

Trailblazer



FOUNDED 1959

WINTER 2010 VOLUME 43 NO. 4



Good News from the Trail

Les Weidenhamer from Paulding County in the Delphos Section submitted a photo showing a new bridge being installed along the Miami Erie Canal Towpath by members of Troop 19 of Oakwood. The individuals working in the foreground are (left to right) Life Scouts Andrew Ludwig and Justin Carnahan. The individuals standing in the rear are Scoutmaster Brian Holbrooks and Assistant Scoutmaster Loren Swager. The bridge is located between Roads 187 and 72 southwest of Oakwood, OH (Pts 19 and 20) Other projects completed by Troop 19 in this same segment include a culvert and another bridge.

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President's Message

Melissa Reed

"Buckeye Trail? What's that?" You've no doubt been asked this question when you mention to one of the uninitiated that you've hiked or help build and maintain the Buckeye Trail. You may answer something along the lines of, "It's a trail around the perimeter of the state of Ohio. It runs 1440 miles, or longer maybe, and it's been here for more than 50 years." If you live in a trail town like mine, Piqua, and are talking to someone who lives on the Piqua-Troy Road, you might even add, "Haven't you ever noticed the blue blazes on the utility poles along your road? You actually live on the Buckeye Trail!"

The buckeye has been Ohio's official state tree only since 1953, but there are at least 16 species of buckeye trees and shrubs in this country. This proliferation of the buckeye must be the reason that our answer to the question What's the Buckeye Trail? is not everyone's answer. In our own Lore City in Guernsey County, the Buckeye Trail is a high school. A builder in Austin, Texas, will tell you the Buckeye Trail is a house, while another Austin resident will insist it's a garden. If you visit Ruffner Mountain, Alabama, you can walk 1.6 miles on the Buckeye Trail; in Arkansas a hike of 2.4 miles will take you to the end of that state's Buckeye Trail. California has a long Buckeye Trail, whereas at Wyandotte Lake, Indiana, you can hike only a mile on the Buckeye Trail and in northeast Texas, only two miles.

We Ohioans have only one Buckeye Trail, but even among us the trail has multiple meanings. For me, living beside a filled-in canal in western Ohio, where some say the eastern edge of the great American prairie begins, the Buckeye Trail takes the hiker past farms and factories, and is often a broad footpath, bikeway or even road alongside what was once a busy thoroughfare of canal boats hauling passengers and cargo between Toledo and Cincinnati. This coming April the Canal Societies of Ohio and Indiana will walk on parts of our Buckeye Trail as they visit remains of the canal north of Van Wert, up through the very flat land of the Black Swamp to historic Junction, Ohio. You, on the other hand, may associate the Buckeye Trail with the steep inclines of southeast Ohio, or perhaps the Buckeye Trail is for you access to open, quiet spaces that offer a refuge from an urban home.

If the trail is important to you for its natural phenomena, take a look at the fascinating account of Ohio history, both biological and cultural, in Paul M. Daniel's barely-outdated article "Biology and Biologists of the Buckeye Trail." Dr. Daniel, a professor at Miami University who is described as an "avid hiker," begins his piece with these two sentences: "The Buckeye Trail provides a good way to focus on both Ohio's historical development and its tremendously varied natural heritage. Nearly 1800 km of trail follow woodland trails, back roads, canal towpaths, pasture cow paths, forest tracts, utility rights-of-way, old railroads, creek beds, fisherman's paths, city sidewalks and occasionally busy modern thoroughfares." He continues with eight pages of history, description, commentary, photographs and a map. The article was published in the Ohio Journal of Science in 1987 and can be accessed on the internet through a Google search.



Trailblazer

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

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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.

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and advertising inquiries:

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

Corrections to Fall 2010 Trailblazer

We misspelled the new Board of Trustees member's name. Deven Atkinson is the correct spelling. Sorry about that, Deven.

On page 12 the shelter photo is incorrectly labeled. Jim Runk did not fund the shelter; the shelter is near a bridge that Jim funded.



Trailblazer is printed
on recycled paper.

B T A S T A F F

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On the Trail

Another great year on Ohio's Buckeye Trail is coming to a close as the days grow shorter and hiking along the Trail grows crunchier. Late fall and early winter are another perfect time to get out on Trail preparing the body for the holidays or escaping the busyness for moments of solitude. The bugs and the heat are gone, as well as the crowds from some of our favorite places. When this issue of the *Trailblazer* arrives I hope that you are out in the woods counting the blessings of another year.

It has been another busy year for the Buckeye Trail Association! This year the Buckeye Trail Crew traveled around the state pouring their effort into extending and improving the Trail in places like Wolf Run State Park, West Branch State Park, the Miami and Erie Canal Towpath near Grand Rapids, Burr Oak State Park, American Electric Power ReCreation Lands, among others. The BTA received the good news that thanks to your efforts, the Conservation Fund, and the help of Murray, Murphy, Moul & Basil law firm, the 190 acres of the Pretty Run property in Vinton County was funded in part by the ODNR Clean Ohio Trails Fund to preserve the BT. Your Board of Trustees went above and beyond over the summer to hash out a strategic plan for the BTA that will be polished by the 2011 Annual Meeting. Hundreds of volunteer Trail Maintainers and their Section Supervisors battled an especially productive year of weed growth along the Trail. The Buckeye Trail was represented in community events around the state throughout the year, such as Wright State University's Adventure Summit, Earth Day events, Gear Fest, EarthShare Ohio fundraisers, and many local community events around the Trail. And millions, yes *millions*, of Ohioans enjoyed some time walking on the Buckeye Trail throughout the course of its 1,444 miles. All of this and much more with the help of your support!

As 2010 fades into 2011 I ask you to consider how you can get involved, support, and hike the Buckeye Trail in the coming year. If your life is anything like mine, it takes a concerted effort to schedule time away from work and other commitments to simply enjoy the Trail. Put the Trail on your calendar today if you felt like you didn't get to it enough this past year. To assist you, keep watch of the Buckeye Trail Events web page for scheduled hikes and volunteer opportunities. Buy that Buckeye Trail Section map for the area of Ohio you've been meaning to discover to ponder over this winter. If you are a social person share your experiences by submitting articles to the *Trailblazer* or post on our Facebook page.

Winter is a good time to enjoy the warmth of your home, but it is also a great time to enjoy the outdoors. When the temperature drops and you are tempted to hole up at home remember our friends in Minnesota and Maine who are enjoying even colder weather by snow shoe and cross country skis, Ohio looks like a tropical paradise in comparison. Put on a few extra layers, put a warm drink in the thermos and head out for the Blue Blazes. If you need a little motivation there are several organized winter hikes in Ohio State Parks on or near the BT such as Hocking Hills, Findley, Hueston Woods and Caesar Creek State Parks.

Thank you for another wonderful year on the Buckeye Trail.
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

JANUARY

January 8 BTA New Year's Campout, Hocking Hills State Park, Old Man's Cave Section. Saturday: Leave for hike at 10:00 a.m. The BT throughout this park is one of the most scenic in the state. Dress appropriately for the weather. Bring something to share with the group for Saturday evening supper. If you don't want to camp you are still welcome to hike with us Saturday morning. If there is a camping fee the Guy brothers will pick up the charge.

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

January 15 Winter Hike, Fort Hill State Memorial, Sinking Spring Section. Saturday: Leave for hike at 11:00 a.m. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early. Join us for a day of winter hiking at Fort Hill State Memorial. The hike will use portions of the Fort, Deer, and Gorge Trails and encompass about seven miles of hiking along this beautiful section of the Buckeye Trail. We will see 2,000 year old Hopewell earthworks, rock outcroppings, and some small arches. There will be two steep hills to tackle (400 and 300 feet respectively), and the Gorge Trail can be slippery at times! The hike will start at 11:00 and should take about three hours. Hiking boots and trekking poles are recommended. Be certain to bring water and something to snack on along the way. This is a beautiful place, and should be spectacular in the winter with icicles and snow. It is one of my favorite local hiking destinations because of the cardio hills, arches, rock formations, and the beautiful Baker Fork gorge.

There is a vault (pit) toilet on site, and if the museum is open there is a restroom within.

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

Fort Hill State Memorial, 13614 Fort Hill Road, Hillsboro, OH 45133, 937-588-3221

Contact: Darryl Smith, preds81@yahoo.com, 513-321-1539

January 17 Martin Luther King Day Winter Hike, Hueston Woods. Monday: Leave for hike at 9:00 a.m. Meet at Hueston Woods State Park Lodge. Arrive early and have breakfast with other hikers at the Lodge at 8:00 a.m. We will hike around Acton Lake, about 11 miles, on a variety of trails. A bean soup and/or chili and corn muffin lunch will be available at the park office next to the Nature Center. Donations are accepted. For those wishing to hike only from the Lodge to the Nature Center, a shuttle back to the Lodge will be available. This is a free event.

Note: Dogs (all pets) are not allowed in the nature preserve portion of Hueston Woods. There is an easy route bypassing that section if you bring your dog.

Contact: Pat Hayes, patioh@woh.rr.com

FEBRUARY

February 5 31st Annual Buckeye Trail Winter Hike, Findley State Park, Median Section. Saturday: Leave for hike at 10:00 a.m. Moderate 5K, 10K or Interpretive hikes followed by bean soup and cornbread.

Contact: Call 440-647-5749

MARCH

March 12 BTA Board Meeting at Command Alkon. Saturday 10:00. Contact: Melissa Reed, president@buckeyetrail.org

Chuckwagon Reservations

For meal reservations for the chuckwagon at work parties (where available), contact Chuck Wagon Master, Jay Holwick at: holwick@columbus.rr.com 740-743-3813

APRIL

April 2-3 BTA Work Party, East Fork State Park, Williamsburg Section. Contact: Rick Adamson, rickbta@gmail.com

April 9 Meeting and Hike. Saturday: Leave for hike at 10:00 a.m. Meet at River Grove Recreation Area, Chestnut Reserved Shelter, North Chagrin Reservation. All members welcome, especially members from Lake, Geauga, Cuyahoga, Summit, Medina, and Lorain Counties to come to socialize. There will be a short meeting, a nice hike led by Patti Cook, lunch, and a little getting to know everyone will take place. Meet the BTA Executive Director Andrew Bashaw.

Contact: Liz McQuaid, dreamhikeream@aol.com

April 9-13 BTA Work Party, AEP, Belle Valley Section. *This is a Chuck Wagon Event* We will camp at Campground D. Contact: Rick Adamson rickbta@gmail.com

April 30 Spring Hike, Fort Hill State Memorial, Sinking Spring Section. Saturday: Leave for 7-mile hike at 11:00 a.m. Hike should take 3-4 hours. Hike with the Buckeye Trail Association and the Arc of Appalachia Preserve; a great chance for BTA members to strap on their boots and enjoy some fine trails. Be certain to bring plenty of water (I suggest two liters minimum) and something to snack on (we'll take a lunch break along the way).

A favorite southern Ohio hiking destination of mine, many hikers who have not been to Fort Hill are surprised to find that Fort Hill offers challenging hills, beautiful forest, and a gorge area that rivals anything in the Buckeye State. Spring flowers should be out in all their glory, so bring your cameras.

There is a vault (pit) toilet on site, and if the museum is open there is a restroom within.

For those who find 7 miles a bit daunting, there are options to shorten the hike to 4 miles, so do not let the mileage deter you from joining us!

Fort Hill State Memorial, 13614 Fort Hill Road, Hillsboro, OH 45133, 937-588-3221

Contact: Darryl Smith, preds81@yahoo.com, 513-321-1539

MAY

May 9–15 BTA MAC Backpack Trip on the Buckeye Trail. Details to follow. Contact: John Rethman, ilovehiking3@cinci.rr.com, 513-398-9527

May 20–22 BTA Annual Meeting. Currently scheduled for the BTA Barn.

JUNE

June 4–5 BTA Work Weekend at the Ballinger Property and possibly Shawnee. Contact: Rick Adamson rickbta@gmail.com

June 11 BTA Board Meeting at Command Alkon. Saturday 10:00. Contact: Melissa Reed, president@buckeyetrail.org

June 18–22 BTA Work Party, Grand Rapids, Defiance Section. Camping: We will camp at Mary Jane Thurston State Park. No electric hookups.

Contact: Rick Adamson rickbta@gmail.com

New Address for Shows & Exhibits

sne@buckeyetrail.org

JULY

July 15–17 BA Annual Picnic, BTA Barn, Bowerston Section. The first annual Buckeye Trail Olympics Come one, come all to test your skills and talents. Brush up on those square corners! Volunteers and family are invited and encouraged to participate.

See www.buckeyetrail.org for more information.

AUGUST

August 4–12 North Country Trail Association Annual Meeting, Dayton. Hosted in Ohio this year! See NCTA's website: <http://northcountrytrail.org>

August 26–27 BTA Board Retreat, BTA Barn. Contact: Melissa Reed, president@buckeyetrail.org

SEPTEMBER

September 10–17 BTA MAC Trip. Contact: John Rethman, ilovehiking3@cinci.rr.com, 513-398-9527

September 21–25 BTA Work Party, BTA Barn. Meals will be provided. Contact: Rick Adamson rickbta@gmail.com

October 8–9 BTA Work Party, Burr Oak State Park, Stockport Section. Contact: Rick Adamson rickbta@gmail.com

OCTOBER

October 22–23, 2011 BTA Work Party. Location: TBD. Contact: Rick Adamson rickbta@gmail.com

NOVEMBER

November 5–6 BTA Work Party, Old Man's Cave Section. Contact: Rick Adamson rickbta@gmail.com

DECEMBER

December 10, 2011 BTA Board Meeting at Command Alkon. Saturday 10:00. Contact: Melissa Reed, president@buckeyetrail.org



Sponsor an Acre of the Buckeye Trail

Larry Morton

The Buckeye Trail has quite a few miles in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association is a 'helping' group for the park and they have a fundraiser where people can "sponsor" an acre of the park for \$75 per year. My wife Sophia and I have sponsored an acre south of Columbia Road. There is a very pretty opening in the evergreens, with a wet-weather stream near by; someone has put a large memorial stone in that area.

For more information on park sponsorship, see www.cvnpa.org, and then click on "Sponsor an Acre". We took our car GPS unit to get close to where we wanted, and then the park helped us via email to choose our acre.

Where else in Ohio can you sponsor a Buckeye Trail acre and help the Park at the same time?

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

A Circle Come Full

Barb Crompton

I have been a part of Boy Scout Troop 435 since October of 2007. The first big hike my son Daniel and I went on with the troop started out as a regular hike in the Brecksville section of the Metroparks and I was just chaperoning. As we were walking down the road that lead to the Ottawa Point Picnic Area I immediately noticed the familiar powder blue blazes painted on the trees and poles lining the wide graveled road. My heart warmed up and I smiled outwardly. I turned to the leader in charge of the hike, pointed the blazes out and said, "Maybe you should be explaining those to the Scouts and chaperones." To my surprise they meant nothing to the leader, who told me to "have at it." I turned to the Scouts and shared with them something I hadn't seen or walked on over two decades: the Buckeye Trail.

The opportunity to share the BT with my new Scout troop was huge for me. Seeing those blazes again was a walk down memory lane. It took me back to these long hikes that I used to walk with my father, who was the one who taught me all about The BT in the first place. Back in the 1980s he found himself starting a piece of the trail near Canal Fulton in the Akron section of the BT and then before he knew it he walked all the way Mentor-on-the-Lake in a few months. I thought he was crazy at the time. He'd go in all sorts of weather, any time of day or night, inviting anyone who would go to come along with him, bribing us with Buckeye Trail patches!

The first thing I did when I got back home from that Boy Scout outing was call my dad to tell him all about what I had just

taught the Scouts. It was the dawning of some very important realizations for me. I was able to see that my dad and I had done some really neat things in the last few decades together as parent and child—father and daughter. I also realized that it was now my turn to teach what I had learned. It was a circle come full. We both wept for the journeys we'd made thus far, for the place we stood at that moment in time and for the unknown roads we'd yet to explore together. After I hung up with him and I reflected on all that had transpired that day. Part of me reached out that evening and wished for everyone moments like I'd had that day: an opportunity to share experiences with their parents and then, in turn, be able to share those same moments with their own children in their future!

It was an awesome moment and at the heart of all, the Buckeye Trail!

Post script: the second BT hike I took with the Troop (another section in the Brecksville area) was a very small section, but just as meaningful. At the suggestion of the same leader in charge at Ottawa Point, I brought my father with me. My father has a great deal more difficulty navigating a trail these days as he has become 90% visually impaired, but with his arm tucked in closely to my side my father and I walked a portion of the Ohio Buckeye Trail together again for the first time in over 20 years!

And so another journey had just begun.

A New Generation on the Buckeye Trail

Boy Scout Troop 435 hikes and learns about the BT.





Kroger community rewards



Shop at Kroger for the Buckeye Trail!

The Buckeye Trail Association is partnering with the Kroger Community Rewards Program to benefit the Buckeye Trail. Do you wish you had more time to lend a hand of support to the Buckeye Trail Association, but life's commitments keep sidetracking you? Well, now you can support the BTA by simply shopping at Kroger, every time you use your Kroger Rewards card Kroger will donate to the BTA.

So what's the catch? No real catch, but you will have to sign up online to designate the BTA as your charity of choice. Also, not all Kroger Stores participate in the program, but there are a lot that do.

According to Kroger this benefit from you to the BTA is above and beyond the benefits you receive as savings from your current Kroger Plus Card. Kroger will limit your contribution to the BTA to \$300 quarterly, and will limit its contribution to an organization to \$50,000 quarterly. Can you imagine the potential for the BTA?

No matter how successful the program is for the BTA we are grateful for such a forward thinking program from an Ohio based company. Funds from the Kroger Community Rewards Program are considered 'undesignated' which is great for the BTA. This means your Board of Trustees can decide how to use them towards the BTA's greatest needs. Undesignated funds are very important to non profits like the BTA, we have been fortunate to participate with the employee payroll deduction program through EarthShare Ohio for a similar effect. Receiving funds like these helps to keep your dues low, encouraging more membership, and increases our capacity to fulfill the current mission and future vision of the Buckeye Trail.

So how much will the BTA receive? That's up to you! Enroll today by following the instructions below and encourage your friends and family to do the same. We'll report back to you at the end of the Kroger Community Rewards Program cycle in May 2011 on how we did, and encourage you to re-enroll for the following year.

See the Frequently Asked Questions at www.krogercommunityrewards.com for more information.

To use the Kroger Community Rewards program:

1. Register online at krogercommunityrewards.com
2. Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and register your card with the Buckeye Trail Association after you sign up.
3. If you do not yet have a Kroger Plus card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.
4. Click on Sign In/Register
5. Most participants are new online customers, so you must click on SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer?' box.
6. Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions.
7. You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.
8. Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.
9. Click on Edit: Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.
10. Update or confirm your information.
11. Enter NPO number [80468] or Buckeye Trail Association, select Buckeye Trail Association from list and click on confirm.
12. To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see the "Buckeye Trail Association" on the right side of your information page.
13. REMEMBER, purchases will not count for the BTA until after you register your card.
14. Do you use your phone number at the register? Call 877-576-7587 to get your Kroger Plus card number.
15. You must swipe your registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to your registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase to count.

Fairly simple for a potential large impact for the Buckeye Trail Association! *Happy Shopping!*

Book Recommendations for Hiking and Backpacking in Ohio

Darryl R. Smith

Most folks think that hiking in Ohio is tame compared to the Appalachians or western mountains. Nothing could be further from the truth. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced backpacker, there are challenges within the Buckeye State that will offer cardio workouts and scenic vistas. I am an avid dayhiker and sometimes backpacker, and I believe that the more folks we have actually using the Buckeye Trail or any Ohio trail, the more interest we'll see in the BTA. I have listed some titles below that I believe every Ohio hiker should have on his or her bookshelf.

Starting with the 1,444-mile long Buckeye Trail, one can experience small towns, deep forests, and the foothills of Appalachia. The best single book in current publication is *Follow the Blue Blazes: Guide to Hiking Ohio's Buckeye Trail* written by Robert Pond. It lists many dayhikes across Ohio of varying lengths. Mr. Pond also writes about the history of the BTA, the group that builds and maintains the BT. While 55% of the current BT is currently on backroads, the remainder goes through many of Ohio's state parks, as well as one national park and one national forest. This book is available on BTA's website (www.buckeyetrail.org) at a discounted price for members.

Another title that covers the Buckeye Trail is *A Walk in Ohio: 1310 Mile Walk Around the Buckeye Trail*. I reviewed this book in this issue of the *Trailblazer*.

Ralph Ramey has written a few titles on hiking in Ohio including *50 Hikes in Ohio: Day Hikes & Backpacking Trips in the Buckeye State* and *50 More Hikes in Ohio*. These hikes vary in length and difficulty, but give a good cross-representation of which dayhiking trails. Both of Mr. Ramey's books are available on the BTA website.

If you want to hike in Ohio's only national park, try *Trail Guide to Cuyahoga Valley National Park* by the Cuyahoga Valley Trails Council. This book describes every within the boundaries of this park in great detail, whether that trail is for hiking, biking or horseback.

Ohio's own Mary Reed (who also runs the *GetOut!* outdoor online magazine) has penned *Hiking Ohio: A Guide To Ohio's Greatest Hiking Adventures*. Covering some of the same hikes as Pond and Ramey, there are additional trails within its pages, plus there is a great section on what a hiker will need when hitting the trails.

Menasha Ridge Press offers two books: *60 Hikes Within 60 Miles: Cleveland* and *60 Hikes Within 60 Miles: Cincinnati*: Including Clifton Gorge, Southeast Indiana, and Northern Kentucky. I own the Cincy version, and can speak to the level of detail that author Tammy York has put into her work. Each trail has an elevation guide, trail map, nice description of the hike, and GPS coordinates of the location. I own several Menasha Ridge books and highly recommend its products.

There is also the venerable work *Backpack Loops and Long Day Trail Hikes in Southern Ohio* by Robert Ruchhoft. It's older and a bit outdated, but it gives some backpacking and hiking options not covered by the aforementioned titles.

So, books in hand, get out there and hit the trails!

BTA Funds Report

TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND 8/1/10-10/31/10

William T. Schultz, Chairman

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*. Donations during this period three months totaled more than \$500.

Carol Hall

Barbara Kienzel

Reg and Marj Kramer

R. and J. Martz

Wm. and Evelyn Hewett

Philip Conaway

Paul Stamas

William T. Schultz

Phyllis M. Devlin

Dr. Herbert Hulls

L. and M. Burky

Robert S. Maruna

Preble County Park District

GENERAL FUND 7/1/20-9/30/10

Garry Dill

Don McHugh

Deb Zampini in memory of
Bill Doolittle and Andy Jones

BARN

7/1/10-9/30/10

SCHOLARSHIP

7/1/10-9/30/10

A Thankful Hike

Bob and Connie Pond

Thanksgiving 2006, found us walking the BT in northwest Ohio. We decided to get another few miles of road walking out of the way. This makes it sound as if road-walking is not fun. It isn't. But if one is to traverse the entire BT, it is inevitable. Some things to consider when road walking:

- Walk on the left side, facing traffic.
- Walk in single file on all roads.
- Be alert at all times.
- Don't walk with snow on the sides of the road (you have to be able to get off the road quickly)
- Walk in cool temperatures.

As we left home, we had brilliant blue skies, not a snowflake to be found and an estimated time of getting on the trail of 11:00 when most sane folks would be setting down to turkey and football. No concerns at all.

Well, at least not until we got to Huron County. We drove into a dark gray fog bank. Truly, I was reminded of the Twilight Zone where the ship sails into the fog and comes out the other side without crew or passengers. It was difficult to see 20 feet ahead and we were driving 20 mph. We could not see the road signs until we were upon them. All of a sudden, conditions were not ideal walking on the road.

Our mode of operation was to put one car at the end of the hike and then drive to the beginning of the planned hike and leave a car there. In spite of the intense fog, we were able to find our ending point for the hike, Barrett's Chapel (BTA Norwalk Section, pt. 24). There was parking there, and we guessed there wasn't much chance of a church meeting, so park we did. We

Barrett's Chapel, a beautiful rural church, is very simple. The designer did not believe there was a need to impress man or their God. It was built in 1816 by Zelotus Barrett and donated to the Methodist church.



We crossed the pretty Vermillion River toward the end of the hike, and heard gunshots. The rabbit hunters were out. Bob said buckshot wouldn't hurt much!

always left signs in the cars that said we would be returning and are walking the BT.

We drove 9 miles to our beginning point, and parked in an entrance to a harvested field. (We would not have parked at this entrance if the field had not been harvested. No farmer wants your car between his eight-row corn picker and his field to be picked.) As we left the car at 11:30, the sun was breaking through the fog. 45 minutes later the sky was brilliant blue and the temp was brisk low 40s. It had become a wonderful day for a hike.

After two hours of walking, the most interesting thing we saw was a live snake on the road; we saw very few snakes during the rest of our 1400-mile walk. This snake had a gray body and cream-colored belly. Bob called him DeKay. Unless the snake is obviously garter or black rat, Bob calls all snakes DeKay.

As we neared Barrett's Chapel, we visited an old cemetery.

There were numerous stones for the Barrett clan. In one group, there was a reverend and two women doctors. Dr Onie Ann Barrett was born in 1858 and died in 1940. There is an interesting tale to be told about the two women doctors named Barrett who practiced medicine in Huron County in the early 1900s. I also wonder if the Reverend Barrett used the church, Barrett's Chapel, where we were parked.

We finished our hike and were thankful we had 9 miles under our belt. We stayed in Norwalk, having planned ahead and brought food to eat in our room because we were sure restaurants would not be open with the holiday. We had a cozy Thanksgiving, getting in some hiking, too.

Fort Hill Hike Showcases Beautiful Ohio Fall

By Darryl R. Smith

A sunny October day graced Fort Hill State Memorial near Hillsboro when we came together to hike the trails with Hopewell earthworks, arches and rock formations, and behold the fall canvas that Mother Nature painted for us.

We broke into two groups, one heading out at a brisk pace to hike 8 miles; the second to hike 7 miles at a slower pace. Heading up Fort Hill, we viewed Beech Flats, where glaciers carved the landscape, then melted to create the gorge along Baker Fork that we would see later. We crossed Fort Hill and saw 2000-year old Hopewell Indians earthworks. We walked an old forest road and joined another trail toward the gap between Fort and Easton Hills. The trail moved from single-track to an old forest road. Heading south we picked up the Buckeye Trail, which shares the path with the other trails. We moved through the Spring Creek area, seeing our first arch. Soon Spring Creek joins Baker Fork, an incredible gorge area and one of the most scenic in Ohio. After passing Almost Arch, we came to where the Deer Trail splits away to cross Baker Fork near the Keyhole Arch. Deer Trail has been closed for a few years, as the two crossings of Baker Fork are challenging during normal water levels, but the Arc of Appalachia folks have recently reopened the Deer Trail. This used to be the route of the Buckeye Trail, but because of the closing, the BT was rerouted to stay on the Gorge Trail. The crossings are still challenging during high water, but the Deer Trail offers nice woods walking toward Jarnigan Knob and Reeds Hill, plus views of Fort Hill when trees are leafless.

North along the Gorge Trail, we saw amazing rock formations. Both groups of hikers met at Table

The Gorge Trail goes through the home of a former slave who settled here.



A blue blaze along the Gorge trail at Fort Hill. The steps here don't just help the hiker out, they prevent erosion of the hill.



Fort Hill's Deer Trail in the fall is a leaf-kicker's dream.

Rock. We moved away from Baker Fork and stopped at a cabin for a rest. According to Robert Pond's *Follow the Blue Blazes*, this cabin is the home of a former slave who had settled in this area. The Gorge Trail actually goes right through the cabin, which has no doors or windows and an earthen floor. The Deer Trail rejoins the Gorge Trail for the last mile of our outing. After one last hill, we came out of the woods near the parking lot. 7 miles of hills, leaves, rocks and historical features made our workout so enjoyable.

I will be leading hikes at Fort Hill in spring, fall and winter for BTA members, as well as folks from the Arc of Appalachia Preserve (the organization that now manages Fort Hill) or anyone else. The winter hike is January 15 and the spring hike is scheduled for April 30. Hike length is 7 miles with an option to shorten the hike to 4 miles, so if the mileage seems intimidating, do not let the length keep you from one of my hikes at scenic Fort Hill State Memorial.

Welcome New Members!

Bev and Jerry Starcher

George Bagsarian	Westlake
Joseph Bash	Cardington
Bonnie Brass	Mentor
Bradley Cox	Fort Wayne, IN
Ray Ferrell	Cadiz
Grayce Garland	Chattanooga, TN
Duane Jenkins	Dayton
Heather Johnson	Columbus
Jim and Rose Ann Kay	Chardon
Donald King	Chillicothe
David Larson	Chardon
Frank Mecham	Mentor
Scott Murphy	Cuyahoga Falls
Burlyn Pete Nash	Warren
Shawn Newman and Family	Spencer
Carol Oppenheim and Family	Chardon
Donald Pachner	Bedford, NY
Kelley and Walter Payerl	Chardon
David Petry	Reynoldsburg
Jim Schaeffer	Salesville
Don Shivler	Medway
Rachel Smith and Family	Roseville
Carla Spaulding Porschetti and Family	Marysville
Ethan Tabor	Greenbelt, MD
Michelle and Michael Tobin	Thompson
Dennis Wilcox	Portsmouth
Nickalas Zallar and Family	Garfield Heights
Coco Zampini	Chardon

Review of *A Walk in Ohio: 1310 Mile Walk Around the Buckeye Trail*

Written by John N. Merrill; 140 pp. Publisher: Walk & Write.
\$20.00; Reviewed by Darryl R. Smith

Books about the Buckeye Trail are far and few between, and books on hiking the BT as a thru-hike are nearly nonexistent. (I am still hoping that the Anslingers will write one about their own thru-hike in 2003.) Therefore, after finding this title online (bookshop.blackwell.co.uk), I was eager to crack it open and read about author's 2000 BT thru-hike.

Before tackling the Buckeye Trail, Mr. Merrill had already completed over 170,000 miles of hiking all around the globe. He completed the Appalachian Trail as a warm-up to the Pacific Coast Trail. The daily mileage he hiked on the BT was simply amazing (most days over 20 miles, and several days over 30). And he writes books like he hikes: he has published 50 titles on his various walks and hikes. So needless to say, he probably knows a thing or two about walking.

A Walk in Ohio is a day-by-day account of Mr. Merrill's 60-day hike of the (then) 1,310-mile Buckeye Trail. The author gives a bit of info of the sights and sounds along the way. Alas, the book is rife with typos, run-on sentences and some factual inaccuracies. For example, upon reaching Lake Erie, the author was disappointed in not seeing the CNN Tower in Toronto 60 miles away; of course he would not see Toronto because it is across Lake Ontario, not Lake Erie. He also writes that Ohio has 80 counties when it actually has 88. But overall, the read is very enjoyable and the author exudes enthusiasm (and a contagious positive outlook) every step along the way. His encounters with Buckeye natives during his hike gives me the hope that there are still friendly and helpful people in this world, something I experience myself as I hike the BT (in sections of course, I can't take two months for a thru-hike).

The quality of the book is a bit sketchy. The maps of Ohio are a bit off in their city locations. The overall map of the entire Buckeye Trail shows it as a giant circle, where we know that the BT meanders in and out of certain counties and creates its own unique shape. As mentioned, there are those typos and grammatical errors strewn about. And to make matters worse, my copy started falling apart during the first night of reading. However, I emailed the author, and he sent me an updated spiral bound copy with laminated covers, which keep the pages from falling out.

At first I was put off a bit by Mr. Merrill's hiking technique because he eats at restaurants and stays at motels on a daily basis. But in hindsight, this might be the most effective method of completing the BT as a thru-hike, as there are very few shelters (unlike on the AT) and scant camping locations in some areas of the Trail. Still, I was surprised that Mr. Merrill did not carry more food or use his tent more often than he did, as there are opportunities for actual backpacking, particularly in the southeastern part of the state. His hike is more walking tour than traditional thru-hike as most American backpackers define it.

Overall, this is a pleasurable read (even with typos and factual errors) and should be a must title for Buckeye Trail enthusiasts. The author's joy of walking and meeting folks along the Trail, and his positive demeanor even during days of less than ideal conditions, will make you want to complete your own thru-hike of the Buckeye Trail.



MAC Trip: Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore

John Rethman, MAC Chairman

Michigan's Upper Peninsula was the setting for BTA's 2010 Members Activity Committee (MAC) trip. I only have one word to describe Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore—WOW!!! You're hiking high up on the cliffs above clear, cold Lake Superior. The North Country Trail here is easy hiking so you can devote all day to the view. The rocks are colorful arches and the lake a deep blue, and the sunsets are spectacular. Getting lost was almost impossible.

We met at the Munising Tourist Park, having feasted on pasties, a favorite local food. We boarded a bus and were shuttled to the Grand Sable Visitor Center to pick up our backcountry permits and begin our hike. Our first stop along the trail was a log slide, a large sand dune where forested trees were chuted from the cliffs to the lakeshore for shipping. To the east we could see several miles to the town of Grand Marais.

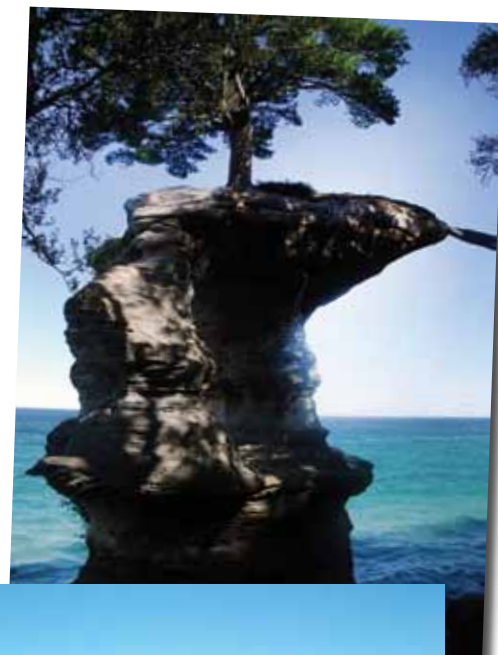
Au Sable Light Station was near our first campsite. The group campsite was large enough for 20 tents, with a fire ring and elevated logs around the fire for benches, and a 15-foot high bear pole for hanging food. For water we used streams or Lake Superior. That first night, potable water was available at nearby Au Sable Light Station.

At the beginning of our week on the trail we hiked sand dunes and beaches, and then by the fourth day we were hiked along rock cliffs high above the lake and gawked at awesome rock formations. We saw Chapel Rock, and then Grand Portal, an intricate formation viewed as easily from the trail as out in Lake Superior.

We hiked five days. I would rate this as one of my favorite hikes, because the scenery was spectacular, the hiking was easy, and our mileages were short—7-9 miles daily, totaling 42 miles hiked. We enjoyed late blueberries all week along the trail. The weather was great for us as far north as we were—60 degrees by day and 40 degrees at night. We had one night of rain and one misty morning, great when you are hiking with me.

This trip was 650 miles from my house in Mason. We took two days up and one coming home. Next year MAC will have two hikes: May 9-15 on the BT, and Sept 10-17 out of state.

Start of the hike: Grand Sable Visitor Center, where the ranger was kind enough to take our group photo.



PHOTOS: Top to bottom: Chapel Rock, a formation with a large pine tree growing on top. The log slide trail from the trail: test the futility of your sand dune-climbing skills here. Au Sable Light Station near our first campsite. We got water, and you can tour the lighthouse.

“It has really been work, but I’ve loved every minute of it.”

Trail Maintainer Ray Ferrell from Cadiz proudly maintains the Buckeye Trail in the Piedmont section. He says, “I still look at it as a gift and enjoy every minute I spend out there.”



Under The Spatula

Chuck Wagon Master Jay Holwick

The BTA Chuck Wagon has a new home. For those who did not know, the Chuck Wagon dates back a dozen or so years. At one time, large containers held the contents, and the Chuck Wagon grew into a dual-wheeled, self-contained mobile kitchen that was designed, built and operated by Herb and Susie Hulls. The Trail Crew bestows many thanks upon them for their dedication and hard work feeding us through the years. They announced their retirement of operating the Chuck Wagon last spring and I said I would take over the duties.

As I found out this last October’s Wolf Run project, shopping and cooking for a group of 11 for 4½ days entails skills I have not yet have mastered. I thank those at the Wolf Run project for putting up with my burnt bacon and tense behavior. This, I promise, will change. Also thanks go out to Garry Dill and Marie Zangmeister for supplying dinners during the project.

Next year the Chuck Wagon will be at an AEP project in April and a Barn project in September. The photos are Herb passing the keys for the Chuck Wagon and part of the Work Crew building trail at Wolf Run. See you in the spring.

(740-743-3813) and e-mail (holwick@columbus.rr.com) for chuck wagon reservations.



Trial Trail Crew

Part of the Work Crew building trail at Wolf Run on Jay’s first try as Chuck Wagon Master. They’re even still smiling after the meal.



You CAN Hike Without Driving

Matthew D. Edmonds
BTA, 500K+/Maintainer, Norwalk Section
edmondsmd@att.net and on Facebook

I'm a hiker from Cleveland's west side. While I do drive, I've also been riding public transit for a number of years now with different agencies. I'm generally familiar with their capabilities and limitations. Lately, I've been using transit either to hike without a car, or to loop. The purpose of this article is to demonstrate how you could use public transit in Ohio to hike some of the Buckeye Trail. And for those of you who hike with one automobile, you can use it to loop without having to double your daily mileage.

Generally, there are three types of public transit: rail, fixed-route busing (large, flat headed buses), and dial-a-rides or para-transit (which, depending on the system, have different names). To the best of my knowledge, rail is only available on greater Cleveland's "Rapid." What's cool about this is on the way to your hike, while you're waiting to transfer to another line at the Terminal Tower, you could stroll up to the local coffee vendor and get yourself a chocolate cooler. And if you have all of your gear on, I'm pretty sure somebody might ask you a question . . .

Fixed-route buses are ones that run on higher traffic roads. They're fixed because their routes don't change from what's stated on their schedules. There can be exceptions with road closures and construction, but generally their routes are predictable.

I took a look at the entire loop. If I employ a range of tolerance of no more than 4 miles to and from a transit stop, then 9 of BT's 26 sections are, at least in part, in range to rail and fixed-route transit. And according to my estimates, there are over 20 different hikes among them in excess of 290 miles.

The sections I'm referring to in WHOLE are: *Bedford (65.4 mi), Akron (57.7 mi) and Mogadore (55.3 mi).

The sections I'm referring to IN PART are: Burton (4 mi), *Medina (17 mi), Massillon (23.8 mi), Loveland (12.9 mi), Caesar Creek (38.3 mi) and Troy (20 mi). At least one route on these sections is a 20+ mile, one-way distance.

There are some really basic things you should know:

1. If you've never ridden transit before, you should try it out before you put your livelihood in its hands. You want to familiarize yourself with transit and its subtitle nuisances. No matter what time you hike . . . you ALWAYS need to know when the last bus in your desired direction is.

Bus Rider Equals Hiker

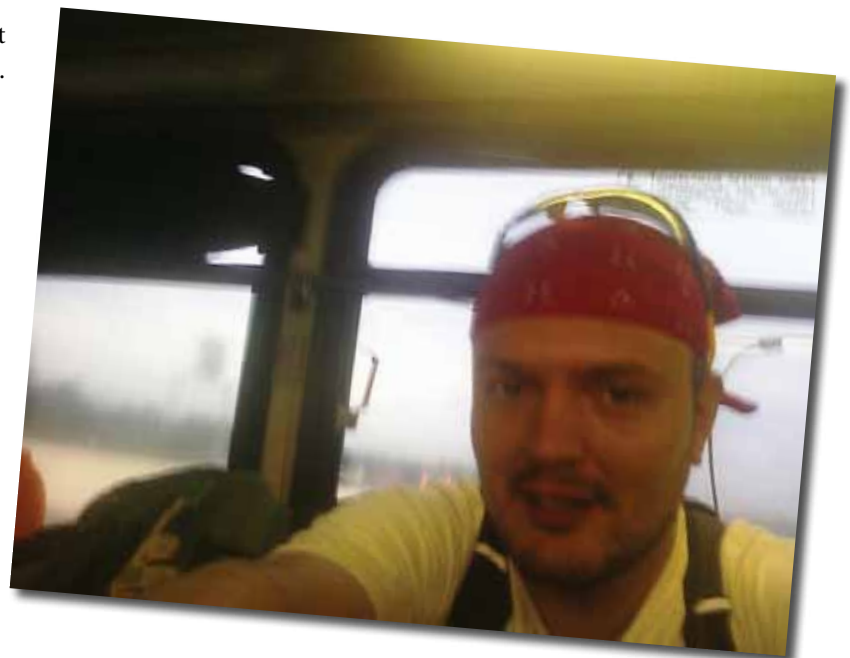
Mathew Edmonds rides on SARTA (Stark County) fixed route 102. The photo distortion is caused by the vibration of the bus.

2. I use <http://maps.google.com/transit> to schedule my trips. I have it as an application on my cell phone and it's about as easy as it gets. However, as of the date this article is published, SORTA (Cincinnati), Green CATS (Xenia, Fairborn), greater Dayton RTA, Akron METRO, and SARTA (Canton, Massillon) are not part of Google's interface.
3. The economy stinks! So do transit hours. Some of the smaller systems won't do weekends or holidays (at all) on their main lines. In fact, some of them (e.g., Mentor and Painesville's LAKETRAN) cut main service at 7:30 pm.
4. The computerized trip planners and any given person helping from the transit agency may not be able to lock into your endpoint on the BT. You may need to cross-reference your section map with a local street map (for instance, Google Maps or MapQuest). With a little finesse, you may be able find a stop. If you use my website, I've already done the work for you.

Dayton is not on <http://maps.google.com/transit>, but they have a similar interface on their own website. The others you would have to rely on paper bus schedules (which can be downloaded from their websites). Currently, neither Pemberville nor Defiance sections come north enough to meet TARTA's (Toledo) most southeast mainline bus.

Here is an example of a hike that rides a fixed route bus I'm very familiar with. LAKETRAN is on Google Maps/transit and bus schedules can be verified on the fly with a cell phone application.

- Park car at retailer, 9200 Mentor Ave, 44060 at 8:15 am on a weekday.
- Stretch out at 8:20 am.
- Equipment check at 8:45 am.



- Leave Super retailer on foot westbound on Mentor Ave. for Hopkins Rd.
- Begin hike at Bedford Section, pt. 28 heading CW (north and east) at 9:00 am for 10.1 mi.
- Bedford Section, point 34 becomes Burton Section, point 1 at the Northern Terminus at 12:25 pm.
- Continue hiking on Burton Section, pt. 1 heading CW (south) for 4.0 mi.
- End hiking at Burton Section, point 4 at 1:55 pm.
- Board LAKETRAN Route 1 (Red Line) at 2:06 pm.
- Arrive at Hopkins Rd. and Mentor Ave (US-20) (Bedford pt. 28) at 2:23 pm.
- Walk back to car and leave.

Now, here's an area that I'm not so familiar with. But from remote, this is what I would plan using Dayton's Trip Planner on their website:

- Park car at Troy Section, pt. 5, Deeds Park in Dayton at 8:15 am on a Saturday.
- Stretch out at 8:20 am.
- Equipment check at 8:45 am.

- Begin hike at point 5 heading CW (north) at 9:00 am for 11.2 mi.
- Arrive at pt. 12 at 12:22 pm.
- Walk W on Cassel Rd for 750 ft. At the intersection, remain straight on Cassel for 800 ft.
- Arrive at N. Cassel and E. National Rd at 12:35 pm.
- Walk W on E. National Rd for 1.5 mi.
- Arrive at S. Brown School/E. National Rd.
- Board RTA 17 bound for South Hub at 12:49 pm.
- Arrive at Webster St/Monument Ave at 3:16 pm.

Additionally, you might consider travel options such as Amtrak, which stops in Cleveland and Cincinnati, for a multi-section hike. There are Greyhound buses that serve Akron, Canton, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Dayton and Toledo. Megabus will only service Cleveland and Toledo.

In conclusion, I can't say that it's the easiest way to get around, but it can be done. If you wish to see my work in more detail, you can visit my Supplementary Hiking Resource at <https://sites.google.com/site/forsakenrt/>. Because of the volatility that public transit endures in the current political environment, I can't say how long my work will remain accurate. But it should be good in the short run.

Relax and Celebrate the BTA at our 2011 Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars now for the 2011 BTA Annual Meeting May 20–22 at the BTA Century Barn in the Bowerston section, on beautiful Tappan Lake near Deersville. Our keynote speaker is Ohio author Paul Stutzman discussing his book *Hiking Through: Finding Peace and Freedom on the Appalachian Trail*. Activities include hiking, biking, fishing, kayaking and a pontoon boat ride. Come for an adventure in beautiful natural surroundings and enjoy fellowship with your BTA friends.

The Buckeye Trail Association has spent years restoring the 1888 Century Barn on the old Beall Farm, now leased by the BTA and owned by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. Come enjoy the Barn and see the progress we've made over the years. Hike the Buckeye Trail and enjoy Tappan Lake—it's just a pebble's toss from the Barn.

Check www.buckeyetrail.org and the Spring 2011 issue of the *Trailblazer* for registration.

Photos (top): The shore of lovely Tappan Lake. It's right outside BTA's rustic home, the Barn, and it's the setting of the 2011 Annual Meeting; (bottom) We've been hard at work on improvements to your Barn. Come see for yourself—it's better than ever!



Adopter's Corner

Jim Sprague

There is an urgent need for people to maintain Buckeye Trail and assist hikers who are on the trail. A sobering message came across my computer screen in early September. I contacted the author, Edwin Erickson, and obtained his permission to reprint the message. I edited it slightly. I provided additional punctuation and left out material that serves no purpose like the message ID, salutation and a few repetitious statements. Erickson gave Buckeye Trail a game try but gave up. He started his hike in Piqua and proceeded clockwise. I am uncertain exactly where he stopped but I would guess that he was in the Road Fork Section. Some of the problems that Erickson described have been repaired. But many issues remain. His message deserves very careful consideration, especially the final paragraph. If you have the time and energy to help, please volunteer through info@buckeyetrail.org

To: Buckeye Trail <info@buckeyetrail.org>

Date: Mon, 6 Sep 2010 16:24:58 -0400

Subject: Buckeye Trail

I recently hiked your trail from July 14th through Aug 30th this year. I only got ½ way through your trail. I started at Piqua, Ohio, and got down to Ring Mill where it got impossible to find the trail into the woods from the last oil or gas pump from the road. I did hike 370 miles and drove another 348 miles when the trail was on the road for a total of 728 miles. I picked a bad year as far as the weather conditions. Many days I quit by 2:00 P.M. because of the heat. Five years ago, I completely hiked the A.T. Compared to your trail, it was a lot easier because the trail was well maintained and trail blazes were a lot easier to find.

Here are some of the problems I found on your trail:

- Around Newport from Range Line Rd at SR 47 to Newport, that part of the trail wasn't maintained at all this year. It was almost impossible to get through. On the west side of Newport the last two miles was all torn up by ATVs. It was a mess. I talked to a farmer who said a bunch of kids are going in there running all over the towpath. You need warning signs to keep them out and put a fine on them.
- From Defiance to Independence State Park, it is very dangerous to walk on SR 424 because of all the traffic. You should find a side trail or a different way to get to the state park.
- On the Mogadore Reservoir, the footpath from Ranfield Rd to Congress Lake Rd wasn't maintained at all and was impossible to get through. I had to turn around and go back. The rest of the trail was in excellent condition along the lake.
- Around Clendening Lake, I had a few problems. I got lost and couldn't find the trail for a while but I remember that I went across a dug-out road, found that and the trail again. That problem was on the north side of the lake. There was another place on the north side of the lake, a big tree was down across a creek, and there was a fence line on one side, had a hard time finding the trail. On the south side of the lake, somebody had

bulldozed out a lot of trees and really messed up the trail but I was able to find the blue blazes.

- Along Piedmont Lake going south of the campground, there are many trees down across the trail. After going around three trees, I saw more trees down so I gave up and went back.
- Getting near the Salt Lake campground, about a mile north of the group campground, there is a big tree down across the trail. The rest of the trail was in excellent condition.
- The trail near Senecaville Lake was in very poor condition. When I got into the woods it was impossible to follow the trail and I lost the blue blazes. Finally, I had to get myself out to the road and go back.
- At Wolf Run Lake, the south end of the trail was in excellent condition. But the north part of the trail was impossible to follow. I had to give up and go back. The trail wasn't maintained.
- Ring Mill campground, I was able to follow the road for about a mile to the last oil or gas pump but then I lost the blue blazes. I didn't know where to go so I gave up and went back.

The further south I got on the Buckeye Trail in the southeast corner of Ohio, the worse the trail got. From my experience on the trail, I wouldn't recommend it to anybody and my legs are all cut up from the thorny weeds and bushes with the trails not being maintained. It is too dangerous to walk on the roads because of the traffic. Most people get out of your way, but some jerks try to run you off the road, or don't see you on the side of the road. That was the reason I started driving the trail when the path was on the road. Too many bad dogs near the trail, especially on the highways. I did get nipped one time. The owner wasn't home. Nobody sells white gas on the trail by the ounce. You have to buy by the gallon, which you really can't do if you're hiking with a full pack. You should make arrangements with hardware stores and campgrounds to sell by the ounce. Water is hard to find sometimes, especially if you are hiking with a full pack and don't have a vehicle.

Sorry folks, I wasn't happy hiking the trail. I know it is hard to find people to volunteer to maintain the trail or to find funds to support the trail. It is hard to keep the trail in good condition.

Edwin Erickson
Apple Valley, MN

BTeasers

Pat Hayes

Q A photograph of what famous house on Gift Ridge Road in Adams County first appeared in the *Trailblazer*?

A The Counterfeit House photograph first appeared in the Volume 11, Number 2, April 1978 *Trailblazer*. Also of note is the fact that unlike the preceding and following issues, this issue was missing the printed Volume, Number and date information on the cover.

State Trail Coordinator's Report

Rick Adamson

It is a beautiful day today with a few puffy white clouds moving across the sweeping blue (i.e., really beautiful) sky with the fall canopy of brightly colored leaves floating to the ground around us. With temperatures in the mid-60s what more could you ask for on a fall day? As the trail construction and maintenance season is winding down, next season's projects are being put together throughout the state of Ohio. One huge project winding down is the trail evaluation project for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, (ODNR) Department of Forestry. As of this writing there are only four State Forests to go, thanks to all those who have assisted in this very large and time consuming effort. I am certain the BTA will be asked to assist again with some type of ODNR statewide project of this nature.

Two Eagle Scouts achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on October 31: Nathan Gerry, for constructing a 60-foot long boardwalk just off Columbia Road in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and Bobby Lempner, for constructing a bridge behind the Summit County Engineer's office off Boston Mills Road. Currently there are two more Eagle Scout projects pending. One is a 40-foot long bridge near the Pine Lane Trailhead and the other project is an Adirondack-style shelter at the Kuenning-Dicke Natural Area. Access to this new Natural Area is off Lock 2 Road just north of New Bremen in west central Ohio. The 1444-mile long Buckeye Trail has many opportunities for Boy Scouts to earn their Eagle Scout ranking. Coming up in 2011 will be a Boy Scout Camporee at American Electric Power ReCreation Lands where over 350 Boy Scouts will participate in scouting activities and assist each other in trail construction and maintenance, including a bridge across a ravine. This will be the second Boy Scout Camporee the BTA has hosted at AEP ReCreation lands. Similar projects were completed with huge success at the last Camporee.

We are looking forward to move this upcoming Camporee into the success column, too.

As the State Trail Coordinator for the Buckeye Trail Association, I am requesting that everyone hold up on any new trail construction projects until we get caught up with what we already have on the books. In the past several years, there have been quite a few opportunities for the BTA's Trail Crew to take more miles of the Buckeye off-road to safer, scenic and historic locations throughout Ohio, to the point we are getting behind in our maintenance duties. But please keep those new off-road projects written down and pass them on to me whenever you can. We'll just not act on them for a year or two down the trail.

The National Park Service has bought the BTA a fifth DR mower and it will be housed at the BTA Barn for use in that part of the state, and in particular in the Bowerston Section.

Along the western edge of Ohio on the Miami and Erie Canal towpath just off SR-66 at Newport, the towpath has been breached to the point we had to issue a trail alert to get around it. It is a washout across the top of the towpath about 15 feet long. This is due to a culvert that is too small going under SR-66 at Newport. The Ohio Department of Transportation will be replacing this culvert with a much larger one in the fall of 2011 when that portion of the road is to be resurfaced. ODNR might be the official agency that will fill in the breach. It will take at least ten dump truck-loads of fill to stop the water flowing over the towpath. They will need to back up about a quarter-mile to dump their loads, as there is no way to turn around once they get to the work site. Our volunteers have already cleared a 10-foot wide path on top of the towpath for them to maneuver there. Stay tuned for the next quarterly installment report.

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/adopters.html>



Discount on Blaze Paint

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

WHERE? Any Sherwin-Williams store in Ohio

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

REALLY? 25% Discount and you pay no tax

Buckeye Trail Association Picture Quilt Raffle



The Buckeye Trail Association is holding a raffle for a BT Picture Quilt to raise funds for Trail Preservation. The winning ticket will be drawn when \$1,444.00 has been raised (\$1 for each 1,444 miles of the BT).



The quilt was made through the efforts of several BT members. Mary Hayes printed the pictures on the fabric. Wilma Layman embroidered the Section names and titles on the picture squares. Leslie Floyd created the center section of the quilt, pieced the quilt together, and prepared it for quilting. Kathy Balmert was paid to machine quilt, but donated a lot of her time as well.

The picture does not do the quilt justice.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

One Ticket - \$5.00

Five Tickets - \$20.00

You may also purchase tickets
on-line with Pay-Pal at:

<http://www.buckeyetrail.org/raffle.html>



Make Checks out to the Buckeye Trail Association, Inc. and mail this form and your check to:

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

A receipt with your portion of the raffle ticket will be promptly returned to you.

BRAMBLE

#56

by Dana Zintek

1. What we do
HIKE
2. C.U. here in Shawnee
CHAPEL
3. One of MWCD
DISTRICT
4. Smelly plant in Akron
WASTEWATER

What did the mature hiker do when he got to the summit?

R E A C H E D H I S
P E A K

End of Trail

Dana Zintek

This issue we hear from one hiker from Canton, Ohio.

HIKER	DATE STARTED	DATE FINISHED	MILEAGE OF BT WHEN HIKED*
Sean Owen	April 28, 2007	August 28, 2010	1.276*

*mileages vary because of reroutes and improvements

Sean moved back to Ohio in 2002 and visited all the State Parks by the year 2006. Sean started the BT in the St. Marys section and finished up near home in the Mogadore section. After spending a honeymoon in Old Man's Cave in 2005, Sean stated, "I always thought I didn't belong in Ohio even though I was born and raised here, then I hiked through Hocking Hills and knew. I am home."

Up next for Sean? The Appalachian Trail!



Highlights of the BTA Board Meeting—August 28, 2010

STATE TRAIL COORDINATOR'S REPORT

RICK ADAMSON/JIM RUNK

- There will be a shelters built on the property next to Serpent Mound and along Michael Kirwin Lake at West Branch State Park. LeFarge will donate the cement for the swinging bridge in Paulding County.
- Presented suggestion that more emphasis should be put on maintaining the trail that is already there rather than building more new trail. Maintenance issues should be solved before new projects are started.
- All of the new trail on the old Miami-Erie Towpath around Napoleon should be completed in 2011.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

JIM SPRAGUE

- Presented suggestion that it should be BTA maps should state that when people hike on the BT, they need to take necessary precautions, wear proper clothes and carry plenty of water.

Highlights of the BTA Board Meeting—August 29, 2010

GIS REPORT

RICHARD LUTZ

- New software is needed in order to improve the maps and make the topography lines more accurate and clear. Suggested purchasing ArcView Spatial Analysis software.
- Discussed needing the location of the BT to be updated on both the Ohio map put out by ODOT and the Delorme Ohio Atlas and Gazetteer. Richard will contact ODOT and Delorme and give them the updates on where the BT currently goes so they can update their maps.

OTHER DISCUSSION

- Parts of the North Coast Inland Trail will be connected up in Huron and Sandusky within two years. This will provide a great opportunity to get a large section of trail off road in the Norwalk and Pemberville sections. BTA will work on meeting with the Firelands Rails to Trail Board to introduce the possibility of the BT going on their trail when everything is connected up. Firelands Rails to Trails is in charge of the part of the North Inland Coast Trail that goes through Huron County.
- Serious trespassing problem on the Pretty Run BTA property. ATVs have been on the trail and all of the water bars had been taken out with a skid loader. A plan for the BTA was suggested: acquire a forest certified barrier gate for \$1900 from the TPF.

Buckeye Trail Association

P.O. Box 254
Worthington, Ohio 43085

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Permit No. 754

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

BRAMBLE #57

by Dana Zintek

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

For a chance to win a Hiker's Survival Kit,
including Mag Lite and compass

Send your answers to:

Dana Zintek
2369 Suncrest Drive
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

Answers must be postmarked by February 1, 2011.

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



**What did the backpacking
Christmas caroler sing when
there was no water?**

1. Spider chapel?

E W B B



2. Water plain

D O L O F



3. Scioto Trail hill

H A G G L E R I N D

