



Trailblazer



WINTER 2009 VOLUME 42 NO. 4



IN THIS ISSUE...

- 2 BTA Bits and Pieces
- 3 On the Trail
- 4 Schedule of Hikes & Events
- 6 A Call for BTA Volunteers
- 7 Neither Rain, nor Sleet,
nor Snow
- 8 Shrews, Moles, Voles, Mice and
a Lemming or . . . *Look What
the Cat Drug In*
- 9 Hello BT!
- 10 A Week in the Mountains—
MAC Trip to the Adirondacks
- 11 Another Fine Title
- 12 Thank You, BTA Members,
for Supporting the BTA's Trail
Preservation Efforts! *And It's
Not Too Late!*
- 13 Trail Preservation Fund
- 13 BTA Funds Report
- 14 Why I Hike and Other
Ruminations on Recent
Criticisms of the Bowerston
Section
- 15 New Trail in SE Ohio
- 16 Silent Night?
- 17 Fall is the Season of Festivals
- 18 BTA Members at the NCT
Annual Conference
- 18 Welcome New Members!
- 19 Highlights of the BTA Board
Meeting—Barn Retreat



A Result of the BTA's Trail Preservation Fund

A rock outcropping on the Pretty Run property along the Buckeye Trail in Vinton County. The BTA's Trail Preservation Fund helped purchase this beautiful property, 190 acres called Pretty Run, to help preserve existing Buckeye Trail. 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. See story on page 12.

BTA Bits and Pieces

Pat Hayes, BTA President

The Buckeye Trail's 50th Anniversary events are winding down after a very busy year. By the time you read this, all the scheduled trail building, repair, and maintenance for 2009 will have been performed. That is not to say all the trail work that needs to be done has been done. We have in fact, already scheduled next year's work and maintenance parties. As you might expect, with over 1440 miles of trail, the work is never done, even if we have been at it for 50 years. Please consider adopting a piece of the Trail or joining us at one of our maintenance weekends or five-day work parties. Check our web site for information on how to help.

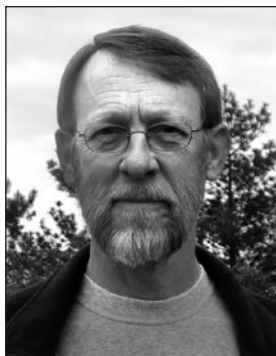
There are still a couple of NE Ohio day hikes scheduled for the remainder of the year, one in November and one in December. The last official 50th Anniversary event this year will be a December 5th presentation on the history of the BT and a three-mile hike along the Mad River in the Troy section. This event is hosted by Five Rivers MetroParks Outdoor Recreation Dept. and Wright State University's Outdoor Resource Center.

This December, Andrew Bashaw will be in his fifth month as the BTA's new Executive Director. Andrew is confirming that our decision to hire him was a good one. He has already made several proposals to move the BTA in a direction that will make us stronger. Andrew worked very hard to secure a deal with Riddle Forest Products to purchase the 190-acre Pretty Run property in Vinton County to help preserve existing Buckeye Trail. 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. After securing the deal with Riddle Forest Products, Andrew applied for and received a low interest loan from the Conservation Fund's Land Trust Loan Program. This loan will allow us to secure title to the Pretty Run property on December 30 without completely depleting our Trail Preservation Fund.

Our second BTA backpacking trip this year was during September in the Adirondacks State Park in New York. Ten BTA members hiked a portion of the Northville-Placid Trail from Lake Durant to Lake Placid over trail that was well marked except in a few places where beavers had built dams and the resulting beaver pond had backed up and covered the trail. The weather was generally good, only encountering rain on the last day. It is a beautiful area that proves there is more to New York than New York City.

Here is one last item to illustrate why the best of ideas doesn't always work out. At the September 26th Junction Trail Festival in Milford, Fred Humphries of Fred's Confections LLC was selling his handmade Buckeyes candy as a way to help celebrate the BTA's 50th Anniversary. Fred had made 100 containers, each holding four large Buckeyes which he was selling for \$5 each with \$1 going to the BTA. The BTA made \$31 off of Fred's candy and I thought with the GearFest Outdoor Recreation event scheduled for the following weekend in Dayton, I could sell the rest of the Buckeyes there. I have painfully learned the importance of a good marketing strategy. Unless someone comes up with a good idea for selling the rest of the Buckeyes, you may be receiving a container for Christmas.

Once again, I want to thank the 50th Anniversary Committee and all the 50th hike organizers for all their hard work this year in making our Golden Anniversary a success.



Trailblazer

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

Lisa Daiber
Editor

Mary Hayes
Associate Editor

Darlene Karoly
Production

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

Address for submissions
and advertising inquiries:

Lisa Daiber
2369 Suncrest Drive
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221
trailblazer@buckeyetrail.org

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.



B T A S T A F F

Dorothy Anson
Mail Secretary

Ruth Brown, Mary Hamilton
Annual Meeting

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

Kathy Hamilton
Grants

Jay Holwick, Dana Zintek
Sales Managers

Mary Hayes
Webmaster

Thomas Horvath
Legal Counsel

Elmo Layman
Scholarship Fund

Liz McQuaid
Staff Coordinator

Steve Miller
Computer Services Coordinator

Constance Pond
Statutory Agent

Gary Williams
Publicity

William T. Schultz
Trail Preservation Fund

Jim Sprague
Maintenance Supervisor

Beverly Starcher
Membership Secretary

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

S T A T E

Jim Runk
Rick Adamson
Jack Watkins

N O R T H E A S T
VACANT

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

S O U T H E A S T
VACANT

S O U T H W E S T
Jim Runk

N O R T H W E S T
David Stilwell

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

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

O F F I C E R S

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

T R U S T E E S

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



On the Trail

Andrew Bashaw, Executive Director
director@buckeyetrail.org, 740-394-2008

Who's trail is it anyway? If you're reading this most likely you are a Buckeye Trail Association member, and odds are that if cut, you bleed Buckeye Blue. The Buckeye Trail Association has just under 1,000 members, with a large portion that are actively out building, maintaining, and hiking the Buckeye Trail. You are the folks that under-

stand the vision of the Buckeye Trail Association, to build, maintain and enjoy a 1,440 mile hiking trail that connects the four corners of Ohio. Even those of you who do not make it out to the trail itself as often as you may like understand and support the important work that the BTA is doing on behalf of those that share that vision. Consider that 1,000 members is a great number, while at the same time one of our most popular sections of the trail, the Old Man's Cave area of Hocking Hills State Park, receives over two million visitors annually, and that the population of Ohio in general is around 11.5 million. Our membership is undoubtedly a small portion of the people who benefit from the trails existence. You know as well as I that we are not developing the Buckeye Trail just for ourselves but for all Ohioans and our visitors, many of whom aren't aware of the Buckeye Trail and the BTA.

Who are these people? Who cares about the Buckeye Trail? Many find themselves out in the woods on their local trail, perhaps within their favorite state park or forest, or along the sidewalk through their community and they get used to seeing those blue blazes on tree trunks without question. These folks include day hikers, overnight campers and through hikers but there is a broader audience as well. Hunters, amateur nature photographers, mushroom hunters, wildflower enthusiasts, geocachers, folks out walking, hiking and running for their health, history buffs that use the trail to access the old stone foundation, the canal towpath, the scene of a revolutionary war battle, students out for an environmental education class, even those walking down the street to their local hardware store are all using and appreciating the Buckeye Trail. All of these people and more care about the Buckeye Trail.

The BTA and its partners are providing a great resource for millions by building and maintaining a trail that connects the best of Ohio together in one sinuous path. Do we want more members? Do we want more volunteers? Sure, we'd love the support and the help! Are you involved in any of the activities above, perhaps involved in an organization devoted specifically to one or more of these activities? Do you consider yourself a partner in the development of one of Ohio's greatest ideas?

The Buckeye Trail is bigger than the Buckeye Trail Association alone. We could not do what we do without great partners along the trail, from volunteers to land management agencies. As we take a peek to the future completion of the trail it is important that we look to form stronger partnerships and foster new ones. You can help us in this endeavor, because you are in touch with local resources and assets in your community. Would you be willing to volunteer on the trail in 2010, or help organize a local group to hold an activity on the trail that helps improve or highlight the trail in your community? If you are involved with an educational institution, a conservation organization, a trail user group, or a volunteer group there is a place for you on the trail. If you think your group would like to support the vision of the Buckeye Trail in 2010 feel free to contact me to develop an idea into a reality. Put your mind to the future of the Buckeye Trail as winter sets in, and consider what your role will be in extending and improving the trail and experience in your corner of Ohio.



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.

DECEMBER

December 5 BTA 50th Anniversary Presentation and Section Hike, Troy Section.

Saturday 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Meet at 224 N. St. Clair St. Dayton, OH 45402. Help celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the 1444 mile Buckeye Trail with a talk on the history of the BTA by President Pat Hayes with images from along the trail. The hike follows the presentation and is a 3-mile hike on the Buckeye Trail along the Mad River from RiverScape MetroPark to Eastwood MetroPark where an anniversary cake and hot chocolate will await before you are shuttled back to RiverScape MetroPark. Dress for the weather and bring a snack. All participants will receive a 50th Anniversary Patch. Hosted by Five Rivers MetroParks Outdoor Recreation Dept. and Wright State University's Outdoor Resource Center. Reservations Requested, but walk ins welcome.

Contact: Call Brent Anslinger, 937-277-4374 for more information or to make reservations.

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

December 12 NE Ohio BTA Group Annual Soup Sampler. 10:00 a.m. at the Jones'. Hike first, feast on everyone's soups after.

Contact: Jones, 330-467-4338 for directions and suggestions.

JANUARY

January 2 BTA/Tri-State Hiking Club Hike, Fort Hill State Memorial. Leave at 11:15 from the large parking lot at Fort Hill. Hike will occur unless there are severe weather conditions. Hike should take 2–3 hours. We

will hike on the Fort, Deer, and Gorge trails, total 5 miles along the Buckeye Trail. We will see Hopewell earthworks, rock outcroppings, and some small arches. There will be two steep hills to tackle, and the Gorge Trail can be slippery at times, so be certain to wear sturdy hiking boots. Wear layers and bring water. Contact: Darryl Smith, preds81@yahoo.com.

January 2–3 MAC New Year's Campout at Fort Hill State Memorial.

Leave 10:00 a.m. This is one of my favorite places to hike. It's on the Buckeye Trail but has many wonderful and scenic trails of its own.

Camping: Fort Hill has an easy to get to parking lot for campers and RVs, even in inclement weather. It has a flat area for tents and a shelter with no fireplace. Bring something to share with your friends and dress appropriately for the weather. There are no local restaurants, so bring food for breakfast, lunch, and supper. There is no problem if you camp Friday evening.

Directions: Fort Hill is on page 77 of the Ohio Gazetteer off SR-41 between US-50 and SR-32.

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

FEBRUARY

February 6 NE Ohio BTA Group, Findley State Park. Saturday: 10:00 a.m. Annual winter walk at Findley State Park.

Contact: Findley State Park, <http://www.findleystatepark.org> or 440-647-5749 for more information.

MARCH

March 13 BTA Board Meeting, Wright State University. 10:00 a.m. Note location: Wright State University in Dayton. Contact: Pat Hayes, president@buckeyetrail.org

March 27–31 Work Party, BTA Barn. Saturday-Wednesday: Bring your own food. Contact: Rick Adamson, rickbta@gmail.com.

APRIL

April 10–14 Work Party, West Branch State Park, Mogadore section. *Chuck Wagon Event* Saturday–Wednesday: Make your reservations early for the Chuck Wagon. The food is FREE and is available to the first 25 who make reservations with Susie and Herb Hulls at hulls@frognet.net or 740-585-2603. Contact: Rick Adamson, rickbta@gmail.com.

April 24–25 Maintenance Weekend. Location to be determined. Contact: Rick Adamson, rickbta@gmail.com

MAY

May 1–5 BTA Work Party, Wolf Run State Park. *Chuck Wagon Event* Saturday–Wednesday: Make your reservations early for the Chuck Wagon. The food is FREE and is available to the first 25 who make reservations with Susie and Herb Hulls at hulls@frognet.net or 740-585-2603. Contact: Rick Adamson at rickbta@gmail.com.

May 15–16 Maintenance Weekend, Fort Hill State Memorial. Saturday-Sunday: Fort Hill. Contact: Rick Adamson, rickbta@gmail.com.

May 10–16 Member's Activity Committee (MAC) trip, Shawnee and Sinking Springs sections. Backpack the Buckeye Trail. Hike through Davis Memorial and Fort Hill. We will camp at one of our newest properties near Wamsley, a new primitive area on the Good Seed Farm and near Serpent Mound. We will backpack approx 60 miles.

Leave Monday May 10 at 10:00 a.m. from the trailhead parking lot on SR 125, point 17 of the Shawnee section; clean up and dine out on Saturday May 15.

This is a M.A.C. Committee Hike members \$10.00 Non Members \$30.00. Deadline is April 11. Contact: John Rethman, ilovehiking3@embarqmail.com, 513-398-9527.

May 22 BTA Board Meeting at Command Alcon Columbus. Saturday 10:00 am. Contact: Pat Hayes, president@buckeyetrail.org.

JUNE

June 2–6 Work Party, Grand Rapids. Bring your own food. Contact: Rick Adamson, rickbta@gmail.com.

June 11–13 BTA 2010 Annual Meeting, Hocking College in Nelsonville. Mark your calendars now for BTA's 51st Annual Meeting in the beautiful hills of Southeast Ohio. Notice the change of location as it was previously published in the last Trailblazer. Hiking, biking, and canoeing along with presentations and programs. Look for information and reg-

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

istration in the Spring 2010 Trailblazer and on the BTA website in December.

June 26–27 Maintenance Weekend
Location: TBD. Contact: Rick Adamson at rickbta@gmail.com

AUGUST

August 28–29 BTA Board Annual Retreat, BTA Barn. Contact: president@buckeyetrail.org

SEPTEMBER

September 11–12 Maintenance Weekend, Burr Oak State Park. Contact: Rick Adamson, rickbta@gmail.com.

September 11–18 Member's Activity Committee (MAC) trip. Location TBD. Contact: John Rethman at 513-398-9527 or email at ilovehiking3@embarqmail.com

September 25–29 BTA Work Party, AEP. *Chuck Wagon Event* Saturday-Wednesday: Make your reservations early for the Chuck Wagon. The food is FREE and is available to the first 25 who make reservations with Susie and Herb Hulls at hulls@frognet.net or 740-585-2603. Contact: Rick Adamson at rickbta@gmail.com.

OCTOBER

October 9–10 Maintenance Weekend. Location TBD. Contact: Rick Adamson, rickbta@gmail.com.

October 16–20 BTA Work Party, Wolf Run State Park. *Chuck Wagon Event* This is a chuck wagon event so make your reservations early. The food is FREE and is available to the first 25 who make reservations at 740-585-2603 or with Susie or Herb Hulls at hulls@frognet.net. Contact: Rick Adamson, rickbta@gmail.com

October 30–31 Maintenance Weekend, Fort Hill State Memorial. Contact: Rick Adamson, rickbta@gmail.com.

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

A Call for BTA Volunteers

We are basically an all-volunteer organization with most of the effort going toward the building and maintaining of the Buckeye Trail. I know that we never forget the folks who work more behind the scenes (including the editor of the *Trailblazer*) but since becoming the volunteer coordinator, I have come to realize that we do not really ask for help from all the people who have skills we desperately need but who do not have the physical ability and/or time to participate in trail-building or maintaining. I do not pretend to know what skills are out there but if you will tell me what you can and like to do I will find a job for you. We need people to prepare and give presentations on the Trail, photographers to take pictures for those presentations, people to build paint kits, grant writers, and many other things that I cannot think of sitting here.

Contact me by e-mail then321elm@att.net or mail:

Garry Dill
923 Augusta Glen Drive
Columbus, OH 43235

Allow me some time to work on it (remember I am a volunteer too) and I am sure I can find a job for you.

2010 BTA Annual Meeting June 11–13, Geneva Hills Camp in Lancaster

Nestled in the foothills of Hocking Hills, Geneva Hills Camp is a family managed, Christian based camp, located on the southern end of Lancaster near Sugar Grove. The 342-acre camp is in its 50th year of service and has over 10 miles of trails with cliffs, caves and rock formations and is close to hiking trails in Hocking Hills, biking at Hocking College, and Wahkeena Nature Preserve. They offer several options for overnight stays including Geneva Lodge, Frontier Lodge and camping areas.

Celebrate the Buckeye Trail Association's glorious past and limitless future at Geneva Hills June 11-13.

Neither Rain, nor Sleet, nor Snow

This is the second installment of Bob and Connie Pond's odyssey—our travels around Ohio on the Buckeye Trail or BT.

We seldom hiked in the summer months because of the heat and the many summer commitments that all of us who live in the north seem to get caught up in—such as: gardens, grass, golf, and family events. We did not usually avoid cold, but in December 2008, we sure wished we had. We drove to Defiance and did a city/road walk. The temperature was in the low 30s with a light breeze. We enjoyed Defiance and the walk along the confluence of Auglaize and Miami rivers. The road walk along S.R. 424 was memorable, but one we will save for an article titled “Places the BT Should Not Be.”

The next day at breakfast, the temperature was 14 degrees and the wind chill was below zero in the flatlands of that area. To make matters worse deer season surprised us, not because we were ignorant of it being in effect, but we did not think that a road walk would be dangerous. *WRONG!* Never hike during deer season unless you are suicidal.

We started this hike south of a small village of Junction. It was so named because it is where the Wabash & Erie and the Miami & Erie canals intersected. A small park is being established to commemorate this historic area. As we hiked, we walked really fast to escape the wind, cold and chance of bullets. In the one off-road section (posted “No Hunting”), we came upon two orange-garbed hunters: one with a gun and one trying to scare out the prey. Needless to say, we made tracks out to the road. Thankfully, the last stretch was near the Defiance Landfill. We figured there would not be deer hunters there. We made up for this brutal experience by having dinner at a great Mexican restaurant in Napoleon with Greg Wisnieski and his wife Becky. We reflected upon our stupidity at going on the BT during deer-gun season.

Paulding County's Canal Confluence

Sign in Junction, Ohio—the junction of the Miami & Erie and Wabash & Erie canals

RAIN

On a rather warm 50-degree February day in 2006 we began a three-day hike in the Fairborn area. We had a spot car in Yellow Springs and began from our other car in Fairborn. The weather report was for a 30% chance of rain later that day and we did not take our small “tote” umbrellas that fit in our packs and really help to keep us dry in rain. About 1/4-mile into the walk it started drizzling. We stopped and contemplated a return to the car for the umbrellas. But, with only a 30% chance, we decided to take the odds. A mile later, the rain really started coming down. I picked up plastic shopping bags and used them as head gear. A mile later, Bob questioned “where are we?” He expected a look at the map. My response was “I don't know about you, but I am halfway to soaking wet.” Like the rain, the temperature continued to come down. By the time we reached Yellow Springs we were wet and cold to the bone. As we entered town, the most treasured of sights—a laundromat.

Fortunately, our dry clothing was in the spot car in Yellow Springs. We quickly drove back to the laundromat we had passed on the hike, put on dry clothing, deposited the wet in a dryer and left for Ye Olde Trail Tavern to reflect upon the day's adventure.





Sometimes, a Munitions Factory Can be Very Comforting . . .

Historic Peter's Cartridge Co. on Little Miami Scenic River

SLEET

Upon reflection, it seems that often, the bad weather did not just happen upon us. Rather, because of plans already made or distances already traveled, we plowed ahead. Such was the case on a December 2005 walk along the Miami & Erie Canal towpath on the Loveland map, starting at the Mariemont Inn. After driving close to 100 miles with two cars, it was either walk in the freezing rain/sleet or spend the day in a motel. Walk it was. We did have our indispensable umbrella totes so we were relatively dry. Unfortunately, the walking surface turned to ice. We did not walk fast that day. We could barely stay on our feet. This was probably the only time I was glad to see evidence of the four wheelers on the trail. Their tracks were unfrozen and made walking easier if you could balance yourself in their ruts.

The next day was more of the same: dank, dreary and drippy. As we walked through Loveland, the church bells were ringing. They were a comforting sound along with the occasional chirps of robins. The entire walk along the Little Miami River was serene. We could envision ourselves like the Native Americans, slipping quietly along its banks. The Little Miami Scenic State Park trail has the Little Miami to the west, and to the east of the Trail the terrain goes straight uphill. Because of the rain, there were numerous waterfalls. There were captivating sights to the right and left with treacherous treading in the middle. At the end of this hike, I will not forget the Peter's Cartridge Company plant looming ahead on the trail. It is an imposing concrete fortress being engulfed by vegetation. The map tells us that this company produced ammo for the Spanish-American War, WWI and WWII. Because of the adverse weather, this trip began as a 'Git her done hike,' but became one of great memories. One final note for dog lovers—our boxer made it the entire way on the ice.

SNOW

We usually avoid snow as much as we avoid extreme heat. Not only is snow hard to walk on off-road, but when road-walking in snow, it is almost impossible to get off the road onto the berm. Later, after we became more experienced, we would call the local sheriff or patrol office to inquire about snow on roadsides. But in February 2003, we naively set out on an 8-mile hike at West Branch State Park, Kirwin Lake on Mogador map. We parked at one end of the causeway, walked across and hit the off-road. We had our boxer Toby with us. He expertly jumped the first snow hurdle. I hit it straight on, thinking it would be frozen. Wrong! Immediately I had boots full of slushy snow. We tried to get Toby to lead the way, breaking a trail. He preferred to be in the middle and let us break trail. At the first big creek we came to Toby went first and fell through. It was a shallow creek so no harm was done, but Bob and I went farther downstream to find a log and a better crossing.

About two miles into the hike, the terrain became scrubby and there were curious tracks (human) going in and out of the scrub. We then heard gunshots and came upon a rabbit hunter. Bob said buckshot doesn't hurt much!

At the end of four miles, my boots, socks and feet were soaked. My moleskins were sloshing around inside the socks. When we came out on Rt. 14 (the Devil's highway), we had had enough. We walked to our car on this busy highway and returned to Hartsville for more reflection.

I hope you readers are not bored with our travels. We hope that other couples might try what we found to be a great experience in seeing Ohio from the oldest form of travel. Bob and I would like to do one more article about the great mini-vacations near to home with eating and sleeping accommodations enjoyed as we went around the state.

Next issue: Bed and Dinner.

Shrews, Moles, Voles, Mice and a Lemming or . . . Look What the Cat Drug In

Scott Pendleton

While on a trail maintenance weekend, Rick Adamson found a dead mole on the trail. I explained to him how to tell the difference between Ohio's three mole species and lo and behold, his eyes weren't glassed over! So, I thought a short tour of our nineteen mouse-sized mammals was in order. First, here are some fun facts with which you can impress your friends or bore your spouse.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1) What looks like a mouse, acts like a mouse and most people call a mouse but is actually a vole? | a) pygmy shrew |
| 2) Who is sporting 22 movable sensory organs on her nose and is semi-aquatic? | b) short-tailed shrew |
| 3) Which insectivore has poisonous saliva to it help subdue larger prey? | c) star-nosed mole |
| 4) Who stores grass cuttings stacked like cord wood in its tunnel in or near a damp area? | d) eastern mole |
| 5) Who has a tail that 1-1/3 its body length and is used for balance? | e) southern bog lemming |
| 6) Who has a hairless tail and set of pects and delts that would make a bodybuilder jealous? | f) meadow jumping mouse |
| 7) Who weighs in at less than a penny and has a tunnel the size of a large pencil? | g) field mouse |
| 8) Which one is not native to this country? | h) house mouse |

Answers: 1-g, 2-c, 3-a and b, 4-e, 5-f, 6-d, 7-a, 8-h

A field mouse is actually a meadow vole. Voles (except the muskrat) have short tails (<1/2 body length), small hidden ears, rounded muzzle, small beady eyes and short legs. Mice have the opposite characteristics. Moles eat insects, have paddle-like front feet and have well developed chest and shoulder muscles. All shrews eat insects and have some toxin in their saliva. The lemming looks much like a vole. The meadow jumping mouse can leap up to 3 feet. House mice are European visitors and are rarely found far from human structures; you are more likely to see evidence of these little animals than the actual animal. Look for tunnels and nests as you walk the trail. The next time your cat drags in a small mammal, look at it. You will be surprised how many are not mice.

FAMILY	SPECIES	SNOUT	EYES	EARS	LEGS	TEETH	TAIL
Shrews	5	Long, flexible	Minute	Minute/ small	Short	Pigmented tip	
Mole	3	Long, flexible	Absent	Absent	Front paddles		Fleshy
Vole	5	Rounded	Small	Short, hidden	Short		<1/2 Body
Mouse	3	Pointed	Large	Large	Long		>1/2 Body
Jumping Mouse	2	Pointed	Large	Large	Rear modified to jump		= or >1 1/3 Body
Lemming	1	Rounded	Small	Short, hidden	Short	Grooved Incisor	<1/2 Body



HELLO BT!

Bill Schultz and Leslie Floyd
of Columbus in Alaska



The Northeast Group of the Buckeye Trail Association on their annual trip to Put-in-Bay.



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*

BTeasers

Pat Hayes

Q Who was the first person to complete the new 1200 mile BT loop trail?

A Dr. Robert Starker of Dayton completed the new trail in October of 1983.

Trailblazer volume 29, No 30, Issue 123, June 1996.

A Week in the Mountains

MAC Trip to the Adirondacks

Ten BTAers completed another successful Members' Activity Committee (MAC) trip that was planned and organized by John Rethman. Thanks again to John for all his efforts in putting together these week-long backpacking adventures. The participating members were: John Rethman, Lynn Trainor, Jeff Smith, Chris McIntyre, Pat Hayes, Louisa Kreider, Diane Abney, Dave Baker, Tom Moran and Harold Koutz.

This time we hiked a portion of the Northville-Placid Trail, which is contained in the Adirondack Mountain region of northern New York. This region contains the only mountains in the eastern United States that are not geologically Appalachian. Ecologically the Adirondacks are part of a vegetation transition zone with a mixture of northern coniferous boreal forest and southern deciduous forest. The trail that we hiked is maintained by the Adirondack Mountain Club.

On Saturday, September 19, we all met at the Blue Jay Campground in Tupper Lake, NY, where we spent the night camping before starting actual backpacking. On Sunday we split into two groups (due to the large number of people), with one group (Lynn, Jeff, and Harold) driving to the northern trailhead at Lake Placid to begin, and the second group (John, Chris, Pat, Louisa, and Diane) driving to the southern trailhead at Lake Durant to

begin. The total distance was 52.5 miles. Dave and Tom arrived in New York later than the rest of us and had arranged to meet John's northbound group after the backpacking had begun. We all finished the following Friday, and met at the Blue Jay Campground for cleanup, dinner in Tupper Lake, then camped again at Blue Jay Campground, and departed for home the next day.

Some of the highlights of the trip were two moose sightings, many beaver dams (and even one where the trail was routed right over the dam), some very good log lean-tos, and even one outdoor privy with a can of air freshener supplied. On the next-to-last day of backpacking, the south-hiking group (Lynn, Jeff, and Harold) happened upon a charter seaplane at Tirrell Pond (adjacent to their lean-to) which was ferrying out a group of fishermen. Not to be cheated of further adventure, Lynn, Jeff, and Harold arranged with the charter pilot to return the next morning and fly the three of them out from Tirrell Pond (4.9 miles from the end of their hike at Lake Durant) to Long Lake to end their backpacking via this "air shuttle." The takeoff and landing on water were exciting. This also gave them the opportunity to view the beginning fall colors of the beautiful Adirondack Mountains from the air.

Adirondacks Hiking Reveals Lost Talent

Jeff Smith, Harold Koutz and Lynn Trainor demonstrate their pride in Ohio by making the symbol "BTA" during their Adirondacks hike.



Another Fine Title

Darryl R. Smith

60 HIKES WITHIN 60 MILES: CINCINNATI BY TAMARA YORK.

298 pages. Menasha Ridge Press (www.menasharidge.com).

I recently obtained a copy of *60 Hikes Within 60 Miles: Cincinnati*, during a Hiking 101 event I hosted for the Tri-State Hiking Club on a Sunday at Stonelick State Park. The author Tamara York came to the event and talked about her newly released title and was kind enough to give me an autographed copy. Published by Menasha Ridge Press, this title is part of their 60 Hikes series, which in this case encompasses hikes that are within sixty miles of the I-275 beltway. While very few of the hikes in this book take place along the Buckeye Trail proper, those new to hiking or looking for some interesting new places to wander might do worse than purchasing this title. There are three hikes (Caesar Creek State Park, Fort Ancient State Memorial, and Eden Park), which have parts of our blue-blazed footpath as part of the hike so there is some interest for the Buckeye Trail Association member. The other 57 locations are spread across the tri-state region, and includes 15 hikes in Indiana and 11 hikes in Kentucky. The hikes range from one to eight miles, with most hikes being in the three to four mile range.

The book is made up of several sections, including an introduction that covers such topics as weather, water, clothing, the Ten Essentials (which I have covered in a previous article), animal and plant hazards, and trail etiquette, among other items. Next are the hikes, listed in this order: Ohio outside the beltway, Ohio inside the beltway, Indiana, and then Kentucky. After the hike descriptions there are appendices listing where to locally buy gear, hiking club information, as well as information about hiking with children. The hikes range from Buzzardroost Rock in Adams County to Muscatatuck Preserve in Indiana and down to Quiet Trails Preserve in Kentucky, with plenty of other solid choices in between.

Each hike has several important pieces. First there is Key At-A-Glance information which includes such topics as length, type of hike, difficulty, scenery that one can expect, facilities, contact information for the hiking site, as well as other items of importance to the hiker. There are also GPS coordinates given, directions to the trailhead, a map, an elevation profile, and a description of the hike itself. Mrs. York also includes nearby attractions for places to eat and other hikes in the area. And of course she describes in accurate detail each hike, noting along the way tricky turns or interesting features. Having used the book to find a new location myself (Mounds State Recreational Area near Brookville Lake in Indiana), I can speak to the ease in which the trail description becomes reality while actually hiking the ground.

I own other Menasha Ridge Press publications, and they are professionally produced and usually well-researched. *60 Hikes Within 60 Miles: Cincinnati* is another fine title for this company. None of the hikes is what I would consider difficult, but I also hike ten to fifteen miles every Saturday, but there some hikes with short portions that could raise your heart rate. Altogether, a good title, and one the BTA should consider selling on its website.

Pledge Form

THE BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 254 Worthington, Ohio 43085

E-mail: info@buckeyetrail.org

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

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

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

Company Name

Individual

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

BTA Representative

Date

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

Thank You, BTA Members, for Supporting the BTA's Trail Preservation Efforts! *And It's Not Too Late!*

Thank you to all of you who donated to the Buckeye Trail Preservation Fund. Within the last 2½ months we have raised over \$20,000 to assist with the purchase and preservation of the 190 acre Pretty Run property in Vinton County.

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 our circuit and long-distance hikers.

The continuous development of the Buckeye Trail is a truly grassroots effort that asks and receives a lot from its members and volunteers. We depend mainly on ourselves to see to it that the trail is built, maintained, promoted and protected for the benefit of all Ohioans and visitors. Protecting the lands through which the Buckeye Trail passes is important to protecting that

view, wildlife, and the experience we have come to expect hiking along the trail.

A contribution to the Buckeye Trail Association's Trail Preservation Fund will help us complete the Pretty Run purchase to protect the trail and the lands through which it passes. To date the cost of the project including the property, title work, fees, etc. is \$235,500 of which \$157,500 has already been raised. Will you help us make up the remaining \$78,000 with a tax deductible contribution?

It is not too late to help protect the Buckeye Trail and conserve the lands through which it passes. Please consider sending a tax deductible contribution (the Buckeye trail Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization).

Complete this form and send it with your check to: Trail Preservation Fund, Buckeye Trail Association, Inc.; PO Box 254, Worthington OH 43085. Thank you!

Contribution Amount:

- I am willing to be publicly recognized for my contribution
- I would like my contribution to remain anonymous
- Please email me about future trail preservation efforts



Name(s)

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

The Buckeye Trail Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
Please enclose this form with your contribution.

Mail to:
Buckeye Trail Association
Trail Preservation Fund
PO Box 254
Worthington, OH 43085

Trail Preservation Fund

William T. Schultz, Chairman

The Buckeye Trail Association and its partners in trail and land preservation have been presented with a timely opportunity. The Buckeye Trail Association Board of Trustees recently committed to purchase a 190-acre tract of land for the trail. We need the support of the trail to raise the remaining funds to close on the property! At stake is losing 3.5 miles of the Buckeye, North Country and American Discovery trails. 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 recently personal appeal to the Buckeye Trail members has increased the Fund substantially. Thank you all! And keep up the good work. The following persons made donations to the Trail Preservation Fund.

Several people gave anonymously. Their names are not listed.

Allan Yates
Andy and Lynn Jones
in memory of Burt
Allmenger
Andy Niekamp
Anthony A. Stout
Betsy Sleeper
Bob Kieffer
Brian Blair
Brian J. Myers
Bruce Purdy
Burt Dowden
Carol Trosset
Charles Kent Smith
Chester Jenkins
Claudine Widdell and Gail
Niemier
Cliff Thornily
Dale M, Holwick, Jr.
Dan and Carolyn Smith
Dana Zintek
Daniel Givens
Daniel W. McKenna
Dave Ambrose
Dave and Meg Pampush
Dave Campfield
David J. Howard

David Reynolds
David Yates
Deb Zampini
Dick and Darlene Wiegandt
Don Beattie
Douglas C. Mory
Dr. and Mrs. Lansing
Hoskins
Edward Gallagher
Edward McCabe
Elizabeth McQuaid
Eric Schaub
Flora and David Burkholder
Floyd and Estelle Benner
Fran and Joyce Gottron
Fred Viele
George R. Schubert
George Reed
Harold E. DeHoff
Harold Leaby
Hedy Jones
Herb and Susie Hulls
Howard W. Hintz
J. Winkler and Family
James Crabtree
Jay Holwick
Jeffery and Sarah Yoest

Jerry Forrider
Jim Immelt
Jo Ann Lyons
Joe and Cindy Krueger
John Bowers
John Drum
John Fetzer
John Paul Tolson
John W. Kunz
John Wilson
K. M. Grigas
Kathleen A. Fix
Nola Pearson
Pat and Mary Hayes
Patrick Coy and Krin
Tunquist
Paul E. Knoop
Pete & Becky Grimm &
Family
Philip L. Taylor
Philip Potter

Phillip Conaway
Quincy Robe
Ray Beer
Reg and Marj Kramer
Richard Lutz
Richard T. Pfeiffer
Robert Johnson, Jr.
Robert Litt
Robert Steeneck
Ron and Patti Cook
Ross Long
Sharon Bouchonville
Steve Bulloch
Steve Hawthorn
Susan Fetzer
Ted B. Gurcham
Thomas E. Ziomba
Wesley Hinton
William Hewett
William Masica

Correction

The Trail Preservation Fund report misspelled the name of a generous donor in the Fall 2009 issue of the *Trailblazer*. We apologize to the Grigas family for our error in spelling their name. We will concentrate our energies verify donors' names are posted correctly.

BTA Funds Report

William T. Schultz, Chairman

GENERAL FUND JULY-SEPTEMBER 2009

Catherine Brown
Jeanette DeSimone
Roy Fairfield
Roger Fuhrmeyer
James Kieffer
Quincy Robe
Louise Tincer

BARN JULY-SEPTEMBER 2009

Dwight Barkhurst

Why I Hike and Other Ruminations on Recent Criticisms of the Bowerston Section

By Scott Pendleton, Bowerston Section Supervisor

Recently the Buckeye Trail has hosted three long-distance hikers, two of whom were thru-hikers. They strongly criticized the Buckeye Trail and its maintenance, or lack thereof, particularly in the Bowerston Section. After hearing of Nimblewill Nomad's pillorying "my" section, I belligerently responded, "I am a volunteer! I do what I can and have no intention of losing sleep over the fact he wasn't happy." (I have spent 26 hours maintaining so far this year.) However, when the Cottrells also wrote negatively of this section, I took the time to read both their trail journals.

They were remarkably similar. Both had the phrases, "no maintenance" and "if you have nothing nice to say." Both signaled out the Piedmont section in particular. The Cottrells wrote, "If you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything. My lips are sealed for that section." I had not been to Piedmont this year and thought perhaps we had a real problem. I talked to Jeff Yoest, board member and one of the maintainers for that section. He was embarrassed and shocked. So was I. This is the section I like to take inexperienced hikers to because it is flat and the views of the lake are excellent. I would hike it and report back on where we should concentrate our efforts.

I arrived Sunday August 30th at 7:40 a.m., a morning of cloudless sky and 55 degrees, with water vapor rising off the lake; what a fine day for a hike. I entered the woods and was immediately scolded by cardinals, berated by a startled kingfisher and cussed out by the blue jays (I don't actually speak blue jay, but based on their looks and tone, I suspect they swear profusely). A few hundred yards in I passed through a thicket of white snakeroot, the blooms brushing my knuckles. I snapped off a spicebush branch here and there, sniffing its lemony fragrance. Almost an hour in I rest at my favorite spot, a mossy area that has a great view of the lake, is three inches thick and big enough to take a nap for those so inclined. As I sit a heron flies from its roost and honks its irritation. The vireos, peewees and towhees are still singing at this late date.

Shortly thereafter, I come upon a recent blow down. The tree-top is on the trail, lake on the left, 60' of tree and steep bank on the right. No way around, I muscle through. Another large oak across the trail shortly follows; at least I can easily go around this one.

Three more follow on the last mile of trail, two of them are "step-overs" and the last requires a short detour. Passing above the campground, I can hear the kids playing and smell the morning camp fires. Before I know it, I pop out on Thin Road. I have covered five off-road miles in 1:45. Nowhere was the trail difficult

to follow or the brambles problematic. I have had a great hike on a trail that I considered to be in good shape. I have stepped off the sections that need attention, a grand total of 200 feet! Did I just hike the same trail as Nomad and the Cottrells?

How could our experiences have been so different? Perhaps it is I. Perhaps all those grouse hunting trips in my younger years where I had to be my own dog has permanently warped my perception of what a well-maintained trail should look like; perhaps it is they. Perhaps their hiking the most traveled and best trails in the country has spoiled them or Ohio's oppressive humidity has soured them. I have decided it boils down to human nature, expectation and goals.

In veterinary school we were told, "If you have an unexpected bad outcome your client will tell 30 people. If you have a spectacular save the same client will tell no one." As humans, we tend to complain about the bad and not praise the good. I know the Leesville section is in great shape. I know for a fact that Mary Hamilton and I had the Willow Run section in super condition. I know a friend and I spent a combined total of six hours weed eating on the Clendening section two weeks before the Cottrells went through. I know I spent four hours clearing deadfall on the same section (a result of the April windstorm). No mention of this in either journal. No partial credit given. As a matter of fact, both journals repeatedly say "no maintenance."

At the western terminus of the Bowerston section the Buckeye Trail goes through an open field on private property, Nomad wrote, "I can tell this is going to be good... a mowed trail." When they are on road west of Smyrna, the Cottrells write, "We are in the most beautiful part of Ohio." While going around the lakes off-road they write of their disappointment of not being able to see the water. Nomad mentions how close the BT barn is and sarcastically notes, "Maybe they should actually maintain trail at one of their meetings." They extol the virtues of parts I consider mundane and complain about the parts I cannot get enough of! Our differences of expectation hit me when I was passing through a meadow of green-headed coneflowers. Six- to nine-foot tall flowers brushing my shoulders and so thick there was no way to get off-trail. As I was standing there admiring my new favorite spot, it dawned on me that their reaction was likely, "Why doesn't somebody cut down these weeds?"

A long distance hiker's goal is to cover miles to reach a destination. The challenge is a mental one and on some days the goal is simply to put one foot in front of the other. I am sure that after many miles, even the smallest deadfall is an irritation. Clear wide trails free of obstructions and open vistas give the brain a rest by

allowing it to wander. Very rarely do their journals mention any “smell the roses” moments or observances of nature’s organisms (although brambles get lots of ink).

For me, the journey is the goal. That journey may involve fitness, where I blow through a section, or may be entirely for my mental and spiritual well-being. A hike on the BT may remove the stress that comes with my job, ground me spiritually, take me back to sniffing spicebush with my father as a child or introduce me to a heretofore unnoticed species or behavior. My goal is to experience as many of these as possible on every hike. I also get the bonus that my hiking partners, my three dogs, think I am the greatest dad in the whole world.

Are these disparate experiences reconcilable? When the long-distance hikers cannot find one redeemable quality of a trail that achieved every one of my goals, I have my doubts. My question is, “Whom do we serve?” The scoutmaster whose troop recently hiked the Clendening section and thanked me for introducing him to such a nice trail, “The boys loved it!” Maybe it should be the Tappan hiker who emailed, as I write this, “Overall it was a great hike and a good trail.” He also noted five “minor” (his word, not mine) problem areas and one major one. Or should it be the 0.1% of the hiking community that are thru-hikers?

I would argue that the BT is a 1444 mile trail to only a very few. The majority of our users see it as a nice day-hike. Our users are overwhelmingly local residents and this is whom we should target to increase use. My local paper, the *Harrison News Herald*, recently interviewed me for a story on the BT. He asked me, “What is your biggest problem?” My reply was, “Lack of use.” He asked, “Do you have any ideas on how to change that?” That is the question we all need to answer!

New Trail in SE Ohio

The newest section of the Miami County Park District’s new bike trail/Buckeye Trail, a two mile stretch, was opened October 29 with ceremony. This trail, following the Buckeye Trail in the Troy section, runs from the ball field at Eldean Rd., through Twin Arches Park, to about 200 yards north of the I-75 overpass. At this point the BT continues north on unpaved trail to C-25A, just south of Peterson Rd. In the future, at the northern point where the paved trail currently ends, a pedestrian/bicycle bridge will be built across the Great Miami River to carry the trail to the east side of the river and connect with the existing bike trail at Peterson Rd.

The ribbon cutting ceremony photo shows L-R: Terry Netzley, Miami County Park Board Commissioner; Donald Sprang, Executive Director, Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission; Patricia Duke Robinson, President of the Paul G. Duke Foundation; John O’Brien, Miami County Commissioner; Robert Shook, Concord Township Trustee and Chairman, Miami County Trails Task Force; Jerry Eldred, Executive Director, Miami County Park District; John Wannemacher, President, Miami County Park District, Board of Commissioners.



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>



Silent Night?

Brandon Nusbaum

Wow! Nature is NOT necessarily quiet at night. I now found myself really thinking about why I so wondered about camping out somewhere for “primitive” camp as I looked around the second of two loops of sites at Sandusky County Park District’s Wolf Creek Park near Fremont. No humans or their vehicles in sight now. Only the fresh ashes in the fire rings and my wavering good sense convinced me that this was all okay at present.

Some time had rolled along, past all the things us people like to both dote and distress on, and I found some of that stuff called “Me-Time” suddenly. I had decided to do just one night at this, my present location, with some simple gear I found accumulating to an acceptable point for a real outing.

My last-minute chat with my father’s mother was over a cell connection, and she asked if I would be afraid—my quick rebuttal was, “Grandma! I’m 35 years old!” But honestly, there was a bit of fear with me during dark—at times, of course. Hhmpf!

On my back and up again, I cycled from the impromptu, 3-log warm seat at fireside to my sleeping bag to see the heavens above many times. What a perfect fit to my current enrollment in an Astronomy course at Owens State Community College. My skillful instructor has been doing the right thing by me: teaching to interest the personal and to engage the academic. “Thank you, O.S.C.C, especially, Mrs. B.T.”

I now thought to myself that human beings have looked up here through lives and deaths and age and to age, for planting times of crops, soul-searching by way of the zodiac, too long ago to actually comprehend. What a great and private showing I was having here. BRIGHT full moon, waned by less than 24 hours, rising then falling with a shroud of colors—I could discern 5 actual colors in this particular lunar halo. Upon editing, I do have to include the following embarrassment. ---I was so ‘further gladdened’ to see quite a few [out of season] ‘fireflies’ over in the trees, so busy for cold October; umm, rather, the moving river was throwing BRIGHT bits of moon’s light through the trees. Sunrise could have come earlier, nearer my morning rising at 6:12 a.m.

I was doing this alone for the first time—October 5th, Two Thousand Nine. I had grown up very close to nature and its study. My mother’s parents: Professor H. W. Hintz has taught a lot of life science over many years and continuing today. And my enthusiastic grandmother, Joy Alice, always at his side in life, hiking, teaching, traveling, collecting mineral specimens until becoming more like a light so purely white, somehow, glowing with selfless devotion to social helping—a true gem. Thank you.

One of grandpa’s devotions is birding, often with friend and fellow avid birder, Dr. Phil Harner. One of my grandpa’s passions is with the Buckeye Trail. He has painted many blue blazes, sometimes with the hand of the President of the Buckeye Trail Association, and with so much care, done so much more over many years. The Trail and the park meet. Now, having worked on this article for an hour or so, I’ll just follow the Trail . . .

. . . Very nice—out of breath entirely after being on the Trail (I have already broken camp at site number 16). I had driven to the hikers’ parking area and studied the map there. I really was open to learn a little more about the Trail standing at this large illustration. As I studied its course, I was (mostly) pleased with what I found. My biggest sighting was of poison ivy, most of it still that malignant green and a bit changing over into crimson. (I am a consummate professional on this plant, never a false sighting—ever. Grandfather was part of my education, and the horrible reaction to its touch, a misery I wore everywhere on my 9-year-old skin somewhat long ago served as the much greater teacher.)

The Trail as I followed it was (mostly) pleasant. But, I do here and now wonder if mosquito identification counted as a naturalist’s sighting because the mosquitoes were MOST unpleasant! There were so many of them there that, even my skin covered and protected, save eyes and nose, they were not very impressed with my efforts. Maybe they became even more determined. A bridge over a ravine’s man-made water path was solid—no water under it, though. But, then again, there was no troll lodged underneath to appear and make demands. Good enough. I looked here at my hometown’s (Tiffin) river, the Sandusky, and I decided that I liked it here just a little bit better. A little more serene with flanking walking paths: Buckeye’s, children’s, neighbors’ paths, made it ironically more human with no humans or their asphalt and cement all over.

I went on and observed few things: most trees here still pretty much sap green, a few yellowing, any reddening very rare. Informative signs are a nice feature. The beginning of the path was very accessible at about 7 or 8 feet wide, grass and some fallen leaves left a rarely muddied course.

When the mosquitoes reappeared, they must have called every soldier available to my current location and heading. I used my mostly everyday shoes, designated as “Trail Running,” and they worked—doubly. I got to my car and jumped in, mostly unbiten. The staff at Findlay’s ‘Gym by Jamie’ (previously ‘Jim’s Gym’), will be seeing me again. I was more winded at the car than I was mosquito-free.

I am truly glad to have had this time to share my experience about one of Ohio’s well-kept features, the Buckeye Trail. A pretty typical time here, I suppose. Nothing big or unbelievable, just “a day in the life” described by a new Trailer. Thank you.

And so, come spring, if you can get away, over for a night, to be alone just under the stars, I am sure you will last with no harm done. For sure, be mindful of the weather, of your gear and its application, of properly layered clothing, and the readiness to appreciate the personal symphony only nature can give—no worries of things that go bump in the night.

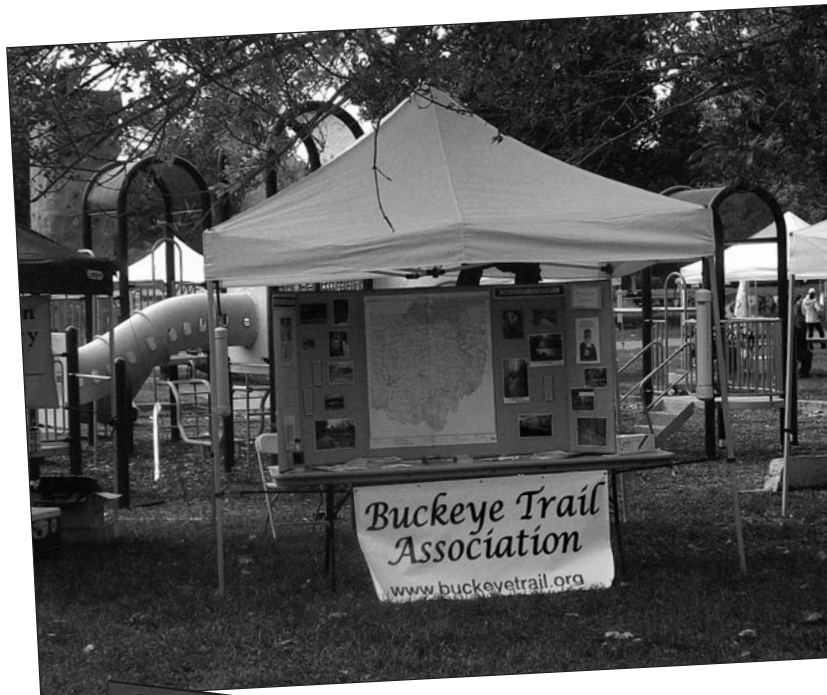
Fall is the Season of Festivals . . .

GearFest 2009

October 3rd at Eastwood MetroPark, Dayton

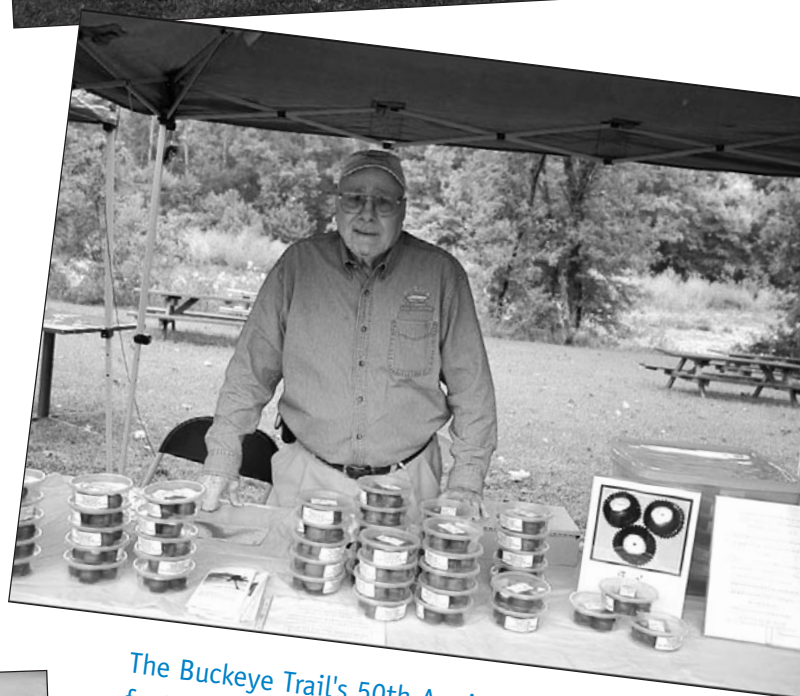
The Buckeye Trail display at GearFest. With several thousand visitors annually, GearFest is recognized as the premiere festival in the Midwest celebrating outdoor culture.

Byron Guy, Section Supervisor for the Old Mans Cave and Troy sections, worked the BTA display at Gearfest all day to answer questions and provide information about the Buckeye Trail.



Junction Trail Festival

Ohio's 4th Annual, in Milford at Riverside Park alongside the Little Miami River on September 26



The Buckeye Trail's 50th Anniversary was featured prominently at the festival with several cakes and Buckeyes candy made by Fred Humphries of Fred's Confections, LLC in Milford.

John Rethman, Pat Hayes, Charles Fitzpatric, Amy Anslinger and Oakley Anslinger celebrate the junction of Ohio's hiking trails, the BT and the North Country and American Discovery trails.

BTA Members at the NCT Annual Conference

The North Country National Scenic Trail annual conference was held July 30–August 2 at Valley City University in Valley City, ND. Next year the conference will be held in Ashland, WI. In 2011 Ohio will be host to the conference; planning is already underway for the event



Welcome New Members!

Bev and Jerry Starcher

Alan Falk	Lewis Center gift from David Dunn
John Barnes	Cincinnati
Jessie Soye	Athens
David Owens	Columbus
Judith and Tom Dennis	Piedmont
Ohio Hill Country	Shawnee
Teresa Imholt	Loveland
Thomas Shapaka and Family	Gahanna
Gary Phillips and Family	Dublin
Jim Carl	Terrace Park
Dale Lyons	Cleveland Hgts
Mary and Bob Pearce	Cincinnati
Sylvia Bahr	Rocky River
Cheryl Linke	Wapakoneta
Steve Hawthorne	Hudson
Chris Tranbarger and Family	Stow
Harv Hurley	St Clairsville
Michael and Jennifer Erhardt	Rocky River
Eric and Petra Williams	Guysville
Robert Tucker	Cambridge
James Wright	Pleasantville
Josh Biggs	Lima
Jerry Gundrum and Family	Columbus
Penny Soboleski and Family	Bowling Green
Northwestern Ohio Rails to Trails Assoc, Inc	Delta
Bernaette Bilick	Warren
Preston Bartlett	Kettering
Russell Carolus	Lebanon
David Dunn	Columbus
Beth LeaMond	Greenbelt, MD



*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

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

Highlights of the BTA Board Meeting Barn Retreat, August 22–23, 2009

STATE TRAIL COORDINATOR—RICK ADAMSON

- Prioritization of maintenance of existing trail vs. building new trail is necessary. Discussed maintainer’s reports and trail problems. BT thru-hikers have given certain sections of the BT bad press, specifically Pike Lake, Shawnee, Piedmont.
- Another subject of discussion was the listing of services (restaurants, grocery stores, campgrounds, B&Bs, etc.) in the section maps, which are subject to change, creating confusion and inconvenience for hikers using the maps.
- Much discussion about how to best keep the many miles of the BT in the best condition possible with the limited resources (labor) available. One suggestion was section maintenance work parties.

NCT REPORT

- NCTA Conference will be in Ohio in August 2011. Rick will direct planning for the event. Discussed the NCT Annual Meeting plans, including possible locations, ideas for associated activities before and after the conference. About 200-250 are expected to attend. Kathy Hamilton will research various locations for cost and food, such as Hocking College, Defiance College, and Wright State.

MAP REPORT

- Jack Watkins reports Massillon map redone, West Union in the process of revision. It will go to printer soon. Next year, about 8 maps are planned to be re-edited.

BTA OFFICE

- The official BTA Office will change to Shawnee, where Andrew Bashaw, the new Executive Director, has his office

BRAMBLE #52

by Dana Zintek

1. Site to sight the Ohio

E D E N P A R K

2. Manmade chasm

D E E P C U T

3. East branch impounds this

C U Y A H O G A

4. Home of Lillian Gish

M A S S I L L O N

A N A P S A C K



What did the tired hiker's backpack become?

Winner: CHERYL LINKE, WAPAKONETA, OHIO

BRAMBLE #53

by Dana Zintek

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

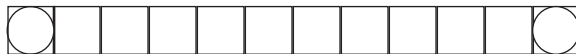
For a chance to win the book
Hiking Ohio: A Guide to Ohio's Greatest Hiking Adventures
 by Mary T. Reed

Send your answers to:
 Dana Zintek
 2369 Suncrest Drive
 Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

Answers must be postmarked by February 1, 2010.

1. G

C R E G Y R O O S T E R



2. L

R U N L A D Y



3. M

L E M O T



*The Bramble salutes the BTA Cartography Team . . .
 Thanks for doing a great job, Guys!!*

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



What did the BT map maker become among cartographers after he retired?



Buckeye Trail Association

P.O. Box 254
 Worthington, Ohio 43085

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG

US Postage

PAID

Jefferson, OH 44047

Permit No. 72

The label shows expiration date of your membership. Please renew before the date indicated.

