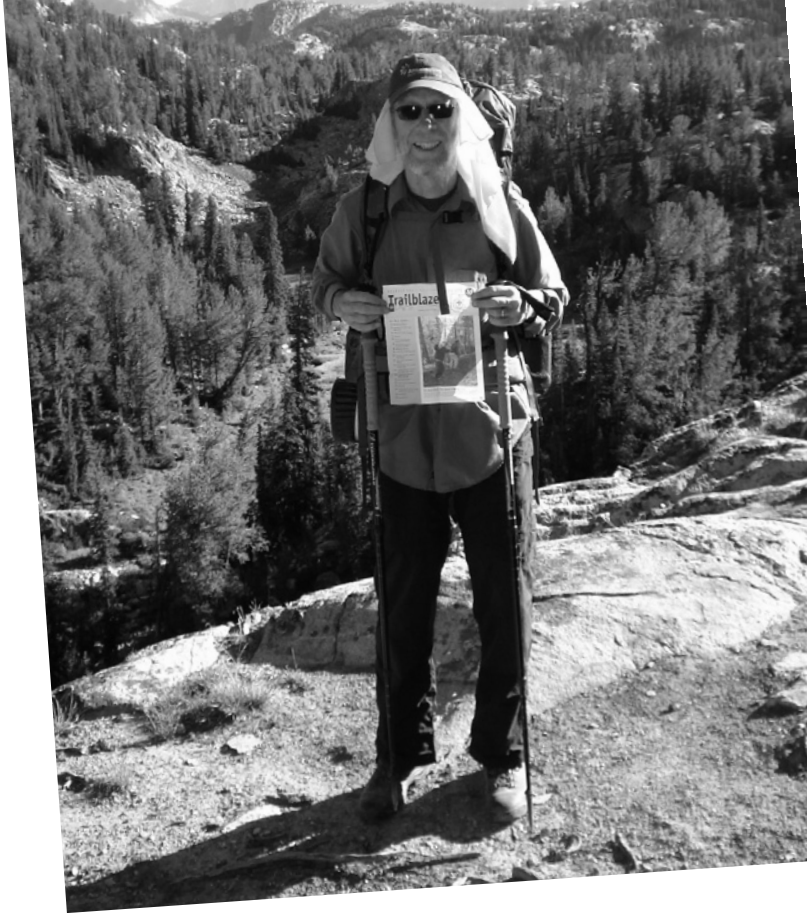
Eight of America's Long Distance Trails converge in Milford, Ohio. The 4th Annual Junction Trail Festival will celebrate the history and natural beauty of these trails.

& MORE



Check Our Website for Event Details and Updates

www.thejunctiontrailfest.org



Pat Hayes

BTA President Pat backpacking in Wyoming's Wind River Range in July. Pat says the mosquitoes they expected, the deep snowpack at high elevation they didn't.

HELLO BT!

Louisa Kreider

A brush with stardom: the Brady Bunch House in Studio City, CA in February, where Louisa went the day after her Jeopardy taping. "Seeing it was almost better than being on the show!"



We Are Finished!

Bob and Connie Pond

April 2nd, 2009 was a memorable day for the Ponds, for this was the date that Bob and Connie completed walking the 1400-plus miles of the Buckeye Trail. The memorial to the final hike was one of Connie's old hiking boots planted with hens and chickens from our garden. You might yet find it at the southern terminus sign in lovely Eden Park. That night in a favorite restaurant of ours in Covington, we raised a glass and toasted the completion of this long and arduous odyssey with the simple phrase, "We are finished."

It was a bittersweet moment in the odyssey that began more than ten years ago and many of our days since then have been spent thinking and planning for our next adventure. What possibly could we do next to surpass this long endeavor, which began at a time when we both retired only to find that we had very different plans for our "life after work?" While Bob was planning our future around ambitious world tours, I was looking forward to a quiet life tending to home, pets, and gardening.

After some stressful months while figuring out this rather subtle but difficult family dilemma, which we are sure other couples like ourselves have experienced, we took a hike on the Buckeye Trail. As a longtime member and previous board member of the BT, Bob had already maintained, backpacked, and day-hiked sections of the Trail with our son and friends of the Trail. While Connie, content to serve as treasurer of the BT, had not hiked or helped maintain the Trail much at all.

Our first hike came after a road trip to visit family in Akron. While driving back on busy I-77 we stopped in Bolivar to gas up and realized that we were really on the BT, which at that time was routed along SR 212. Connie suddenly came up with a solution to our family dilemma: We simply needed to hike the complete BT around the state. A series of day trips would quite possibly fulfill both of our needs and keep us closer to home, while providing us with a series of comparatively inexpensive mini-vacations. Thus began our 10-year odyssey of travels within Ohio.

During the following two years we hiked 377 miles. Usually we took two cars, spotting one car at the beginning and one at the end of the planned walk. Connie insisted that our boxer dog, Roscoe, be included. The dog limited our choice of motels, but we enjoyed local dining experiences. By October 1999, we had made 37 trips. A trip consisted of either one or two day-hikes, so you can see that we really took our time.

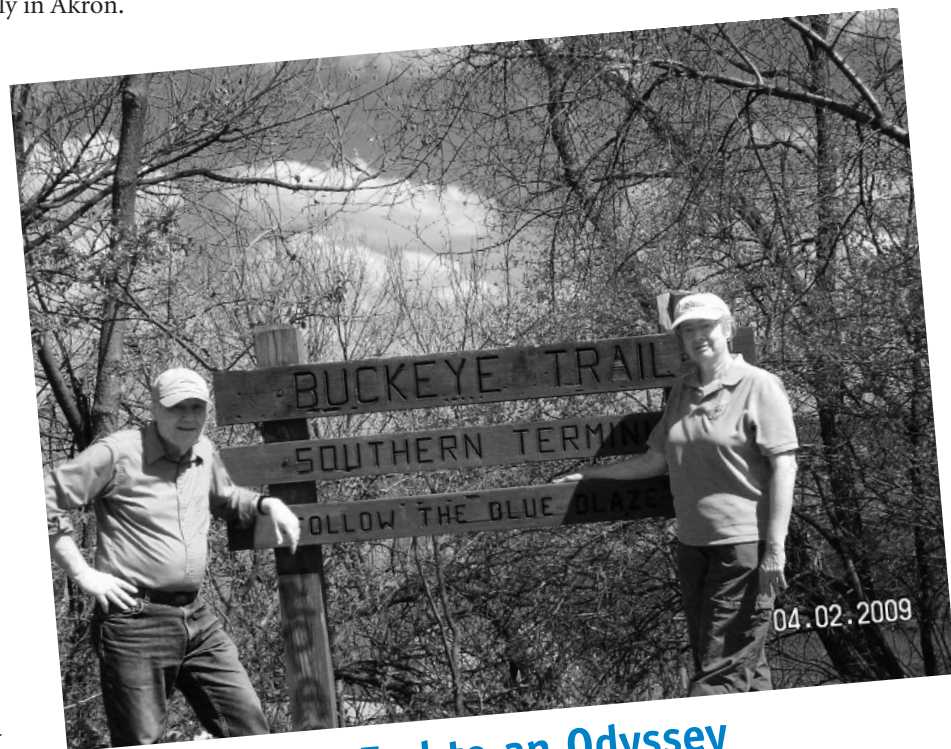
Our initial vision for the hike was to go in a continuous direction, Bolivar to Bolivar. But this was not to be. Heading south at first, by early 1999 we were in Scioto Trails State Park, but because of family con-

cerns, we found ourselves walking north from Bolivar in order to visit more with Connie's Dad, an octogenarian.

In early 2000, Bob began working on a guidebook to the Buckeye Trail, Follow the Blue Blazes. He was traveling around Ohio researching the BT and scouting circuit hikes along the Trail—as well as writing. These efforts consumed our lives for the next three years and the trip around Ohio was put on hold. In October 2002, we began again. We started at Crystal Springs with a new boxer, Toby. Roscoe had earned BT patches up to 500K, and now I could start over with Toby. We spent the next year and a half on the Little Loop. We made 13 trips to northern Ohio and hiked two to three days each time. We stayed at my dad's house so we had plenty of time to visit and the lodging was free. During these trips, we only had to drive one car, for his was available, so that was a real savings for us. In October 2004, the Little Loop was finished.

After Dad's death, we could walk in either direction, making sure to pick up from where we last finished. Connie kept great logs of each trip which were included in an album with Bob's photos.

From then until April 2009, we hiked north, south, and west always beginning from a previous ending spot. In late 2007, Dana Zintek informed us that we also had to walk the "Stupid Loop" from Belle Valley to near Chillicothe in order to earn our patches.



A Lovely Way End to an Odyssey

Connie and Bob saved Southern Terminus hike to the end.

End of The Trail

Dana Zintek

This issue we hear from two hikers from New Hampshire who through hiked the BT.

HIKER: Peter W. Cottrell & Joyce G. Cottrell

DATE STARTED: May 20, 2009

DATE FINISHED: August 10, 2009

MILEAGE OF BT WHEN HIKE*: 1400+

**mileages vary because of reroutes and improvements*

Peter and Joyce hiked the entire 6800-mile American Discovery Trail and made many friends on the stretch through Ohio that they thought, "Why not. Let's hike complete Buckeye Trail during the 50th anniversary." They really enjoyed sharing their time with the BTA and their friends, families and all the people along the trail. They saw firsthand the need of the trail to have more maintainers in certain areas along the state. They enjoyed the diversity and beauty of Ohio. "A perfectly fantastic journey that just needs a little house work."



In Memoriam

Connie's boot was buried with hens and chicks in honor of the Pond's Circuit Hike.

We had a misimpression that because the Marietta loop was not in existence when we started walking we were somehow exempt. Not to be. But as luck would have it, Gary Williams, who lives in the middle of the loop and is an historian and local BT maintenance supervisor agreed to be a guide. He hiked with us when he could and otherwise advised us on roads to take to starting points, while often picking us up at the other end. This eliminated the need for the second car. The "Stupid Loop" is so named for two reasons. Firstly, for the many trail difficulties with steep downhills and subsequent uphill along with narrow, slanted or unbenched, pathways. Secondly, because it is the hardest section to navigate by car, for often the roads walked are not drivable, and to get from one end of a hike to the other by car means many miles of driving. Once, when we were getting ready to do an off-road section, Gary remarked, "I can't in all good conscience send you out there alone." Without his efforts, we would "be lost forever" in the Stupid Loop.

We purposely saved the hike from Mariemont to Eden Park for our last walk. We had a beautiful sunny April day and the urban walk could not have been more perfect.

To be continued in the Next issue: Neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow....

BTeasers

Pat Hayes

Q What *Trailblazer* issue had a front cover photo that switched identities between Lisa Daiber and Myrna Seddon and Rich Pfeiffer and Mike Shumway?

A *Trailblazer* volume 29, Number 5, issue 126, October 1996

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
or check www.buckeyetrail.org*

Attention BTA Members!

THE BUCKEYE TRAIL NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Buckeye Trail Association, Inc. has purchased 190 acres in Vinton County just south of the Hocking Hills region to protect 3 miles of beautiful off-road trail. The Buckeye Trail Crew has worked long hard hours over the last five years building this trail. The property and Trail could have been lost to another buyer for development if we had not stepped forward; it would have meant that Buckeye Trail hikers would be back to walking a busy road.

The purchase provides several opportunities. First, it provides the ability to place a permanent trail covenant or restriction on the property. Secondly—and maybe more importantly—it protects trail that is part of a larger vision for a fully protected corridor of off-road Buckeye Trail between Hocking Hills State Park and Tar Hollow State Forest. It also allows for the construction of a backpack shelter for use by any long-distance hikers.

The plan for the property once the trail covenant or restriction and backpack shelter are in place is to resell it to recoup most of our investment.

The BTA will use Trail Preservation Funds to secure the property, but needs to raise \$100,000.00 by November 30, 2009 to complete the purchase. We are offering you, BTA members, two options for supporting this effort:

1. The BTA is a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization. Tax-deductible donations can be made out to Buckeye Trail Association, Inc. with Trail Preservation Fund on the check memo line.
2. The BTA is starting a “Trail Investor Loan Program.” Any investor may submit an amount of money, starting with a minimum of \$5,000.00. The BTA will use this money for the purchase of the property. After all the improvements (trail covenant/restriction and shelter) are completed, and the property is sold, the investor will receive his/her money back. Please note these important points of this program: it may take several years to accomplish the purchase, improvements, and resale; the investor will receive no interest on the money “loaned”, and the investor retains no property rights. If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact the BTA via e-mail at trail-investor@buckeyetrail.org or by US mail at the address below.

All checks/requests should be mailed to: Trail Preservation Fund, Buckeye Trail Association, Inc.; PO Box 254, Worthington OH 43085.

If you have any questions about this plea, feel free to contact Pat Hayes at president@buckeyetrail.org or Andrew Bashaw at director@buckeyetrail.org or the Trail Preservation Committee at trail-investor@buckeyetrail.org.

The BTA thanks you for helping to preserve your Trail.

BTA Funds Report

William T. Schultz, Chairman

TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND MAY–JULY 2009

Jim Bissell
Phyllis Devlin
Gene and Jeanette De Simone
K. M. Grigus
Susan Fetzer
Donald Chubb
Ken and Judy Smith
Kathleen Fix
Charles Briggs
Edward McCabe
Dale Lewison
Cheryl Farley
G. W. Reed
Richard E. Wiegandt
Herman and Mary Williams in memory of Joy Hintz

You might like to pledge a few cents for every hour the Trail Crew works each year as a way to donate to the **BTA's Trail Preservation Fund**. 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 to preserve the Buckeye Trail in the *Trailblazer*.

GENERAL FUND APRIL 1–JUNE 30, 2009

Rick & Juanita Adamson
Tony & Pat Fiscarelli
Mary Anne Kamph
FM Global Foundation on matching gift
from Richard Weigandt
Donald & Nancy Chubb

BARN APRIL 1–JUNE 30, 2009

Rick & Juanita Adamson

SCHOLARSHIP APRIL 1–JUNE 30, 2009

Rick & Juanita Adamson
Dorothy Williams

DONATION TO THE BTA CHUCK WAGON

Pete & Joyce Cottrell

Highlights of the BTA Board Meetings

May 30, 2009

STATE TRAIL COORDINATOR—RICK ADAMSON

- On March 30, 75 students and teachers from Pettisville High School built 0.75 mile of trail on the Miami-Erie Canal Towpath in the Defiance Section.
- A section of the BT that is the northern part of Massillon will be rerouted to the Ohio-Erie Canal Towpath.
- 23 volunteers had put in 550 hours of volunteer work at the Pike Lake work party. 35-40 miles of the BT will be certified by the NCT in 2009. The best place to purchase the BT sky blue paint is at Lowes.
- The BTA needs to have at least 12 trained sawyers. There will be an 8-hour course scheduled on a Saturday sometime in the future. CPR and first aid training are required before being certified as a sawyer.

SHOWS AND EXHIBITS – LIZ MCQUAID

- The Gear Fest will be on October 3 at Eastwood Metro Park near Wright Patterson AFB.
- The kiosk, a memorial to Emily Gregor, will be put up in Brecksville at the end of August.
- The BTA had participated in Earth Day events in Medina, Penitentiary Glen, Cincinnati, Urbana, and Wright Patterson.

Annual Meeting June 14, 2009

MAINTAINERS—JIM SPRAGUE

- If a maintainer comes across a downed tree on their section of Trail, let Garry Dill know so that the proper help can be provided if it is needed.
- There are forms on the computer for maintainers to fill in their hours.

BTA BARN—RUSS JOHNSON

- One dorm is almost finished; bunks will be built in the dorms. The BTA Barn Picnic will be on July 11.

SHOWS AND EXHIBITS—LIZ MCQUAID

- BTA will be at the Gear Fest October 23.
- The Trail Junction Festival in Milford is September 26. The Friends of Shelby County Parks will have a hog roast September 26.
- Contact Liz McQuaid, dreamhikeream@aol.com, if you're interested in representing the BTA at a booth at any festival, or if you know of any festival where the BTA could have a presence.

WALK WITH THE ANCIENTS—BOB POND

- Bob Pond will help lead the "Walk with the Ancients," a pilgrimage/hike along the route of the Great Hopewell Road from Chillicothe to Newark from October 9 through 17

MAC COMMITTEE—JOHN RETHMAN

- The next trip will be backpacking from September 12-19 on the Northville-Placid Trail in the High Peaks Area of the Adirondacks in New York State.
- 12 people had participated on the backpacking trip on the Buckeye Trail in May.

After 2009 Annual Business Meeting

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

Executive Board: Pat Hayes-President, Greg Wisniewski-Vice President, Ruth Brown-Secretary, and Connie Pond-Treasurer.

REIMBURSEMENT OF SALES TAXES

BTA approved reimbursing sales tax for purchases under \$100 to people who make purchases for the BTA.

BTA WEB PAGE – MARY HAYES

The trail alert page on the web site now links directly to the Section by Section page.

TRAIL JUNCTION FESTIVAL

The Trail Junction Festival will be on September 26 in Milford. BTA will give \$250 for a sponsorship at the festival.

Conference Call July 29, 2009

PROPERTY PURCHASE

- The purpose of the conference call meeting was for the Board to decide whether the BTA should go forward with the purchase of 190 acres of the Riddle Forest Products property in Vinton County. The motion passed with 12 yes votes and 3 nays to purchase. Purchase is funded with BTA monies; the remaining funds will be raised by donations and fund raisers.



MAC Committee

John Rethman

This year the MAC committee celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Buckeye Trail by backpacking 60 miles of the trail. We hiked from Stockport to Shawnee. The weather on this trip in late April started in the 90's and cooled down to seasonal temperatures with some rain. It was about half road walking and half off road in the Wayne National Forest, Burr Oak State Park, and private property. We had 12 people participate on this trip, some arriving late, others leaving early—one of the beauties and complexities of planning one of these trips.

One of my biggest assets of the trip was Trail Angel Jay Halowick volunteering to help shuttle hikers to and from camp, setting up a hot shower and buying pizza for the group.

One of the highlights of the trip was hiking through Burr Oak State Park. It took forever—not because of rugged hills or rough terrain, but the wildflowers that time of year were spectacular. We took a small detour to see Buckeye Cave. When we hiked past the state park lodge around noon, the hamburgers and cold iced tea were calling my name.

I don't think the Buckeye Trail was designed to be backpacked, but with a little help from Trail-friendly people, it can be done. I want to thank the Stockport Mill restaurant and Andrew Bashaw for letting us park cars in a safe area, and the owners of the three privately owned properties who let us camp and provided clean water. Konkle's property, incidentally, is now owned by a Trail-friendly family, the Shaws of Shaws' Orchard and Smokerise Campground.

The fall MAC trip will be the Adirondacks in upper New York in September 12-19.

A Sincere Thanks to Roy Fairfield

Dear Pat Hayes.

I just finished reading the Summer *TRAILBLAZER* and continue to be amazed by all that you and many others have accomplished during the fifty years since a small band of “true believers” organized in 1958 to turn the dream into a reality.

I was sorry to be unable to make the 50th Anniversary celebration despite Bob Pond's yeoman effort to get me to attend. I simply am not in any physical condition to do much traveling these days as I start my nineties. But I continue to give minor membership to the Buckeye, Appalachian, Eastern and Saco Bay Trails although my income as a retired professor is not all that great.

I'm enclosing a \$50 check as a symbolic way of celebrating the Buckeye's half-century anniversary. Please give my best to Bob Pond and anybody else who may have been contributing sweat equity in those early years.

Congratulations and continuing effort!

Sincerely,

Roy P. Fairfield,

First President Buckeye Trail, 1958–64

Editor's note: Mr. Fairfield lives in Biddeford, Maine.

Welcome New Members!

Bev and Jerry Starcher

David Whitsett	Atwater
Eric Barton	Centerville
Rebecca Bauer	Waverly
Floyd and Estelle Benner	Louisville, KY
Helen Bowen	Columbus
Margaret Clark	Georgetown
David Edgington	Circleville
Ryan Forman	Cleveland Heights
Gary Gavlak	Brunswick
Margaret Gursky	Mineral City
Lon and Jan Hayes	Jackson
Thomas Hinrichs	Lake Milton
Mary Louise Hutson	Worthington
David Johnson and Family	Lebanon
Gregory Krashoc	Painesville
David L:ark	Ravenna
Jim Legg and Family	Columbus
Bob Litt and Family	Westerville
Edward McCabe	Marysville
James Meikle and Family	New Albany
Robin Miller and Family	Granville
Leonard Monnin	Russia
Kathleen Novicki	Mason
Kenneth Okken	Quitman, GA
Dave Perry and Family	Columbus
Cynthia Petrie and Family	Lancaster
Dorothy Pritchard and Family	Columbus
Roger Remec and Family	Whitehill
Donald Ross and Family	Brunswick
David Rowe and Family	Shaker Heights
James and Marsha Russell	Lancaster
Stephen and Avery Sheer	Hudson
Ken and Judy Smith	Medina
Mary Sturgis and Family	Clarksville
James Weidaw	Granville
Tiffany Whetzel and Family	London
Peter and Faith Whitworth	Sagamore Hills
Paul Wilczenski and Family	Garfield Heights
Joseph Wonsetler	Swanton

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 or 937-289-2481; or send an email to 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

BRAMBLE #51

by Dana Zintek

1. Weekend water: **SUNDAY CREEK**
2. N.F. wayside: **LANE FARM**
3. Salt mine: **MORTON**
4. Mi on map: **MILES**



*What did the heads of state have
when they thought they were at the
top of the mountain?*

A FALSE SUMMIT

*Winner: Moe Stutler
Akron, OH*

BRAMBLE #52

by Dana Zintek

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

For a chance to win the Green Mountain Club's book *A Century
in the Mountains: Celebrating Vermont's Long Trail*

Send your answers to:

Dana Zintek

2369 Suncrest Drive

Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

Answers must be postmarked by November 1, 2009.

1. Site to sight the Ohio

PEKNREAD

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

2. Manmade chasm

PEEDUCT

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

3. East branch impounds this

YOUACHAG

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

4. Home of Lillian Gish

MISSNOLLA

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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



What did the tired hiker's
backpack become?

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Buckeye Trail Association

P.O. Box 254
Worthington, Ohio 43085

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