

# Trailblazer



FOUNDED 1959

SUMMER 2011 VOLUME 44 NO. 2



Flower in a grassy field near the Boston Store, Akron Section point 5.

89-step stairway built by the CCC near Akron point 4 saves the hillside from erosion, and hikers from a long climb up or slide down, even if it feels tough toward to the end of the hike. Photo by Barb Crompton.



## Hiker Learns Valuable Lessons Hiking in the Akron Section

A hike through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park takes you through leafy woods, sunny fields and past waterfalls and along the canal. It's a beautiful experience with challenging hills and streams, and it becomes an educational opportunity. Story on page 8.

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# Our Trail

Melissa Reed, BTA President

Joining BTA's Trail Crew piqued my interest in the canals whose towpaths host many of our trails in the part of western Ohio where I live. A month or two after signing up as a member of BTA in 2006, I met for the first time some of our most active members by showing up at a five-day work party in the Delphos Section. I misunderstood the directions a bit and arrived in Junction, Ohio, in midafternoon a day late. The campsite, a churchyard with a wonderful stand of shag-bark hickories surrounding a venerable old oak tree, was outstanding, but even more outstanding was the hospitality of the work crew members who returned from the work of the day in late afternoon and, perhaps to their surprise, found me there. Jim Runk helped me put up my tent, and by the time we sat around socializing with beverages and snacks, I felt completely at ease. The next morning, as we walked the trail, chain saws sounded ahead as the crew felled trees and cut back undergrowth. At the rear, Susie Hulls showed me proper technique for trail finishing and later in the week gave me a lesson in blaze painting.

We worked on canal towpaths most of the time that week. What was left of the Miami and Erie Canal appeared to be, for the most part, mosquito-ridden ditches of fetid water, littered with discarded trash. At the same time, I saw that the canal gave sanctuary to red-winged blackbirds and many other birds, as well as to an assortment of berries and wildflowers. At that time I was unaware of the canal boat restoration at nearby Grand Rapids. Our chapter up there, the "Renegades," had not yet formed. But I did hear discussions of who owned the canal and its towpath and berm, and what to do about farmers whose fields encroach upon the towpath and thus upon the Buckeye Trail. Adjacent landowners can be among our best friends but can also give us grief. Take a look, for example, at Captain Blue's recent blog entry for "Day 9-Defiance" ([www.BuckeyeTrailHiker.com](http://www.BuckeyeTrailHiker.com)) about his encounter—literally a shocking encounter—with an electrified fence on the trail in the very area we worked on in 2006.

After that first work party in 2006, I followed up on some of the discussions about canal issues with a computer search and happened up the very informative website of the Canal Society of Indiana. I promptly joined the group and began attending their semi-annual weekend tours of canal sites in Ohio and Indiana. Indiana long ago sold off its canal land, which is now mainly visible as isolated stone ruins in farmers' fields and shallow depressions where the canal once flourished. In contrast, Ohio still owns much of its canal land, which provides in the west of the state, a very long stretch of public land that accommodates the Buckeye Trail. In April of this year the canal societies of Ohio and Indiana jointly sponsored a weekend tour of the canal in northwest Ohio. Two busloads of canal enthusiasts, including three BTA members, went from site to site in Paulding and nearby counties. One of our stops was at Junction, where the canal from Toledo formed two branches, one south to Cincinnati, the other west into Indiana. A photograph of this site, taken before the historical plaque was erected, appears in the winter 2009 issue of the *Trailblazer*. The Buckeye Trail, of course, is right there, too.

Lockington, where BTA's Troy and St. Marys sections meet, is to become one of the restored canal locations along the Buckeye Trail. This site is at the highest point of the canal between Toledo and Cincinnati and presents a spectacular view to the hiker. Lock One, which stands crumbling at the north end of this series of seven locks, is to be stabilized and rebuilt. Thanks to funds from Ohio's Transportation Enhancement Program and the Ohio Historical Society, the \$2,375,000 project is scheduled to begin in summer 2012 and, when complete, will stand with the excellent canal restoration at New Bremen to its north as a worthy reminder of this part of Ohio history. As I resident of the Troy Section and section supervisor of St. Marys Section, I will be following the progress at Lockington with great interest.



## Trailblazer

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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.*



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# First Annual Buckeye Trail Olympics

**WHERE:** Buckeye Trail Barn near Deersville, directions in *Trailblazer*.

**WHEN:** July 16 & 17, 2011, during the Annual Picnic. Visit [Buckeyetrail.org](http://Buckeyetrail.org) web site under upcoming events for details as the date gets closer.

**WHO:** All Buckeye Trail members and family.

Attention section supervisors, gather your maintainers to come and compete in various activities, from skilled to fun, and become the winner of this new annual event, complete with bragging rights for the BTA. Remember, the MORE maintainers you bring, the better your chances to win. All volunteers are welcome to participate in events.

We have nearly completed our schedule of events but are still looking for a few more great ideas for competitions from all of you!

Please contact Byron Guy at [oldmancave@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:oldmancave@buckeyetrail.org) or Debbie Zampini at [half-marathoner@hotmail.com](mailto:half-marathoner@hotmail.com) with any ideas and to also RSVP for your spot on the Olympic roster. Deadline for registration is June 4.

Because we want the whole family to be involved there will also be a photo, drawing, essay and poetry contest. You need not be at the picnic to enter or win. All entries become the property of the Buckeye Trail and by entering you give permission to have your entry published in the *Trailblazer* and used in promotional ways for the Buckeye Trail. Entries will not be returned. All entries should be mailed to Debbie Zampini, 72 Wayne Lane, Chardon, OH 44024. Please do not email entries.

*Photo & drawing contest:* 8 x 10 or 5 x 7, no matting or framing necessary. Categories: animals, people, structures, nature, on the Buckeye Trail, misc. Drawings can be in any medium.

*Essay & poetry:* 1 page typed or printed. Categories: nature, Buckeye Trail, how would I make the world a better place, misc.

Please put your name, email or phone number, age and category on back of entry. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Age groups will be 0-5, 6-10, 11-15, 16-20 and 21 up. Finger-painting counts so don't forget the little ones. Deadline for entries is July 1.

## New Events Added

*Baking contest:* for the Saturday evening dinner there will be a baking contest to provide deserts. Get out your mixing bowls and whip up anything from Apple pies to Zucchini bread. For the evening dinner, there is also a side dish contest. What is the best part of a picnic? Eating of course!

*Kayak Race:* Saturday on Tappan Lake by barn. Course will be set up, kayaks and life jackets provided, paddling experience is recommended.

*Around the campfire:* Cast Iron Dutch oven cooking, bring your Dutch oven and favorite recipe. Coals provided.

Don't hesitate to get in on all the action at this year's Annual Picnic with the 1st Annual Buckeye Trail Olympics. Check the [Buckeyetrail.org](http://Buckeyetrail.org) web site for updates on the event. A great time is sure to be had by all.

# Schedule of Hikes & Events



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

## JUNE

**June 4–5 National Trails Day BTA Work Party, Ballinger Property/Shawnee State Forest.** *Bring your own food.* Land conservation work on the BTA owned Ballinger property and hopefully blazing through Shawnee State Forest. The Ballinger property was donated to the BTA and must be kept in a natural state. Come help improve the property through good stewardship. Camping at the BTA Ballinger Property  
Contact: Rick Adamson, [rickbta@gmail.com](mailto:rickbta@gmail.com)

**June 5 National Trails Day Work Party, Burton Section.** This is a joint program with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Dig out a wooden footbridge and try to save it. Bring gloves, shovels and a strong back. Meet at the Marsh House, 5185 Corduroy Rd., Mentor.  
Contact: Call Debbie Zampini, 440-567-1894 or Beck Donaldson, 440-257-0777 to register

**June 11 BTA Board Meeting, Command Alkon.** Starts 10:00 am.  
Contact: Melissa Reed, [president@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:president@buckeyetrail.org)

**June 13–18 Circuit Hike, Defiance Section.** We can take a weeklong trek in the Defiance Section and arrive in time for the Work Party at Grand Rapids. We will hike 76 miles from Ottoville to Waterville.  
Contact: Poppie, [poppie50@att.net](mailto:poppie50@att.net) or 614-565-9752

**June 18–22 Work Party with Buckeye Trail Crew and BTA Renegade Chapter, Defiance Section.** Bring your own food. Build new BT on the Miami & Erie Canal Towpath, the last unfinished BT between the communities of Florida and Grand Rapids. See the Maumee River and the restored canal boat at Providence Metropark across the river from Grand Rapids. We will camp at Mary Jane Thurston State Park—no electric hookups.  
Contact: Rick Adamson, [rickbta@gmail.com](mailto:rickbta@gmail.com)

**June 25 Fort Ancient Area Hike, Loveland Section.** Hike starts at 10:30 a.m. This will be part of a series of regular hikes scheduled across southwestern Ohio in an effort to get more Buckeye Trail Association members to gather together and go hiking using parts of the Buckeye Trail. We will do hikes of two, six, eight, and/or ten miles using the BT and white-blazed side trails in the Little Miami River valley near Fort Ancient (the side trails are described on the Loveland Section BT map). These loop hikes will start at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) parking lot on Ohio 350 near Morgan's Canoe Livery and will be using various trails within the valley.

Directions from Columbus – Head south on I-71. Take Exit 36 (Wilmington Rd.) and turn right onto Wilmington. In 0.5 mile take a right onto Middleboro Rd. Drive two miles, and take a right onto Ohio 350. Go about 1.5 miles, going past the entrance to Fort Ancient State Memorial and park in the ODNR parking lot that will be on the left just before the bridge over the Little Miami River.

Directions from Cincinnati – Head north on I-71. Take Exit 32 (Ohio 123) and turn right onto Ohio 123. Take an immediate left onto Ohio 350, and drive three miles to the ODNR parking lot that will be on your right just after crossing the bridge over the Little Miami River.  
Contact: Darryl Smith [socialmedia@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:socialmedia@buckeyetrail.org) or 513-321-1539

## JULY

**July 16–17 BTA Annual Picnic and Olympics, BTA Barn.** The BTA Annual Picnic and the first Olympic event at the BTA Barn near Deersville. Come Friday evening and camp or bunk at the barn and stay until Sunday. The BTA will provide meat and drinks for Saturday afternoon; bring a dish to share.

Events: Debbie Zampini and Byron Guy have a great lineup of activities: hiking, swimming at Tappan Lake Park (fee to enter), boating from the Barn, yard games, a baking contest, dutch oven cooking and the kayak competition.

Contact: Debbie Zampini, [half-marathoner@hotmail.com](mailto:half-marathoner@hotmail.com)

**July 18–23 Circuit Hike, Bedford and Mogadore Sections.** The plan is for hiking 120.7 miles.

Contact: Poppie, [poppie50@att.net](mailto:poppie50@att.net) or 614-565-9752

## AUGUST

**August 11–14 North Country Trail Association Annual Meeting, Dayton.** Buckeye Trail hikes will be featured, as well as other natural and historic sites near Dayton. BTA members are invited to join the fun of the NCTA's Annual Meeting. Avoid the conference rush and join NCTA now. In NCTA member benefits include North Star magazine, Blue Blaze Bulletin, Trail Shop discounts, extended guided outings, trail design workshops.

**August 18–20 Circuit Hike, Massillon Section.** The plan is for hiking 53.6 miles.  
Contact: Poppie, [poppie50@att.net](mailto:poppie50@att.net) or 614-565-9752

**August 26–27 BTA Board Retreat, BTA Barn.** Contact: Melissa Reed, [president@buckeyetrail.org](mailto: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](mailto:holwick@columbus.rr.com)  
740-743-3813

## SEPTEMBER

**September 10–17 BTA Members Activity Committee (MAC) Trip, Damascus, VA.** We will backpack 50-60 miles of the Appalachian Trail from Damascus to Mt. Rogers. This part of the trail includes the highest point in Virginia, the Grayson Highlands and the ponies in the High Country. We will meet at a campground near Damascus on Sat. Sept. 10.

On Sunday 09/11: We will be shuttled to the Mt. Rogers Headquarters, hike 10.7 miles then camp at the Trimpi shelter. 09/12: Hike 9.1 miles to the Hurricane Mt. shelter. 09/13: Hike 10.9 miles to the Wise shelter. 09/14: Hike 11.9 miles to the Whitetop Mt. Rd. 09/15: Hike 11.8 miles to Saunders shelter. 09/16: 9.4 miles to return to Damascus. Total miles: 63.8. 09/17: Leave for home.

Deadline for this trip is Aug. 7. For trips like this I try to put together a car pool. Cost will cover camping Sat. 09/10 and Fri. 09/16, plus the shuttle fee. Total cost is \$22.00 for BTA members and \$42.00 for non-members. Send checks to John Rethman, 1001 Seneca Dr., Mason Ohio 45040.

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

**September 19–21 Circuit Hike, Belle Valley Section.** The plan is for hiking 57.9 miles.

Contact: Poppie, [poppie50@att.net](mailto:poppie50@att.net) or 614-565-9752

**September 21–25 National Public Lands Day BTA Work Party, BTA Barn.** Meals will be provided from the BTA Barn Kitchen. Maintain and improve the Buckeye Trail on the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District lands. We will work at nearby portions of the BT at Tappan, Piedmont, and Clendenning Lakes. Camping: On the shore

of Tappan Lake at the restored BTA Century Barn.

Contact: Rick Adamson, rickbta@gmail.com

## OCTOBER

**October 6–9 Circuit Hike, New Straitsville Section.** We will plan to hike 30.6 miles from SR 664 to Murray City and to end at the BTA Work Weekend site.

Contact: Poppie, poppie50@att.net or 614-565-9752

**October 8–9 BTA Work Party, New Straitsville Section.** \*This is a Chuck Wagon Event!\* Improve existing BT throughout the Burr Oak State Park and Wayne National Forest. Scenic vistas of Burr Oak Lake and the Athens Unit of the Wayne National Forest.

Camping: Burr Oak State Park Dock #3 Group Camping Area.

Must contact Jay Holwick at holwick@columbus.rr.com or 740-743-3813 to reserve your meals

Contact: Rick Adamson, rickbta@gmail.com

**October 18–21 Circuit Hike, Whipple Section.** We will plan to hike 57 miles.

Contact: Poppie, poppie50@att.net or 614-565-9752

**October 22–23 National Make a Difference Day BTA Work Party, Mogadore Section.** Bring your own food. Build and improve existing BT in west Branch State Park and. Come out and lend a hand on this ambitious multi-year project to extend the BT all the way around Michael J. Kirwan Reservoir.

Camping: West Branch State Park Group Campground

**October 22–23 National Make a Difference Day BTA Work Party, Future Sinking Springs Section.** Bring your own food. Build new Buckeye Trail in Straight Creek Prairie Bluffs Nature Preserve and maintain existing BT. Help knock out the final 500 yards of this beautiful segment of the BT so we can put it on the map. Several years of volunteer work here has finally brought us to the end. Come enjoy the scenery of this special place, one of several remnant prairie communities persisting along cliff edges, narrow ridges, and forest openings on unglaciated Cedarville dolomite.

# BTA Annual Picnic July 16

Just a reminder to all members that this year's annual picnic at the BTA Barn will be the weekend of July 16. You are welcome to come on Friday evening and camp or house at the barn and stay until Sunday. The BTA will be providing meat and drinks for late Saturday afternoon.

Debbie Zampini and Byron Guy have a great lineup of activities for us all. See the Summer *Trailblazer* or check [www.buckeyetrail.org](http://www.buckeyetrail.org) for details. We've got activities including hiking, swimming at the Tappan Lake Park (fee to enter), boating off the point down from the Barn, and yard games.

*Come join us for a great day at the Buckeye Trail Barn for this annual event.*

Camping: Butler Springs Christian Camp & Retreat Center.

Contact: Rick Adamson, rickbta@gmail.com

**October 23 Fort Hill Fall Hike, Sinking Spring Section.** Hike Starts at 11:00 am. The hike will use portions of the Fort, Deer, and Gorge Trails and encompass about six to seven miles of hiking along this beautiful section of the Buckeye Trail. Hikers will see 2,000-year old Hopewell earthworks, rock outcroppings, and some small arches and fall colors. 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 take 3-4 hours. 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. Fall colors should be peaking, 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 seven miles a bit daunting, there are options to shorten the hike, so do not let the mileage deter you from joining us!

Contact: Darryl Smith, socialmedia@buckeyetrail.org or 513-321-1539

## NOVEMBER

**November 5–6 BTA Work Party, Old Man's Cave, Old Man's Cave Section.** Bring your own food. Maintain and improve the BT in Hocking Hills State Park and Forest. This park has towering cliffs, waterfalls and deep hemlock-shaded gorges to lure the hiker and naturalist. Because of its beauty Hocking Hills is one of the most heavily used segments of the BT. Camping: Hocking Hills State Park Campground

Contact: Rick Adamson, rickbta@gmail.com

**November 17–19 Circuit Hike, Road Fork Section.** We plan to hike 57.3 miles.

Contact: Poppie, poppie50@att.net or 614-565-9752

## DECEMBER

**December 10 BTA Board Meeting, Command Alkon.** Starts 10:00 am.

Contact: Melissa Reed, president@buckeyetrail.org

**December 15–17 Circuit Hike, St Marys Section.** This is the final Circuit Hike of 2011. We plan to hike 45 miles.

Contact: Poppie, poppie50@att.net or 614-565-9752

## 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](mailto:membership@buckeyetrail.org)



# On the Trail . . .

It is finally summertime on Ohio's Buckeye Trail and there is a lot going on across our 1,445 miles. Organized hikes, volunteer trail building and maintaining opportunities, the Buckeye Trail Annual Picnic and the first ever BTA Olympics at the BTA Barn, the North

Country Trail Association's Annual Conference in Dayton, and much more. With higher gas prices and a renewed interest in out-of-the-way places of interest in Ohio, you may consider looking to the BT for your next weekend expedition. If you know of anything happening along the BT in your area that you think others would like to experience, please visit our Facebook page and post it.

Now and then I hear constructive criticism of the BT and BTA on the quality and quantity of the trail experience here in Ohio. Often I hear a comparison between the BT and the Appalachian Trail or other great trail experiences. Everyone should know about the AT, it has been under development for the past 90 years and just the idea of hiking from Georgia to Maine along the spine of the Appalachian Mountains inspires people. The AT does a great service to other trails like the BT by putting that thought in people's heads, "I want this kind of resource where I am from." The idea of the AT has inspired people from all over the world to develop long distance hiking trails of their own, including the BT with folks like Grandma Gatewood herself coming off of the AT thinking: *why doesn't Ohio have its own AT?*

For over 50 years now the BTA has been chasing that dream. In that time the BT has become a 1,445-mile long-distance hiking trail for Ohioans to enjoy with over 600 miles of it off-road trail. Yet the questions persist. Why isn't it all off-road yet? When will it be? Why doesn't it offer all of the facilities that other trails like the AT have? As you can imagine, devoted BTA volunteers can take these questions to heart. Hundreds of BT Adopters are out on the Trail battling the healthy growth of vegetation so that hikers can pass, the Buckeye Trail Crew is adding miles of new BT every year, local partners are doing their part on portions of the trail as well.

The point is well taken though, while the BT is making considerable progress each year it does not yet compare to the AT. The BT has two main challenges to overcome before it reaches the level of the AT: Time and Money. I hope that does not sound cynical. You are already doing your part by contributing to the BTA through your membership, and our volunteers are in overdrive in their devotion to the mission. To give you an idea on the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, their 2009 annual revenues and expenses were over \$5 million while the BTA was under \$100,000. The AT has four staffed regional offices in addition to their headquarters, and also has staff from the National Park Service that administers the Trail. Your BTA has a half-time Director, a shared office and an all-volunteer staff. The AT has nearly twice the amount of years in development as the BT, 38,000

members, significant federal investment in land protection over the last several decades, and 31 local/regional trail maintaining clubs, some of which are larger than the BTA itself. The AT needs and deserves these resources—they could probably use more—they are still working to improve, maintain and protect their trail.

Rather than feeling humbled by the comparison between the trails I am enthusiastic and prided in what the BTA has and is accomplishing on the ground. Without significant federal or state investment in the BTA the vision of the BT is truly a grassroots effort that has built nearly half of the trail off-road in 50 years in a state that ranks 47th out of 50 in public land per capita. Over the past 10 years the BTA's Buckeye Trail Crew alone has recorded over 35,000 volunteer hours, this does not include local Trail Adopters keeping the trail open for hikers. Our membership contributions and personal donations make up a significant portion of our total budget, meaning that we not only make the money stretch but we are also truly community-supported. I am enthusiastic about our current volunteer staff and Board members grappling with continuous change and setting strategic priorities to develop and protect the trail improving its hike-ability with a focus on developing campsites and trail connectivity. The Buckeye Trail and BTA are growing steadily toward our vision.

The BT is not the AT. In time, with enough resources, we will get there. In the meantime we are enjoying the process and the steady successes along the way. Over the last 50 years I think we are realizing that while we want a long-distance, off-road hiking experience like the AT, there are many things unique to Ohio and the BT found nowhere else. The feel of the experience from the forested hills, prairies, farmland, lakeshores, streams, and trail towns reminds me of the obvious, what we really desire is our own Buckeye Trail, not a replica of another great trail. There is a certain pleasure many of us feel by being in the loop of something great that is developing mainly unnoticed by the general public. In a way, I am happy we have critics; to me it proves there is great demand for what we are building, and the need to recruit more minds, bodies, and resources to rise to the challenge.

I am inspired daily by someone who is thru hiking the BT as I write, Andy Niekamp (aka 'Captain Blue'). It is a pleasure to read his daily blog and see someone taking on the challenges of the BT as it is today, knowing well that the Buckeye Trail Crew and others are building new trail at the very same time. If Captain Blue's blog is still live when you receive this newsletter check it out: [www.buckeyetrailhiker.com](http://www.buckeyetrailhiker.com).

Thank you for staying in the loop, enjoying the moment, and helping to achieve the vision of the Buckeye Trail.

Looking forward to seeing you on the Trail,

Andrew Bashaw  
BTA Executive Director  
[director@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:director@buckeyetrail.org), 740-394-2008

# Bits & Pieces

## HELP WANTED!

### TRAIL ADOPTER

BTA needs a volunteer to maintain trail for the new trail being built at West Branch State Park in the Mogadore Section. If interested, contact Garry Dill, BTA Volunteer Coordinator, at then321elm@att.net.

### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

BTA needs a volunteer to be the co-chairperson for the Scholarship Committee. An individual who has experience in college administration or high school guidance would be preferred. Duties will be to assist in the search for qualified applicants by advertising the availability of the scholarship in the *Trailblazer* and on [www.buckeyetrail.org](http://www.buckeyetrail.org) and to assist in the selection of the successful candidates from the qualified applicants.

### SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS

Scholarships are available to members, their children or grandchildren who are pursuing studies in natural resources. See the <http://www.buckeyetrail.org/scholarship.html> on BTA's website for details and an application.

*North  
Country Trail  
Association's 2011  
Annual Conference  
August 11-14  
Dayton*



*BTA Annual Picnic  
& Olympics  
Buckeye Trail Barn  
July 16*

## BTA Barn Directions

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

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

Contact: Russ Johnson, [oparuss1@msn.com](mailto:oparuss1@msn.com), 330-666-3409

# A Series of Remarkable Experiences and Other ~~Hiking~~ Life Lessons

Barb Crompton

Jump forward to mid-September 2009. I made plans to return to the place where it all began: Brecksville Reservation. I was aware of special Buckeye Trail maps, but I thought I could wing it with internet maps. Even though they lacked detailed BT information one set would get me to the park and the other would get me around in it. *Lesson #1: There is a correct tool for every job.* Order the BT section maps! Not only will they give Trail details down to the foot, they provide wonderful historical details about the area. Armed with almost nothing, I entered the reservation off St. Rt. 82 stopping at the first “you are here” sign and grabbed a Brecksville Reservation map, but I finally ended up at the park headquarters at Highland and Riverview Roads (known by the collection of yellow buildings). I helped myself to a Cuyahoga Valley map and compared it to the Brecksville map. Even though both were of the same general area, they read different not only from each other but from the ones I’d printed for myself, which at this time I realized were still at home. I am blessed with the gift of accepting that everything happens exactly the way it is supposed to. It helps me through a lot of unexpected and potentially frustrating moments, so forgetting the maps just became a part of the adventure. The maps I did have agreed on one thing, though: the BT to Jaite started just up Highland Road and thus began my 65-mile series of remarkable experiences and other hiking life lessons.

Along with the things in my backpack that I carry for the few hours of hiking and some emergencies, I carry a camera (definitely a need!). *Lesson #2: Be prepared!* With the advent of my walking I decided if I was going to walk outside that I would stop and “smell the roses” . . . and then capture them on film! Crossing Highland Road I started my hike. The approach trail led me right into a thicket of tall grass. I was impressed by the temperature change from the dry dusty road to

this humid grassy area as well as its sweet smell. Immediately I spied a large praying mantis that I picked up and put on my map. By the time I decided I should take its picture, agitated by my motions to retrieve my camera, it clicked away. Thankfully a collection of large gorgeous purple daisy-looking flowers appeared. The trail crossed over some railroad tracks and then I popped out onto Riverview Road. I searched everywhere for a blaze, but none were to be found. I could clearly see everything on the map, but the road I was on and the trail on the map just didn’t seem to jive. In my ignorance I figured the trail would run down the road a spell, a blaze would appear and I would pop back into the woods. *Lesson #3: Never proceed further without proper directions!* Go back to the last blaze you saw and try again! I ended up walking all the way down to Boston Mills Road before I finally found the next blaze and a BT sign marked, “Jaite 5½”. Appearing to be a circuit trail that would take me back to the car; I was already a little tired, and today a circuit trail looked mighty fine to me!

The Buckeye Trail in the Akron section is heavily wooded, very hilly and proved to be difficult from the onset with a steep upward climb. The cool sunless trail at first wound itself back and forth farther from my car along a ridge with sheer drops. The climbs up and down were sometimes near vertical, one being steep enough to be accompanied by a dizzying long staircase that, luckily for me, I got to walk down. The trail passed near a highway that traverses the area (I-271), to which I got to see the progress of a lane being added. The massive excavator perched on the side of the small mountain was dwarfed by the tremendous size of the construction area. After what seemed like hours of endless climbing, I was good and tired when I popped up out of the woods behind the Summit County Engineers building. Clueless as to what road I was about to cross or even if I was headed in the right direction I followed the blaze across the street and decided that I would stop the very next car that came up the road to ask for directions, which turned out to be a mail truck. For certain they would know where we were!

. . . to be continued . . .

*(Editor’s note: Some park maps and signs can be confusing, for example appearing to label the Buckeye Trail when it’s actually an approach trail to the BT. Also, different organizations (e.g., metroparks, state or national parks, national forests) produce their own maps independently. The BT maps are correct when printed, with changes posted on the Trail Alerts section you can find by clicking “Section by Section” on [www.buckeyetrail.org](http://www.buckeyetrail.org).)*

Near Akron Section point 5, sign looks like it’s on the Buckeye Trail, but indicates an approach to it. Photo by Barb Crompton.





# Come *Paint the Town Blue* at the NCTA 2011 Conference in Dayton



The Buckeye Trail Association, Five Rivers Metroparks, and Wright State University are proud to host the North Country Trail Association's 2011 Annual Conference August 11-14 in Dayton, the 'Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest'. The NCTA Conference rotates around the seven-state expanse of the 4,600-mile North Country National Scenic Trail, meaning it comes to Ohio only once every seven years. This year is unique, as the conference will be based in Dayton, the largest Trail Town on the entire NCNST. Rather than shy away from this urban experience we will be celebrating the town and surrounding country in the Miami Valley. We'll be highlighting many of the great things happening in Dayton as it reinvents itself from an industrial town to a destination for outdoor enthusiasts. Come rediscover this place you may have overlooked in the past and see what all the hype is about.

We are pleased to announce that both Andrew Skurka and Bart Smith will be presenting during the conference. Andrew is no stranger to the Dayton area as you may know, but now he's back after his latest adventure, the "Alaska-Yukon Expedition," featured in the March issue of National Geographic. Andrew and Bart are two of just a handful of people who have hiked the entire North

Country Trail. Bart will be sharing his amazing photography and story of his project *Walking Down a Dream: a Photographic Journey along America's National Scenic Trails*, of which he has hiked all 11!

Conference activities range as far north as the stair-step Lockington Locks on the Miami & Erie Canal, to the south to Caesar Creek State Park, east to the vibrant village of Yellow Springs and Glen Helen Nature Preserve and west to the newly created Twin Valley Backpacking Trail. In between, conference activities are based at Wright State University's Student Union. The conference is packed with many guided hikes, river paddling, workshops on skills and adventures, excursions on local history, and activities planned for the whole family. Please join us to enjoy and learn a little more about the North Country Trail and the Buckeye Trail as we *Paint the Town Blue* in Dayton, OH.

Please visit [www.northcountrytrail.org](http://www.northcountrytrail.org) for more detailed descriptions of program offerings, online registration, and an online interactive map of all conference activity locations!

## Join us as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary!

Learn more about historic towpath trails that are part of the Buckeye Trail. Five canal tours each year.

Follow us on Facebook.



Membership information available on Canal Society of Ohio website.  
[canalsocietyohio.org](http://canalsocietyohio.org)

# State Trail Coordinator's Corner

Rick Adamson, BTA/NCTA State Trail Coordinator

What is PPE? PPE is Personal Protective Equipment such as proper clothing, footwear, gloves, chaps, hardhat with clear face protector and hearing protectors when using loud equipment such as a chain saw, DR mower or leaf blower.

Recently at one of our volunteer work parties, a volunteer was hurt to the point he had to have medical attention at a local hospital. Leadership at this particular work party knew what to do and who to contact. Because he was working on a portion of the Buckeye Trail that is also the North Country National Scenic Trail, and the volunteer was signed up under a Group Volunteer Agreement Form with the NPS, the volunteer qualified to have his injury submitted to the U.S. Department of Labor for reimbursement determination. The NPS assisted in all phases of submitting paperwork to the Department of Labor on behalf of the volunteer.

Had the volunteer been wearing gloves, this accident possibly could have been prevented. We all are aware of the importance of proper clothing and footwear while doing trail work; we MUST also be aware of the importance of gloves, hearing protection and face protection. These items should be included while working on any trail.

A volunteer can only be eligible for injury expense coverage if they are signed up on either an Individual or Group Volunteer Agreement Form with the NPS. Volunteers are automatically part of the Group Agreement if they are official members of either the BTA or NCTA. Those who do not maintain membership in either of these organizations must enter into a separate Individual or Group Volunteer Agreement before these injury protections can be extended to them. See your local trail leader for information on how to complete a Volunteer Agreement Form if you are not a member of the BTA or NCTA. For any volunteer, Department of Labor reimbursement considerations are valid only while working on those portions of the Buckeye Trail that overlap and share a common route with the North Country Trail. The BTA has its own insurance where the trail is Buckeye Trail only.

Also, please remember to familiarize yourself with the Injury Reporting Kits that were provided to the BTA, NCTA chapters, and other partner groups by the NPS. If you don't know where to find one of the kits, ask someone in a leadership role. If you do get injured, take it with you to the hospital. It contains forms that need to be completed before a claim can be filed with the Department of Labor. If you are hurt and don't have the Injury Reporting Kit handy, by all means seek medical attention immediately. The paperwork can be resolved later, but the process runs much smoother if you have the kit on hand at the time of your treatment. As always, the NPS will help you through each step of the process in reporting an injury and filing claim with the Department of Labor.

For those who use a chain saw, we have been very lax in our efforts to protect ourselves from injury. Much improvement is needed in this area. Chain saw certification classes are planned in the near future. If injured while using a chain saw AND using all your PPE equipment, proper clothing, chaps, hardhat (with face and hearing protectors that are attached to the hardhat), you are qualified to have your injury submitted to the U.S. Department of Labor for reimbursement determination. The National Park Service will assist in all phases of submitting paperwork on behalf of the volunteer. This is while working on those portions of the Buckeye Trail that overlap and share a common route with the North Country Trail.

For those wishing to be chain saw-certified, please contact State Trail Coordinator Rick Adamson. All PPE equipment will be provided. All you need is a chain saw. I will give you the place, time and dates when the classes will be held and any prerequisites. One thing we are very adamant about, is no one will use a chain saw by themselves. Even if the second person just stands and watches, *THERE MUST BE TWO (2) PEOPLE AT ALL TIMES WHEN A CHAIN SAW IS IN USE!*

In another part of Ohio, while working on the BT/NCT a professional chain saw operator, wearing all his PPE, was seriously injured when the chain saw kicked back cutting him in the face that required 17 stitches. Fortunately he was not by himself. He was immediately taken to the hospital, as he could not transport himself. This person is a professional chain saw operator who used a chain saw for a living. ACCIDENTS have no boundaries. Even if it can happen to a professional, it can happen to YOU!

You all know what type of tools we work with. They are very sharp and if not used properly, could result in serious injury or worse. A safety talk is given every morning before we leave camp as to the proper use and transportation of the tools we use. Even if you've heard it the previous morning, you are going to hear it again, every morning. This is to keep all of us aware of the importance of safety. There is always someone with First Aid and/or CPR training and are pointed out to all. First Aid kits are available to those in leadership roles. We need to practice SAFETY much more than we do now.



# Introducing the BTA at WPAFB

Pat Hayes was able to tell about one hundred military and civilian base personnel about the Buckeye Trail and what it has to offer at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Outdoor Recreation Open House in April. He educated people about the Buckeye Trail Association and its mission and distributed brochures from the BTA display at the big show. Several other area outdoor recreation groups participated in the open house, telling what their groups had to offer. The recreation groups attending the open house covered a wide range of interests, including fly-fishing, scuba diving, kayaking, hiking and backpacking, cycling and many other activities.



## Picture Quilt Raffle to Benefit BTA Trail Preservation Fund

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Buckeye Trail Picture Quilt Raffle. We are a little over 1/3 of the way to our goal of raising \$1444.00 for the BTA's Trail Preservation Fund. The raffle continues until we reach that goal. If you haven't purchased your tickets yet, please fill out the form below and mail it to the BTA at the address on the form. A receipt will be promptly returned to you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- One Ticket – \$5.00
- Five Tickets – \$20.00

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.

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



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

# The Adopter's Corner

*Jim Sprague, Maintenance Supervisor*

The Buckeye Trail Association has long been a group that strives to do more with less. That may be a property of an essentially all-volunteer organization—time and people are always in limited supply. Early in life, a person's volunteer time is limited because a person does things that prepare for adult life, not the least of which is acquiring a mate; in mid-life volunteer time is limited because must deal with ever-urgent family matters; as retired people, what is our alibi? Shouldn't we have lots of time? No. Even with time greatly freed from family and work, time remains limited because now personal maintenance, what with body malfunctions and all, takes more and more of our time. Consequently, we individually never have enough time to do all that we would like to do. Some of my readers do volunteer as a Trail Adopter-Maintainer. Probably, more hike for fun, health, etc. A hiker can help the Adopter-Maintainer keep the Trail in good condition.

## HOW CAN A HIKER HELP?

You can describe the trail conditions you found during your hike. In this age of hand-held devices, reporting is as easy as using your cell phone to call 740-394-2008. With good luck, you will talk with Andrew Bashaw, BTA's most pleasant and still-new Executive Director, and not an answering machine. On the other palm, you could email your thoughts to [info@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:info@buckeyetrail.org). Either way will deliver your message into hands that can either enjoy your praise or take remedial action to improve a difficult situation.

## WHAT SHOULD BE REPORTED?

First, I would really like to hear, "I had a great hike between Points 29 and 30 in the Belle Valley Section!" You see, that is my adopted segment. But if you should encounter a problem with the condition of the Trail, let us know, as well as its location as precisely as reasonable. Estimate the degree of the problem. For example, if a tree is across the trail, the phrase "big" doesn't cut it. I have lugged a chain saw over a mile to reach a "big" tree across the trail. When I arrived at the tree, it was less than 6" in diameter. A folding saw that would fit in my back pocket could handle that problem with far less pain! You do not need a ruler. Your hand is roughly 6 inches from tip of index finger to wrist. If you describe the tree trunk in terms of hands thick, the Adopter-Maintainer will know what tools or help that he needs. If you or other hikers broke branches to get through an obstacle, that information would also be helpful. In open country in Ohio, weeds or flowers, as they are often called, grow with absolutely astounding rapidity. Consequently, a hiker may encounter overgrown conditions in the tread from time to time. OK, often! Whatever, I urge you to estimate the degree of overgrowth. Is the growth 6 inches,

knee-high, hip-high, shoulder-high or matted and hard to kick through. The first four conditions tell the Adopter-maintainer that he or she has a problem. The latter condition tells the Section Supervisor that he needs to get help additional help on this segment. In addition to growing up, quite often, growth intrudes from the side or overhead. From either direction, intrusion into the trail corridor is greater when foliage is heavy with moisture. Mention whether you were hiking in rain, early in the morning, or midday and later.

Your report will help BTA improve trail condition. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to say, "I had a great hike!" Why? When compared with trail in urban parks, much of the Buckeye Trail receives light use, especially in areas far from the larger cities. Knowing that somebody enjoyed their adopted trail offers great satisfaction to Adopter-maintainers. Your favorable comment encourages their continuing efforts. Their time does make a difference. And, so will your comments.



## Trail Heroes of 2010 (continued from Spring 2011 Trailblazer)

*Jim Sprague*

These Adopters turned in reports a bit too late to be included in the last issue of Trailblazer. If you should meet these volunteers on the Trail or elsewhere, please thank them personally for their efforts.

	Site Visits	Work Time	Total Time	Travel Miles
Phyllis Devlin	11	24.5 hrs	33.0 hrs	244
Pat Jenkins			40.0 hrs	300
Bock Rutan	1	3.8 hrs	4.8 hrs	60



# Welcome New Members!

*Bev and Jerry Starcher*

Kenneth Bathgate, Parma  
Larry Bells, Mason  
Diane Berkheimer, New Franklin  
Anastasia Birosh, Brunswick  
Craig Bishop and Family, Grafton  
Brian Blair, Rockbridge  
Sam Bonifas, Delphos  
Boy Scout Troop 383, Mentor  
Jim Bozdog, Hubbard  
Neal and Allison Brady, New Bremen  
Alan Brenner, Kent  
David Brewer, Canfield  
Robert Burris, Peninsula  
Peter Carels and Family, Oxford  
John Childers, Minerva  
James Cooper, McDermott  
Tom Cross, West Union  
Amanda Debevc and Family, Painesville  
Elizabeth DeBrael, Lancaster  
Roderick Dibble, Chagrin Falls  
Benjamin Doherty, Columbus  
John Fitzpatrick, Cuyahoga Falls  
Charles Fletcher, Burton  
Donald Godfrey, Toledo  
Kelly and Angela Helmick, Barberton  
Warren and Cheryl Henry, Granville  
Zachariah and Michelle Henry, Thornville  
Jacquelyn Fokes and Gerald Hilferty,  
Athens  
Myrna Hixson, West Union  
Thomas Hoener, Shaker Hts  
Bruce and Sue Howorth and Family,  
Dayton  
Debbie Hughes, Broadview Hts  
Martin and Leslie Jan, Bowling Green  
Gail Johnson, North Canton  
Michael and Eloise Kaizar, Columbus  
John Kanieski, Medina  
John Kotowski, Athens  
JL Kreider, Dayton  
John Laughrey, Kettering  
Sherri Lethco, Rittman  
Sue and Pat Lucic, Stow  
Mary Sue Lutz, Farmington, Michigan  
Gary and Linda Manning, Hillsboro  
William Manthey and Family, Berea  
Dennis McCurdy and Family, Troy

Bill and Andrea McGovern, Mentor  
Candi Moore and Steve Mershon,  
Granville  
Jerry Miller and Family, Worthington  
Alan Mize, Cincinnati  
Elaine Newlon, Delaware  
David Newlun, Horseheads, New York  
Richard Ostheimer, Youngstown  
Todd Paul, Kenton  
Marlena Phillips, Gallipolis  
Christina Rizzo, Holland  
David Roberts, Marysville  
Steve Roley, Logan  
Matt Rothhaar and Family, Bloomville  
Kevin Russell, Chagrin Falls  
Michael Saxton, Defiance  
Travis Showers, Lebanon  
Julia Smith and Family, Dublin  
William Souders and Family,  
Circleville  
Justin Tague and Family, Columbus  
Fred and Chris Tritschler, Cincinnati  
Robert Ulrich and Family, Dayton  
Catherine Vernon, Cincinnati  
Dave and Angela Watkins, Cuyahoga  
Falls  
Derek and Anita West, Mentor on the  
Lake  
Nancy White, Marietta  
John Winnenberg and Family, Glouster

# Join the NCTA Now

BTA members can join the North Country Trail Association at a 50% discount. Don't be left out. Check out the new website [www.northcountrytrail.org](http://www.northcountrytrail.org) or call 616-897-5987 for membership information.

The 2011 NCTA conference is being held in Dayton this August and Ohio trail sections are being featured as well as other natural and historic sights in the area. In addition to the camaraderie of other hikers and like-minded trail volunteers, member benefits include: *North Star* magazine, Blue Blaze Bulletin, Trail Shop discounts, Extended Guided Outings, local events and hikes, trail design workshops.

## A Legendary Woodsmen?

Chris McIntyre found this interesting woodcarving along the BT in the Williamsburg Section, East Fork State Park.



# Scouting and the BTA

The Buckeye Trail Association is the leader in building, maintaining, protecting and promoting use of Ohio's longest scenic hiking trail for our citizens, communities and partners. The BTA works to create a legacy for present and future generations.

As the newly appointed Scouting Liaison, I have been asked to build a stronger relationship with the various scouting organizations in Ohio. Many scouts use our trails on a regular basis. They may or may not be aware that they are hiking the BT. How can we better promote the use of the BT for scout groups?

Are you a Girl Scout or Boy Scout leader, a former Scouter, or interested in the scouting programs? Would you be interested in forming a committee to determine the needs of Scouts relating to BTA programs? We are not looking to increase trail maintenance hours by having youth "pick up sticks" in the parks, rather, how can the Scouts and BTA work together to promote trail use and provide service to each other through advancement activities, camporees, and Eagle Scout projects.

Contact Poppie at [scouting@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:scouting@buckeyetrail.org) with your comments or interests in a one-time meeting or becoming a scouting liaison committee member.



Scouts from Troop 295 and Scout Leader Vince Phillips tackle a tricky Trail problem. Photo: Pat Hayes



Troop 555 from Upper Arlington joined the Trail Crew at an October New Straitsville Work Party. They provided great skits and jokes for the Trail Crew, as well as about 5 hours worth of work and hiking from each Scout. Photo: Jim Sprague

## BTeasers

Pat Hayes

**Q** What happened on October 16, 1978 that involved 343 hikers and 4 dogs?

**A** Eldon E. Montague conducted his annual "Walk with Nature" along the Buckeye Trail between St Marys and Forty Acre Pond on the Miami and Erie Canal towpath. *Trailblazer* Vol. 11, No. 1, pg. 6, Jan. 1978



Scouts lift a heavy log to help build a bridge (it's started on the left) over a deep creek at A Work Party.  
 Photo: Gary Williams



BTA member Earl Garn (center) trains Scouts from Troop 295 to build the Buckeye Trail on a hillside in a Stockport Section Work Party.  
 Photo: Pat Hayes



A Scout from Troop 555 perfects his blazing technique.  
 Photo: Jim Sprague

# BT—Could Stand for Beer Trail?

Dana Zintek

Sometimes writing a story for the Trailblazer takes research, a lot of research ...

Northeast Ohio residents—hikers specifically—are blessed by having two brewpubs located right on the Buckeye Trail. A brewpub by definition is a establishment that brews beer and sells said beer along with food on the premises. And beer and food are, for some hikers, the perfect way to end a long hike on the BT.

The Chardon BrewWorks & Eatery is situated on the west side of Chardon Square, point 14 on the BTA April 2011 Burton Section map. There is plenty of free parking on the square. The first brewery in Geauga County since prohibition, the BrewWorks was established in 2010 by Mike and Donna Nedrow. They'd been home brewers since 1975 and aimed to recreate the feel of an historic public house, or pub. On my most recent visit they had six beers on draught. After sampling all six, I focused on the Pride of Geauga Maple Porter and the Working Man Pale Ale. The Ale won a 2010 silver medal at the National Homebrew Competition. The Maple Porter, made with local maple syrup, complemented my Shepard's Pie and helped with the ambience of the public house. Other menu items were typical pub grub: burgers, chicken and salads. On the Buckeye Trail, hike south from the BrewWorks onto the Maple Highlands Trail to Headwaters Park and East Branch Reservoir (point 19, Burton Section) for an off-road 9-mile hike. Carpool or hike back to Chardon Square and quench your thirst while gazing at a blue blaze.

The Medina Section of Buckeye Trail has Lager Heads Smokehouse at point 18 on the

2007 map. Established in 2004, Lager Heads specializes in barbecue using a secret recipe and all meats are hickory smoked in-house. They feature a different daily special Monday-Sunday. It is very limited for vegetarians, but a vegan in our midst made do. In 2010 Lager Heads started brewing beer. I tried the six-beer sampler, then focused on the Savage Stout and the William Wallace Scottish Ale. Both beers went well with my half-slab of ribs, chicken and coleslaw. To work up this appetite, we hiked south from the brewpub parking lot on Abbeyville Road, then west on the Lester Rail Trail and returned to fine beer and food after 15 miles. (Please note that before leaving our car at Lager Heads Smokehouse to hike, we asked permission; didn't want to lose our beer privileges.)

Honorable mention: Willoughby Brewing Company (4057 Erie St., Willoughby) is six miles from Chapin Forest, Bedford Section point 23. Marietta Brewing Company (167 Front St., Marietta) is 15 miles outside the Wayne National Forest, Whipple Section point 7, and Maumee Bay Brewing Company (27 Broadway Ave., Toledo) is 15 miles from Farnsworth Metropark, Defiance Section point 21. All three are brewpubs, where you can eat and hydrate to your heart's content after a long hike. The Wooden Shoe Brewing Company (69 Garfield St., Minster), serving beer but no food, is a stone's throw from the BT's Troy Section point 14.

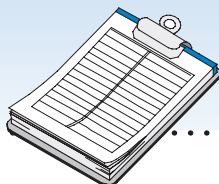
But before I write about these places I need more research. It's all about the research.



## 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



# Am I the Only One Hiking the Buckeye Trail?

Poppie

While hiking toward Stockport in April with Kathy, CW and Richard, a local farmer and his wife stopped to talk. Actually we found the locals of the Stockport area to be very friendly, with several stopping to talk. As we talked about the trail and the need for water and camping spots, we were asked how many hikers were hiking the Buckeye Trail. Stopping for a moment, as I needed to think, I realized that I could not answer that question.

A year ago this would have been an easy answer. "Just me." I am the only one on this Trail and I keep asking myself why. I have hiked several miles of the Trail with scouts, my son and all alone before deciding to hike the entire BT. I'd had a friend pick me up and drop me off to hike some miles. I had even taken my bike and dropped it off along the trail, driven several miles, hiked back to the bike and returned to my car on the bike.

At the annual meeting last year it was suggested to me that I list hikes on [www.buckeyetrail.org](http://www.buckeyetrail.org). Thinking that there were only a few people hiking the BT, I did not see much use in this. But I did it anyway. My first Circuit Hike was at Burr Oak State Park in the New Straitsville Section. I received many emails and calls. On the day of the hike, six other hikers showed up. My friend and another hiker's wife shuttled us to the starting point at Shews Orchard. So now there are seven people hiking the Buckeye Trail, and I knew I was no longer alone out here.

That first hike, we hiked over the scenic roads into Burr Oak State Park. Several hikers met at a fishing cabin I had reserved for the weekend. The next day we hiked through the park, then into the Wayne National Forest at Trimble Wildlife Area. We concluded the hike by visiting the Smokerise Ranch where they were having a rodeo with young horse riders. I would highly recommend this hike to other hikers.

November's Circuit Hike was in the Shawnee Section. Camping at both Ben's Happy Trails Horse Ranch and the Shawnee State Park Campgrounds in November was cold but enjoyable even after chipping ice from our tents in the morning.

Hiking through the Shawnee State Forest and Park was strenuous as the trails had been lost after the fire of 2009. Many hours of volunteer trail maintenance were erased with plans to reestablish them. As we hiked, stories of other hikes were told and I realized that there are other hikers on the BT that I have not yet met.

Later in November, we hiked through the Sinking Springs Section toward the Davis Memorial. A young hiker who joined us with his mother, Spencer was working on a 10-mile hike for scouting. Though the trek became strenuous over Tolle Hill onto the GE property, Spencer kept up with us and often led the way.



Earning his 10-mile patch and requirement for the hiking merit badge, I am sure that we will meet them on the trail later this year.

The winter hikes through West Union and Williamsburg brought out additional hikers. Temperatures dropped as both months we hiked through blizzard conditions. The snow and ice did not prevent enjoyable hikes with my newfound hiking family.

Expecting cold weather in the northern part of the state, the February hike was planned for the Troy Section. We hiked through Dayton where early thawing caused flooding along the Miami River. As we headed for Troy, flooding there turned a 3-5 miles hike into a 13-mile day, but we enjoyed every minute of it.

In the Delphos section we were fortunate to meet Sam, a local MEST trail volunteer and member of BTA. He hiked with us and gave us the history of the area. Later at a Delphos restaurant we were joined by the town historian and collector for dinner. I had met Jim earlier when we hiked through Springfield. I think we were "collected" as he bought us dinner and told us stories of the area and questioned us on our trek around the state.

Another reporter met us in Batavia as we finished the Williamsburg Section in March.

I have also talked to many interested hikers, members of BTA and others, about this Circuit Hike. How many hikers are hiking the BT? I am not sure. What I do know is, I have a wonderful hiking family with many wonderful memories and stories to share for a long time. I have now hiked more than half the trail and anticipate finishing the trail by the end of the year. Check the message board, <http://buckeyetrail.org/TrailTalk/index.php?board=7.0>, for the next Circuit Hike. Email me at [scouting@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:scouting@buckeyetrail.org) and join "my family." I promise you a wonderful experience.

# Highlights of the BTA Board Meeting—March 12, 2011

## STATE TRAIL COORDINATOR

### RICK ADAMSON

- A Boy Scout Camporee was held April 29-May 1, with 250-300 scouts expected at the American Electric Power ReCreation Lands. They built a bridge plus maintained and rerouted a section of the Buckeye Trail. On March 25 more than 150 students and teachers from Pettisville High School will volunteer on the BT on the Miami and Erie Canal towpath in northwest Ohio. Experienced Trail Crew workers will be along to advise and supervise both the scouts and the high school volunteers.
- A Trail Development and Maintenance Team has been formed to help Rick Adamson as State Trail Coordinator. The members of this group are Jim Runk, Jim Sprague, Pat Hayes, Richard Lutz, Deven Atkinson, Garry Dill and Debbie Zampini.

## LIAISON WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

### GARRY DILL

- The 2011 North Country National Scenic Trail annual meeting will be in Ohio this year. It is at Wright State University in Dayton August 11-14. At the banquet on Saturday evening everyone from Ohio will be asked to stand up.

## MAC

### JOHN RETHMAN

- MAC's fall backpacking trip will be September 10-17 on the section of the Appalachian Trail starting in Virginia's Mount Rogers area north of Damascus.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Bruce "Poppie" Purdy from the Simon Kenton Boy Scout Council was voted the BTA Scouting Liaison. The present job description in the bylaws will be revised with a mission and goals. Poppie will be giving a presentation during BTA's annual meeting on May 21.
- Steve Miller stated that Darryl Smith had set up Facebook and Twitter for the BTA and the BTA Forum is now working with Darryl as the moderator.
- Rick Adamson reported that in 2010 the BTA had done 600 hours of trail work in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. This work is worth \$12 an hour.

The 2011 Annual Business Meeting will be on May 21 at the BTA Barn on Tappan Lake followed by a short board of trustees meeting to elect the officers on the executive board. The next regular board meeting will be on June 11 at 10:00 a.m. at Command-Alkon in Dublin, Ohio.



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

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

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

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

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

## BTA Funds Report

### TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND

2/1/11-4/1/11

Kevin K. Bowman  
David Newlun  
William Hewett  
Herb Hulls  
Travis Neely  
Holly Henry  
Michael and Elly Kaizar

Cleveland Hiking Club in  
memory of Emily Gregor

Jeanette De Simone in  
memory of Gene De Simone

### GENERAL FUND

1/1/11-3/31/11

M. Williard Briggs  
Ruth Brown  
Kenneth Katona  
Edward Denk  
Susan Doolittle  
Richard Feldmann  
Carl Feller  
Mary Hamilton  
Kroger Community Rewards  
Don McHugh  
Freddie Payton  
Quincy Robe  
Michael Simons

### BARN

1/1/11-3/31/11

Mary Hamilton

### SCHOLARSHIP

1/1/11-3/31/11

Dorothy Williams



# BTA Grant Appreciation

*Eden Valley Enterprises is an educational organization dedicated to Ohio history and theatre, presenting history as fun. They present living history programs, lectures and workshops, and appreciated BTA's help in a recent project.*

I just wanted to send you a report about the generous grant you provided for our Grandma Gatewood project.

We recently returned from a trip to Gallipolis, Ohio where we met with several relatives of Emma Gatewood. We also were able to tour the area to get pictures of places that were part of Emma's life. This ENTIRE trip was funded by your grant! We are so grateful that we were able to do this as the information and the pictures that we were able to obtain will provide important background that would otherwise have been unavailable to us.

Though we originally thought we would be going to Dayton to meet with several of Emma's relatives, when we spoke to her granddaughter, Lillian, she connected us with Marjorie Wood in Gallipolis because she knew that Marjorie had quite a bit of Emma's materials and because that was the area where Emma lived. Not only did Marjorie have a great deal of Emma's personal items, but she shared Emma's diaries with us. The unfortunate part is, we would have to move in with Marjorie for at least a year in order to actually READ all the diaries! We are now working with her to gather some specific information for the program. We also hope to raise enough money to purchase a portable scanner so that we can return in the future to scan the diaries for future use.

Please accept our gratitude for this opportunity to work with you to help bring Emma's story to the public. If you have any questions about the project, would like additional information, or have stories to share about Emma, don't hesitate to contact me by e-mail or call me at 440-284-4828.

Thank you again!

Bette Lou Higgins  
Eden Valley Enterprises  
[www.edenvalleyenterprises.org](http://www.edenvalleyenterprises.org)

Peter Huston  
FilmAffects  
<http://filmaffects.com/work/index.html>

## BRAMBLE #58

by Dana Zintek

1. TICK
2. WAYNE
3. CAMPING
4. BLAKESLEE

BRAMBLE: A WALKING STICK

**WINNER: Craig Gauger from Maumee**

**Buckeye Trail Association**

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# BRAMBLE #59

by Dana Zintek

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

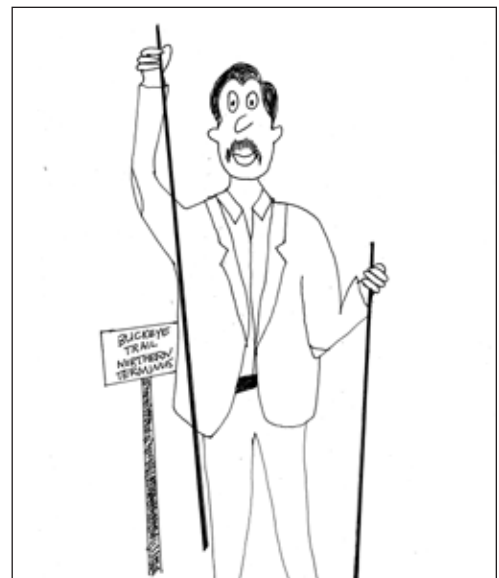
For a chance to win the book *The Cactus Eaters*, by Dan White, a PCT hiker's story

Send your answers to:

Dana Zintek  
2369 Suncrest Drive  
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

Answers must be postmarked by August 1, 2011.

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



What was Lech Walesa's trail name?

1. Burr Oak nature trail

**M U P H I N C K**

□ ○ ○ ○ □ □ ○ ○

2. Grand Rapids nee

**L E G A I D**

○ ○ ○ ○ □ □

3. WC on map

**S H O T I T F U L L E**

□ □ □ ○ ○ ○ □ □

□ □ □  
□ □ □ □ □ □  
□ □ □ □