

Trailblazer



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Colorful Wildflowers Along the Buckeye Trail

Trillium, Virginia bluebells and redbud greeted hikers all over Ohio this spring. These are from Darryl Smith's favorite place to find wildflowers, Fort Hill in the Sinking Spring section. Read Darryl's hike report on page 7.



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BTA Bits and Pieces

Pat Hayes, BTA President



One of the benefits of trail-building and maintaining in the spring is being able to experience the emerging wildflowers that signal the demise of winter. Our first 2010 work party during the last week of March at Tappan Lake in the Bowerston section was proof that spring was finally on its way. I'm sure some of the Spring Beauties were a little sorry however that they had popped up so early in the season since the temperatures did drop down into the low 20s a couple of nights. Daytime temperatures in the 50s would have been perfect trail building weather if it hadn't been for the stiff breeze that blew off the lake. That combination did induce several comments about no more March work parties unless they were held in South Carolina. Thank goodness we had the BTA Barn to retreat to for our meals and after hours down time.

Our second work party of the year at AEP's ReCreation Lands in Morgan County a week and a half later was slightly better with temps in the 30s at night and 60s during the day. At least we had the BTA Chuck Wagon for this event. The Chuck Wagon makes life easier for everyone at the work parties except Herb and Susie Hulls. Herb, builder and owner of the Chuck Wagon, hauls it to about four work parties each year. Susie cleans, inventories, and restocks the Chuck Wagon. Herb gets up in the wee hours of the morning to fix breakfast and Susie, with assistance from Herb and other volunteers, prepares the supper meals. Cleanup duty is shared by all who benefit from the Chuck Wagon. Even the President is not exempt from cleanup and I have my own pair of rubber gloves to prove it.

I am drawn to trail building and maintaining because of a personality trait that inclines toward instant gratification. It is a big rush for me at the end of the day to hike out on new trail that I have just helped build. It is almost as though you have stumbled upon some hidden treasure, even though you have spent the day digging, chopping, prying, raking, and leveling on that very same trail. My only disappointment is that even though we toil like myrmidons for 4½ days, we don't always get to complete a project that particular week, but must wait for another work party or two to finish it up.

I hope everyone is as pleased as I am with the *Trailblazer's* new look. I have heard nothing but positive comments about our first color edition and wish to thank all involved with its production.

I am also happy to report that our new maps are receiving positive comments. As I reported in the last *Trailblazer* issue, we were forced to find a replacement printer when our old printing company told us the press used to print our maps had broken and the cost was too expensive to repair or replace. We are fortunate that the North Country Trail Association is able to provide us with map printing services that allow us to make corrections and updates more often and much faster than previously. The downside is the map paper is both more expensive and heavier which also raises the postage cost. These changes have forced us to raise our map prices. We hope future map enhancements will help ameliorate the increased cost.

The BTA was represented at several public events in March and April. The BTA once again had a display at the Adventure Summit at Wright State University in Dayton on March 5-6. This event, which always draws several thousand outdoor enthusiasts over Friday and Saturday, was covered by BTA volunteers Melissa Shaw, Charles Fitzpatrick, and John Rethman. I represented the BTA with a display at Wright Patterson Air Force's Outdoor Recreation Open House on March 26. Andrew Bashaw represented the BTA at the Land Trust Alliance Midwest Regional Conference in Columbus on April 15-16 and Jeff Yoest on the 17th. Earth Day programs in April were hosted at Buffalo Creek Retreat in Seville by Liz McQuaid, at Penitentiary Glen in Kirtland by Debbie Zampini and Mel Beers. Garry Dill represented the BTA at an Earth Share event at the Franklin County Courthouse on April 21, and Connie and Bob Pond represented the BTA at an Earth Share event at Easton Town Center in Columbus on April 24. Thank you to all who volunteered their time to represent the BTA at these events.

Please check the BTA web site for upcoming events along the trail and consider volunteering for a few hours, a day or even longer to maintain or build new trail. We will provide the tools and training, all you have to do is show up. Also keep in mind, a membership in the Buckeye Trail Association makes a terrific birthday gift for friends and family.



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On the Trail

Happy National Trails Day (June 5th, 2010) to everyone! Thank you for your continued support of the Buckeye Trail, one of the Nation's best hiking trails. I've heard through the grapevine that the Buckeye Trail, at 1,440 is the longest in-state trail in the country. I've also heard that the BT is the longest loop trail in the country as well. If this is true, what are the odds that the Buckeye Trail is actually the longest loop trail in the world? Prove me wrong.

FROM THE AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY:

"National Trails Day® is a celebration of trails that evolved from the report of President Ronald Reagan's President's Commission on Americans Outdoors. In 1987, the report recommended that all Americans be able to go out their front doors and within fifteen minutes, be on trails that wind through their cities or towns and bring them back without retracing steps. The recommendation, dubbed Trails for All Americans, became the impetus behind several public and private parties joining American Hiking Society in launching National Trails Day in 1993."

The Buckeye Trail Association is a member of the American Hiking Society and is offering several events in conjunction with the celebration. The Buckeye Trail helps to bring national significance to recreation opportunities around the state as the proud host of the North Country National Scenic Trail, the American Discovery Trail, and the fledgling Sea to Sea Route. The Buckeye Trail and the Buckeye Trail Association are integral pieces in this national network of trails, volunteers, and trail users.



ANOTHER MESSAGE FROM THE AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY:

"Trails do not just appear for our enjoyment, it takes many hours of planning, labor, and negotiating to develop them. National Trails Day, the only nationwide celebration of trails, brings awareness to trails and thanks many people and partners for their support and hard work, including volunteers, land agencies, and outdoor minded businesses. It is also a day to introduce people to the many joys and benefits of trails."

<http://www.americanhiking.org/get-involved/national-trails-day/>.

Your support of the BTA makes the continued development and use of the Buckeye Trail possible. A great way to celebrate the Buckeye Trail is to join us at the **BTA's 51st Annual Meeting the scenic Geneva Hills Retreat, June 11th-13th, near Lancaster, OH.** Come celebrate your contribution to the Nation's trail system! For more details and registration information visit www.buckeyetrail.org. Visit our events page for opportunities to get out and hike and volunteer, <http://www.buckeyetrail.org/events.html>.

Looking forward to seeing you on the Trail,

Andrew Bashaw

BTA Executive Director

director@buckeyetrail.org, 740-394-2008



Schedule of Hikes & Events

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

JUNE

June 1 Buckeye Trail Circuit Hike, Troy Section. I plan to start and end in Tipp City. Still working out details.

Contact: Vesta Moore, pathfinder.2010@live.com, 937-216-7916 and ask for Pathfinder.

June 1–10, 2010 Special Offer to BTA Members, Ohio State Parks. Four of Ohio's State Parks are offering special rates to BTA Members around the National Trails Day weekend. Check out the different offers from Salt Fork, Burr Oak, Shawnee, and Punderson State Parks. Each night's stay will result in a \$5 donation to the BTA by the parks. Visit www.buckeyetrail.org for more information.

June 2-6 Work Party at Grand Rapids, Defiance Section. Please provide your own food. Contact: Rick Adamson at rickbta@gmail.com.

June 6 National Trails Day Maintenance Party, Burton Section. Meet at 2:00 PM at Mentor Marsh House, 5185 Corduroy Rd., Mentor, in the BTA Burton section. Celebrate National Trails Days at the Marsh. Help us celebrate America's magnificent trail system by sprucing up the Buckeye Trail. Tools provided; wear sturdy footwear and bring work gloves. This event is planned for 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM, but may run a little longer. It is co-sponsored by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Registration required, 440-257-0777.

Contact: Debbie Zampini, 440-567-1894 for more information.

June 11–13 BTA 51st Annual Meeting at Geneva Hills Camp, Fairfield County. Join the entire BTA to celebrate Ohio's Buckeye Trail at Geneva Hills Camp. See www.buckeyetrail.org. Also see www.genevahills.com. Located outside of Lancaster, Geneva Hills has 350 wooded acres including 10 miles of hiking trails, with lakes, natural springs and rock formations. There is camping for tents and trailers, plus two lodges and cabins. They also have covered wagons for lodging.

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, oparus1@msn.com, 330-666-3409

Contact: Ruth Brown at bandrbrown@willard-oh.com, 419-935-0668 or Mary Hamilton at oldbag@wilkshire.net, 330-602-4071.

June 26–27 Maintenance Weekend. Location to be determined. Please provide your own food. Contact: Rick Adamson at rickbta@gmail.com.

JULY

July 10 BTA Strategic Planning Meeting. BTA Barn. For BTA board and staff.

AUGUST

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

SEPTEMBER

September 11–18 Pictured Rocks National Lake Shore, Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Backpack the cliffs along Lake Superior in Pictured Rocks National Lake Shore, part of the North Country Trail in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Check the MAC story in this issue, and www.buckeyetrail.org.

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

September 25–29 BTA Work Party at AEP, West Branch State Park, Mogadore Section. *BTA Chuck Wagon Event* Saturday-Wednesday.

We will construct new off-road trail around Michael J. Kirwin Lake at West Branch State Park pending arrival of a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers who own all the land around the lake. If the permit does not arrive in time, we will be building two bridges either east or west of the park.

Camping: We will camp at West Branch State Park where all the sites have electric. All sites and facilities were rebuilt about 5 years ago. There are flush toilets and showers.

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

Directions: From Akron, take I-76 towards Youngstown approximately 15 miles. Take exit 38B for OH-5N/OH-44 N/Ravenna 0.2 miles. Merge onto OH-44N/OH-5E/Ravenna Louisville Rd. 0.5 mile. Merge onto OH-44N/OH-5 E/OH-5 Bypass via the ramp to Warren/Chardon and continue to follow OH-5 E 6.6 miles. Turn right at Rockspring Rd. for 0.3 mile. Take the first left, turn onto Copland Rd. 0.6 mile. Copeland Rd. turns slightly right and becomes Esworthy Rd. Follow BTA signs to campground.

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 with Susie or Herb Hulls at hulls@frognet.net or 740-585-2603.

Contact: Rick Adamson at rickbta@gmail.com.

OCTOBER

October 9–10 Maintenance Weekend at Burr Oak State Park, New Straitsville Section. Please provide your own food. Contact: Rick Adamson at rickbta@gmail.com.

October 16–20 BTA Work Party at Wolf Run State Park, Belle Valley Section. *BTA Chuck Wagon Event* Saturday–Wednesday. Contact: Rick Adamson at rickbta@gmail.com.

October 30–31 Maintenance Weekend at Fort Hill, Sinking Spring Section. Please provide your own food.

DECEMBER

December 11 BTA Board Meeting. 10:00 AM at Command Alkon. Contact: Pat Hayes at president@buckeyetrail.org.

More Heroes of the Buckeye Trail— Class of 2009

Jim Sprague, Maintenance Supervisor

These are the last of the Trail Heroes who reported the time that they devoted to trail segments in 2009. About half of the people named below have earned an apology from me because they had sent their hours in to Mel Beers, the Burton Section Supervisor. And I misplaced them before I recorded their work times. I hope that I will be forgiven.

I have derived a few statistics based on the numbers that were reported last year. 94 people reported at least some information. From that information, we can assert that the average Adopter visited his/her trail segment 7½ times. The average visit lasted 3 hours 18 minutes. The round trip distance to the adopted site was 64 miles and required 2 hours 6 minutes to complete. The numbers show an amazing dedication by BTA's Adopters to the Buckeye Trail. Each Adopter can compare his/her effort to these averages if he/she wishes.



| NAME | VISITS | TIME WORKED | TOTAL TIME | TRAVEL MILES |
|--|------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Jeff Bartlett | | | 7.75 | 136 |
| Preston Bartlett | | | 21.25 | 350 |
| Mel Beers | | | 20.00 | 90 |
| Andrew Cook | | | 22.50 | 0 |
| Patti Cook | | | 61.50 | 719 |
| Scott Daniels | 1 | 5.00 | | |
| Sue Doolittle | | | 8.00 | 0 |
| Bill Doolittle | | | 12.00 | 10 |
| Jan Geho | | | 28.75 | 85 |
| Dan Givens | 9 | 21.50 | 22.50 | 4 |
| Louisa Kreider | | | 16.00 | 60 |
| Don Martin | | | 4.00 | |
| Chris McIntyre | 7 | 38.40 | 78.77 | 431 |
| Larry Morton | 3 | 5.78 | 11.00 | 222 |
| Sophia Morton | 3 | 5.78 | 11.00 | 82 |
| Scott Pendleton | 15 | 47.82 | 81.59 | 750 |
| Gregg Starcher | 1 | 2.17 | 3.83 | |
| Paul Starcher | 2 | 4.17 | 7.50 | |
| Les Weidenhamer | 10 | 30.77 | 36.48 | 149 |
| NEW TOTALS | 554 | 1646 | 3784 | 26610 |
| # OF VOLUNTEERS WHO PROVIDED THIS DATUM | 73 | 66 | 93 | 55 |
| AVERAGE/YEAR | 7.6 | 25 | 41 | 484 |
| AVERAGE/VISIT | | 3.3 | 5.4 | 64 |

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 is generated 3 weeks before the *Trailblazers* are mailed,
so send in your change of address right away!

Email your change of address to:
membership@buckeyetrail.org

Findley Winter Hike

Larry Morton

On February 6, 28 hearty souls signed in for the 30th Annual Winter Hike at Findley State Park. This hike is co-sponsored by the BTA and Findley State Park. On a good day, 200 people have attended. For this hike, there was about a foot of snow on the ground and the hiking was very difficult. BTA member Randy Ives and his dog Blizzard led the hike, and people kept dropping out. By the halfway point, about 3/4 of the hikers opted to quit, but Randy and snow-loving Blizzard trudged on and led the rest of us on the balance of the 10K hike.

There is traditionally bean soup and corn bread served by the Friends of Findley State Park, and this year there was plenty to allow for seconds. As a matter of fact, the soup and cornbread was given to anyone who wanted any. The Park presented us BTA members with a plaque to recognize their thanks for bridge construction and trail restoration the BTA crew performed there last fall.

This many hikers started out . . .



. . . and dwindled to this hardy few by the end of the hike



Jim Sprague, Larry Morton, Randy Ives with dog Blizzard, Sophia Morton, Char Callahan and Mel Beers.

BTeasers

Pat Hayes

Q Who was the first BTA Historian and when was the person named to that position?

A At the June, 1977 BTA Board meeting, Emily Gregor of Cleveland was named Historian of the Association. Trailblazer Volume 10, No. 3, July, 1977

Spring Hike at Fort Hill State Memorial

Darryl R. Smith

We started by climbing the steep slope of Fort Hill, using the appropriately named Fort Trail. On top the trail is flat as it traverses the hilltop enclosure for about a half-mile. On top of the hill is the Fort Hill earthwork. Its walls are 6-8 feet high and over 1 mile in total length. It was probably never used as an actual fort, as there are many breaks in the wall that would allow easy entrance to any attacking force. More likely Fort Hill was used as a place of ceremony for the Hopewell peoples, much like Fort Ancient near Lebanon. There is evidence of actual Hopewell dwellings to the south of the fort, but none inside the fort walls proper.

We descended down the backside of Fort Hill, and took the shared Gorge/Fort Trails back toward the shelter at the parking lot . . . well, most of us did. One small group took the wrong turn and shortened their hike by a good 2 miles, but they still were able to see some of what Fort Hill has to offer. The rest of us picked up the Deer Trail, which climbs about 250 feet to the saddle between Fort and Easton Hills and descends the other side. Staying on the Deer Trail (which by now had rejoined with the Gorge Trail), we joined with the Buckeye Trail entering the Fort Hill property from the south. We hiked into the small hollow formed by Spring Creek and saw the Spring Creek Arch. We headed north along the gorge area where Spring Creek flows into the larger Baker Fork Creek. We crossed Sulphur Creek, barely noticeable aside from the “almost” arch. Soon we reached the intersection where the Deer and Gorge Trails split, the Deer Trail crosses Baker Fork near the Keyhole Arch, and the Gorge Trail following the east side of Baker Fork in the gorge area. The Deer Trail is closed because the fords on Baker Fork have been washed away, but I have made the crossing several times with only slightly wet feet. (The closed trail itself is fairly easy to follow if you have the Fort Hill topo map. The Buckeye Trail used to cross Baker Fork and share the Deer Trail, but has been rerouted to follow the Gorge Trail.)

After a lunch break near Baker Fork across from the impressive Keyhole Arch, we pushed north on the Gorge Trail. This single track can be a challenge in some places due to erosion and poor benching of the trail, but it runs along some

stunning rock formations including a Y-arch that can be seen in the winter on the opposite side of the creek. The Gorge Trail winds, climbs and dips, keeping Baker Fork on the left through the gorge area, then parts ways as it heads northeast and crosses Shelter Creek (again barely noticeable) before climbing to the “shelter”. The shelter is supposed to be an old cabin from a former landowner in the area, and the trail goes directly through it. (I am not completely sold on this story, as the cabin is supposed to be from the late 1800s and does not look it.) Soon the Gorge Trail crosses Sunset Run and heads back toward the parking lot less than a mile away. Altogether this loop is about 6.5 miles. If a hiker crosses Baker Fork and completes the closed trail, the hike is near 8 miles.

I plan on leading winter, spring and fall BTA hikes each year at Fort Hill to share this wonderful place with my fellow hikers and Buckeye Trail members. Join me for the fall hike scheduled for Saturday, October 23 at 11:00 a.m. You’ll find Fort Hill as wonderful as I do and make this a regular hiking location.

Keyhole Arch Fort Hill

One of the many rock formations at Fort Hill State Memorial, a nature preserve containing one of the best preserved Indian hilltop enclosures in North America. Fort Hill is in the Sinking Springs section of the Buckeye Trail. Photo by Darryl Smith.



Adopters' Corner—Maintenance Activities

Jim Sprague

This part of my message is directed to people who have adopted portions of the Buckeye Trail. Others should probably skip unless one might be considering volunteering one's time. Adopters—I will be brief. I am sure that you have heard what I have to say many times before. But, because the Buckeye Trail receives severe criticism every year for infractions of just the two flaws below, please review and reflect. Do not let your segment be Exhibit A for either of these two common flaws.

The trail must be kept blazed so that any hiker, many of whom do not announce their presence on the trail, can easily locate the trail. It is well to check your trail for blazes at least annually whether your adopted segment is on or off-road. Blazes have a way of disappearing over time. On off-road trail, blazes disappear because some trees as Ash, Sassafras, Sycamore or White Oak rapidly shed their bark. Or the tree may simply fall down. With on-road trail, about the time the Adopter decides that the blazes indeed last nearly forever, the utility company replaces the old poles with new ones or puts a collar around the pole right where the blaze was.

Of course, off-road trail should be checked several times a year for deadfall and heavy plant growth. Remember that the standard corridor is at least 4' wide by 8' high. And that corridor is the opening that should be maintained 24-7 throughout the year, under rainy conditions, early morning fog when the dew hangs heavy as well as those beautiful days under full sunshine that even Ohio can experience now and again. I emphasize the wet condition because this condition is when the blackberry vines, multiflora roses or those beautiful yellow flowers (most likely Wing Stem) bend into and across that wonderful corridor that you remember so well from that last visit on a dry day, sometimes even just the day before. When clearing the trail corridor through habitat that favors either the above or similar plants, it is well to clear to a 6', or even 8', width.

Always remember that you, the Adopter, are never expected to do more than you can do comfortably. However, *you are expected to report conditions that do not meet the standard and request help.* Have a great time on your trail this summer.



State Trail Coordinator's Report

Rick Adamson, BTA State Trail Coordinator

Due to lack of a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers out of Pittsburgh, the West Branch State Park trail addition work party had to be postponed until this coming September. By then we should surely have the permit in hand so stay tuned to www.buckeyetrail.org for the latest developments on this one. In the meantime I plan on making a few trips there to work with the Mogadore Section Supervisor Matthew Funk to do more flagging around the Michael J. Kirwin Lake. This should extend the Buckeye Trail at least another 15-18 miles. That's a lot of flagging and then the flagged route needs to be GPS'ed. The work party for this time slot was moved to AEP ReCreation Lands and was very successful.

As of this report all BTA work parties this season have been very successful. I urge everyone attending them to PLEASE email any pictures you may have taken of those volunteers working on the trail and perhaps be creative and take some BEFORE and AFTER pictures too, and email them to me. They go great in the reports I turn in to the local land managers or property holders. They love things like that to publish in their own news publications.

To those who have volunteered to do trail evaluations throughout the state for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, including trails that are NOT the Buckeye Trail, please try and get these done soon even though the time frame to finish this project is September. As you fill out the evaluations work forms please send a copy of them to me. They may determine where we work next year. They hold a great amount of information.

I have been given the green light to do light work until September by my chiropractor, at which time I should be back to normal, whatever that might be, and able to perform regular duties at work parties. This is due to a neck injury which is pinching nerve bundles going down my right arm. If you think I am doing more than I should on the trail, please by all means yell at me or something. It is very difficult for me not to work along side other volunteers but I must restrain myself.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Former BTA president Dr. Howard W. Hintz, 88, of Tiffin, died March 22, 2010. He taught biology at Heidelberg College, retiring in 1985, and co-authored the book *Birds of Seneca County*. He was a member of numerous nature and conservation organizations and wrote nature articles for the local newspapers. He volunteered his time with adults and children teaching them about the local flora and fauna.

Andy Jones died November 27, 2009. He was active in the BTA Northeast Group, leading hikes and hosting parties of hikers. In the photo, Andy (last person on left in photo) is shown on the annual Island hike with the Northeast Group in 2009. Andy lived in Sagamore Hills with his wife Lynn.



More New Digital Maps

The Map Committee has been getting some nice compliments on the new look of the maps, now into the digital age. If you haven't seen any of the new maps yet, here are two more just printed in the last two months, **SCIOTO TRAIL** and **BOWERSTON**. Other new maps using this technology since November are **AKRON**, **OLD MANS CAVE**, **MASSILLON** and **WEST UNION**, Jim Sprague, Josh Gille and Jack Watkins, long time members of the Map Committee, are delighted to be joined by volunteer computer gurus Richard Lutz and Darlene Karoly. The transition from the "old cut and paste" method to the digital age has been almost painless, thanks to Richard and Darlene.



Little Loop Hikers

Alberta Urbanic

A group of hikers led by Bill and Sue Doolittle hiked the 250 miles of the Little Loop of the Buckeye Trail. They started at the Mentor Headlands by the shores of Lake Erie on a very cold February 23, 2008, and hiked approximately 10 miles once a month until they finished on April 24, 2010.

Their journey took them through city streets, country roads, through many metro parks where they saw beautiful scenery, wildlife and domestic animals and admired many gorgeous homes along the way. They walked along the Ohio-Erie Canal towpath and learned many things about yesteryear. It was a great journey to see and learn more about the northeast corner of Ohio.



Kneeling in front: Jeanne DeLaney and pointing to the map is Sharon Hulme. Standing from left: Jan Geho, Mel Beers, Patti Cook, Steve Dominish, Tim Murphy, Adrian Hulme, Jane Hall-Nemethm, Diane Valens, Bob Urbanic and Alberta Urbanic.



Pat Hayes works the BTA display at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Outdoor Recreation Open House on March 26. Photo by Brandon Dixon.

Following the BTA Display



Charles Fitzpatric, John Rethman and Melissa Shaw work the BTA display at the Adventure Summit at Wright State University in Dayton March 5-6. Photo by Pat Hayes.

BTA Funds Report

GENERAL FUND JANUARY–MARCH 2010

Matthew Collins
NetWork for Good
Scott and Mary Anne Kamph
Patrick Kennedy
Don McHugh
Nancy VanAtta
Robert Willey

BARN FUND JANUARY–MARCH 2010

Mary Hamilton

SCHOLARSHIP FUND JANUARY–MARCH 2010

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TRAIL PRESERVATION FEBRUARY–APRIL 2010

William T. Schultz, Chairman

You might like to pledge a few cents for every hour the Trail Crew works each year. Last year, the Trail Crew worked more than 3000 hours; thus a pledge of \$.05 per hour would mean a donation of \$150. You can also solicit local businesses because these donations are tax-exempt and we mention their name in the *Trailblazer*. Your contribution to the Buckeye Trail Preservation Fund (a 501(c)(3) organization) is tax deductible. All contributions of \$20 or more are acknowledged for tax purposes. Donations from February to April 2010 totaled more than \$8600.

Martin Sabol
James Hursey
M/M Scott A. Kamph
Donald M. Desch
Philip L. Potter
Clara J. Paryzek
Kevin K. Bowman
Elmo Layman
Marilyn (Lynn) Jones
Paul and Donna Floyd
Appalachia Ohio Alliance
Karl R. Feller
Robert E. Trausch
Quincy Robe
Nancy Van Atta
Kenneth R. Katona
Bronson Funke
Keith Newell

In memory of Howard Hintz: Mr. and Mrs. John P. Smith
In memory of Howard Hintz: Mr. and Mrs. Percy L. Lilly
In memory of Howard Hintz: Allen A. Schultz
In memory of Howard Hintz: Loren S. Hintz
In memory of Howard Hintz: Ronald R. Smith

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

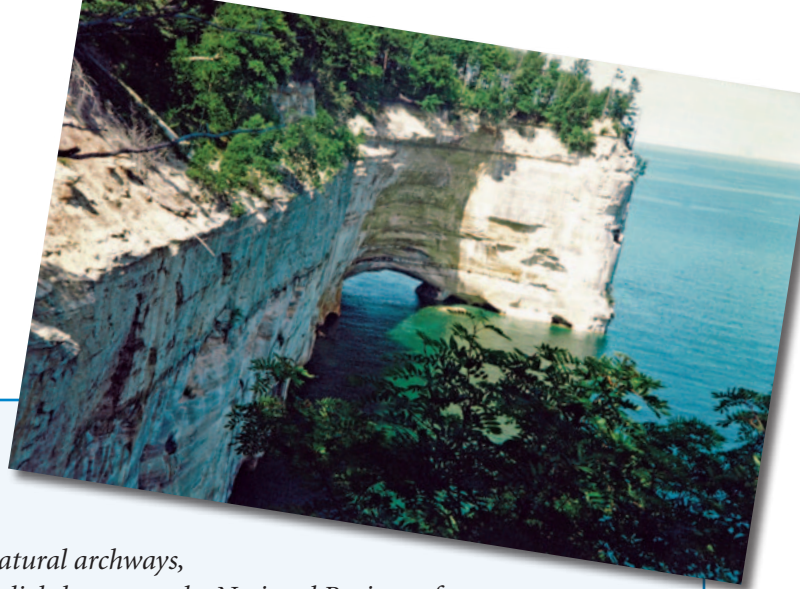
Phone

BTA Representative

Date

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

Hike Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore with the BTA



Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore is 42 miles of North Country Trail on the cliffs above cold, sparkling Lake Superior. The park offers spectacular scenery of the hilly shoreline in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. It's filled with natural archways, waterfalls and sand dunes, as well as Au Sable Lighthouse. The lighthouse, on the National Register of Historic Places, is on the trail and open to the public in summer.

The Pictured Rocks shoreline is considered one of North America's most beautiful. The "pictured" in the name is a reference to the 15 miles of colorful sandstone cliffs. The cliffs are up to 200 feet above lake level and have been naturally sculptured into shallow caves, arches, formations that resemble castle turrets and human profiles, among others.

The North Country Trail here can either be backpacked or day-hiked. Two drive-in campgrounds will be open in September, plus the expansive backcountry. Backpack with the BTA group, or day-hike and camp on your own. Every hike will be high above clear Lake Superior, with spectacular scenery of the lake, waterfalls and rock formations.

The Member's Activity Committee (MAC) will backpack the Pictured Rocks National Lake Shore in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan along Lake Superior, part of the North Country Trail. We will meet Saturday 9/11 at Munising Tourist Park.

SCHEDULE FOR 2010 PICTURED ROCKS BACKPACK

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Saturday 9/11 | Meet at Munising Tourist Park |
| Sunday 9/12 | Drive to the Munising Falls Interpretive Center. A bus will shuttle us to the Grand Sable Visitor Center where we will start our hike. Hike 7.1 miles to Au Sable |
| Monday 9/13 | Hike 7.3 miles to Seven Mile |
| Tuesday 9/14 | Hike 8.8 miles to Coves group |
| Wednesday 9/15 | Hike 7.2 miles to Mosquito |
| Thursday | Hike 5.6 miles to the Cliffs |
| Friday 9/17 | Hike 6.4 miles to Munising Falls |

The hike total is 42.4 miles. Saturday 9/18 we will pick up the car(s) and drive to the Munising Tourist Park, clean up and eat at a restaurant, then start the drive home.

The drive from my house in Mason to Munising is 645 miles and will take 10 hrs. All travel, food and camping costs will be paid by you. As always, I try to get groups together so we can carpool to save money. Two more out-of-pocket expenses for this trip: 1) Shuttle bus costs \$150 for 5 people. The more people on

the bus, the less it will cost. 2) Backcountry camp permit is \$5 each night we camp and the permit must be picked up in person the day before or the same day of the trip.

No dogs are allowed in the backcountry. We are allowed a maximum 20 people in the reserved group campsites. The first 20 people to register will go. This trip could also be day-hiked (I'll research a base camp; if you are interested let me know). This entire hike will be on the North Country Trail with side trips to several waterfalls.



Send In Your Photos— Here's How

Darlene Karoly

We always look forward to reviewing photos from BTA members enjoying the Buckeye Trail.

Both print and digital submissions are accepted. If you prefer to send digital photos, follow these guidelines:

- Photos embedded into a word document, although easy to send, are typically too small to use in printed materials and not recommended.
- The image should either be a JPG or TIF file.
- Resolution should be at least 300 pixels (dots) per inch, or 900 pixels by 1,500 pixels for a 3-inch by 5-inch image. The higher the resolution, the better.
- Some cameras have a “quality” setting, which should be adjusted to the highest level.

Always send in a caption with the photo. Identify people and objects. When you're on the Buckeye Trail, tie photo to a point on BTA section maps. Identify who shot the photo.

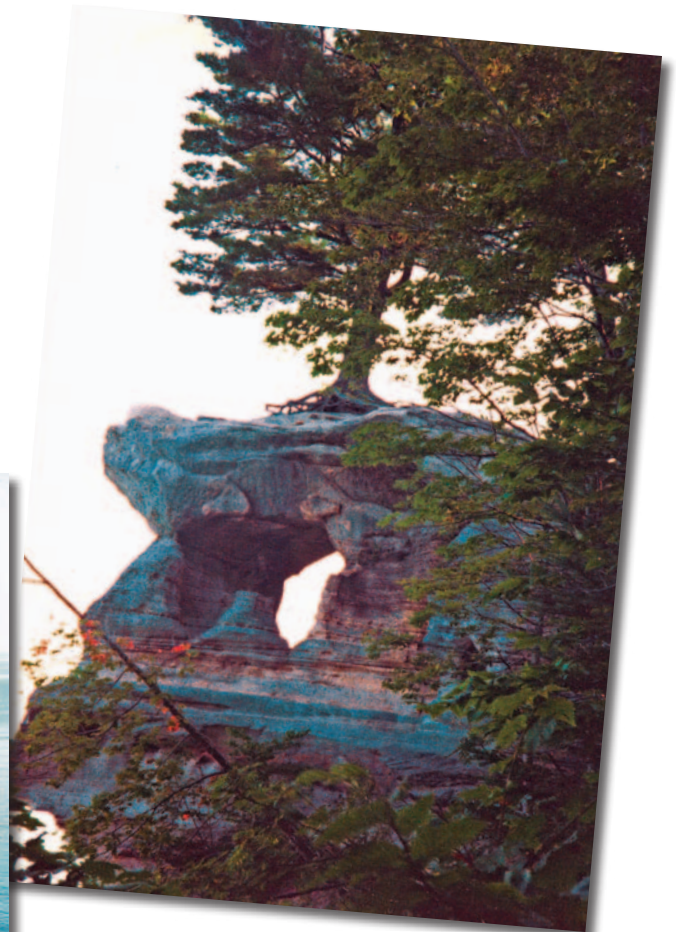
Photos by e-mail may be sent to trailblazer@buckeyetrail.org. Mailed submissions should be sent to the editor's address on page 2 of each *Trailblazer*.



From all reading I've done, there hills and some very sandy trails, but in general, the trail is not strenuous. National Park Service website: <http://www.nps.gov/piro/index.htm>. For a water-proof map, check the North Country Store, 1-866-HIKE-NCT; you'll need Map Mi-10. The Interagency Visitor Center in Munising phone is 906-387-3700; Grand Sable's Visitor Center is 906-494-2660. We will meet twice at the Munising Tourist Park: Saturday 9/11, then again on Friday 9/17. Munising Tourist Park address is E8518 M28 West Au Train, MI 49806. It is 2 miles west of Munising on the right side of the highway.

To reserve your spot send \$10 for members and \$30 for non members to: John Rethman, 1001 Seneca Dr., Mason, Ohio 45040. *Deadline is August 15.*

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



Highlights of the March BTA Board Meeting

STATE TRAIL COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Rick Adamson displayed the plaque that had presented to the BTA from Findley State Park and Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Recreation honoring the construction and completion of a bridge and trail restoration. The plaque was signed by Dan West, Chief of the Division of Parks and Recreation; and Brian Andrews, Park Manager of Findley State Park.

BTA TRAIL VOLUNTEERS

Garry Dill stated that BTA now has new 12 trail adopters.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Andrew Bashaw reported that the BTA Facebook page is available. It's another avenue to introduce the Buckeye Trail and gauge interest. The account is being administered by Darryl Smith.

Andrew Bashaw reported that the ODNR Clean Ohio grant application had been submitted in February.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Levi Farley received his BTA scholarship after the fall quarter 2009 at Hocking College.

BTA BARN

Russ Johnson reported that Kathy Hamilton's Youth Group will be doing various projects including building a split rail fence at the Barn July 13-15.

NEW BUSINESS

Greg Wisniewski stated that the Northwest Ohio Rails to Trails want to network with the BTA. Approval was given for the BTA to join the Northwest Ohio Rails to Trails.

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.**

Welcome New Members!

Bev and Jerry Starcher

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Jeff Bartlett | Wapakoneta |
| Charles Brown | Painesville |
| Jessica Denoyelles and Family | Hamilton |
| Tamie Digman and Family | Cuyahoga Falls |
| Dominish | Perry |
| Michael Farley | Paulding |
| Mike Henry | Dublin |
| Kyle Joiner | Columbus |
| Marilyn Kaminsky and Family | Parma |
| Dennis Kurlinski | Painesville |
| Robert and Barbara Kurtz | Kirtland |
| Allen Lewis | Hillsboro |
| Gayle Long and Family | Columbus |
| Lindy McDonough and Mike Nelson | Dayton |
| Mary Miller and Family | Hebron |
| Jeffrey Nicholson and Family | Continental |
| Scheel O'Brien and Family | South Bloomingville |
| Mary Patrick | Johnstown |
| Jamie Raible | Westlake |
| Harriett Sabo and Family | New Philadelphia |
| Michele Schmitt | Fairport Harbor |
| Douglas Seifert | North Ridgeville |
| Donald Stemen | Newark |
| Robert Thomas and Family | Fort Thomas, KY |
| Richard Toth | Mentor |
| Patricia Vance | Akron |
| James Whitt | Columbus |

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 #54

by Dana Zintek

1. Windy City?

AXIEN
XENIA

2. Reservoir Massillon ISLAMINI

NIMISILA

3. Laurens

ROFT
FORT

4. W

TRAW E
WATER



Why did the bored gorp salesman build, maintain and hike the Buckeye Trail?

FOR A
TRAIL MIX

Winner: Kathleen Hosking of Cincinnati

Buckeye Trail Association

P.O. Box 254
Worthington, Ohio 43085

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

BRAMBLE #55

by Dana Zintek

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

For a chance to win the *autographed* book
*Hiking Through, Finding Peace and Freedom on the
Appalachian Trail* by Berlin, OH author Paul Stutzman

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

Answers must be postmarked by August 1, 2010.

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



*After fighting with his wife
the overnight hiker was...*

1. Colonel highway

E N G L N



2. Seneca Lake campground

M O R A N T I P A I N



3. Grandma Gatewood shoes

C R A C K T H Y S O U L

