

Trailblazer



FOUNDED 1959

FALL 2011 VOLUME 44 NO. 3

New Campsite in Delphos Section

Things have been buzzing in northwest Ohio for some years now and recently, there have been groups of Boy Scouts refining the newly constructed Buckeye Trail in Paulding County. The group, led by Les Weidenhammer, has been keeping the trail cleared, constructing footbridges and even clearing and constructing a campsite at Lock 21. This is also known as the Vailes Lock, a double lock, on the Miami and Erie Canal towpath. There is a 16-foot wide, grass-covered area between these two locks. It was cleared of brush, trees, weeds and trash and can now be used as an overnight campsite for backpackers. There will soon be some long bench seats located there, too. Les has been working with the local Boy Scouts on efforts to keep the Buckeye Trail along this portion of the Miami and Erie

Canal towpath in Paulding County open for hikers to enjoy the wonderful scenic and definitely historic sights along one of the nation's oldest canals. See the Delphos Section relocation trail description at www.buckeyetrail.org/sec-delphos.html.



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Our Trail

Melissa Reed, BTA President

The Scouting Legacy

Scouts—boys and girls both—are great assets to the Buckeye Trail Association. You have only to look through recent issues of the Trailblazer to see the many times Scouts, all Boy Scouts as it happens, are featured on the cover. The Spring 2011 issue showed Cub Scouts from Pack 652 building bat houses to be used at the BTA Barn. On the cover of the Winter 2010 issue you saw members of Troop 19 of Oakwood working on a bridge on the our towpath trail in northwest Ohio. Scouts again made the front cover of the Summer 2008 issue, which pictured a few of the 300 Boy Scouts from nine troops who worked on our trail in Noble County during April of that year. On the cover of the Winter 2007 issue members of Troop 295 in the Scioto Section show off their maintainer T-shirts. The boys from Troop 759 didn't make the front cover of the Summer 2006 issue, but Russ Johnson took a page to describe their work putting in a culvert at the Barn and their efforts to restore order to a neglected family cemetery in the area. And I know that scouts have assisted us and made use of the Buckeye Trail in many other ways as well. As I was working on this piece, two calls came in: a scout leader looking for Eagle Scout projects for two boys and a scout himself requesting information for a three-day hike that he and his troop of 15 boys are planning in St. Marys Section. As they hike through the section, they will pass the trailside shelter built by scout Parker Cole, and will see a stone fireplace under construction by Parker's brother, also completing his Eagle Scout project.

I'm not sure why our articles and photographs are about Boy Scouts only. This past summer a troop of Girl Scouts hiked 14 miles eastward from Napoleon and picked up rakes and shovels to work alongside us adults on the Trail near Grand Rapids. Back in my day, the 1950s, the closest my Girl Scout troop came to hiking was walking from our camp cabin to the swimming pool at Indiana's McCormick Creek State Park. The Girl Scout of 21st-century America seems to have made progress and we have yet to take proper notice.

A piece by Bruce Purdy (aka "Poppie") in our Summer 2011 issue entitled "Scouting and the BTA" introduced us to Bruce as our newly appointed scout liaison. As I looked over the material Bruce sent to us for revising the liaison description appended to our bylaws, it occurred to me that I myself owe something important to the Boy Scouts. My father grew up a Boy Scout and often took my mother, my sisters and me to Ohio's Kiser Lake State Park, where we camped overnight and boated in the small sailboat he had built from scratch. These outings suited my mother just fine, no doubt because she was raised by a father who, as an employee of the Boy Scouts of America, managed summer camps in Ashland, Kentucky and Chillicothe during the twenties. Later, in the Depression years, my grandfather was no longer with the Boy Scouts, but was taking school photographs throughout the Midwest. He took advantage of an opportunity to purchase clear-cut land in northern Wisconsin, land that at the time was considered nearly worthless. With five of his eight children he built and recreated a camp along the lines of the scout camps he had once managed, complete with flagpole and a bugle for taps and reveille. How my aunts and uncles, who were then teenagers, responded to reveille I can only guess. Much later, during the decades I lived in Chicago and New York City, I often longed for a night in the woods in a tent. When I returned to Ohio in 2006, one of the first things I did was to join the Buckeye Trail Association and show up at a work party in Paulding County. Now that I think of it, I believe the Boy Scouts of America had something to do with that.



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Coming in 2012 . . .



SpringFest

April 27-29, 2012

Oregonia, Ohio

Mark your calendars now for the first annual SpringFest, to be held April 27–29, 2012 at King’s Domain near Oregonia. SpringFest is a gathering of BTA members and friends. It is a chance to learn about the Buckeye Trail, get tips on hiking and meet lots of new people with similar interests.

The theme for the 2012 SpringFest is “Yes, You Can Thru-Hike It!!” Workshops, presentations and information will be provided on doing a long-distance hike on the Buckeye Trail—from one week to the entire loop.

Not interested in a thru-hike? There will be plenty for everyone. Learn some basic backpacking tips and techniques from experienced hikers, find out what it takes to build and maintain a quality trail, hear speakers relate their own long-distance experiences and learn some of the history of the area. Oh yeah, there will also be hikes around the scenic Fort Ancient area and the Little Miami Valley!

Events will start at 1:00 pm on Friday, April 27 and continue until noon on Sunday, April 29. Be sure to plan your time off as you will not want to miss a moment of this weekend. Watch your mail in the coming weeks for complete details and registration forms.

We will see you at SpringFest 2012!

BTeasers

Pat Hayes

Q What Railroad right-of-way became the Little Miami State Park, a 50 mile linear multi-purpose trail?

A The Penn Central Railroad right-of-way.
Trailblazer Volume 11 No.1 January 1978

Schedule of Hikes & Events



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

SEPTEMBER

September 10 Buckeye Trail Hike, Medina Section. Meet at 10:00 am at the Whippys Ledges parking lot, just off State Rd. (CR 44), which runs north-south between Ledge Rd. and SR 303. Bring a sack lunch and we will eat after we hike. Bring water and dress for the weather.

Contact: Ruth Brown: bandrbrown@willard-oh.com

September 10 Walk for Sunshine. 7:00 am Registration at Monclova Elementary School. Annual Walk with Sunshine to raise funds for Sunshine Acres, the animal activities and horticultural program at Sunshine. The original Walk With Sunshine was inspired by Jeff Alt's thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail in 1998 in honor of his brother, a resident at Sunshine. Call 419-335-3763 for information or register online at www.firstgiving.com/wws.

I extend an invitation to all Buckeye Trail members, friends and families to come out for the event.

Contact: Mike Alt, 419-878-8058, 7305 Sloop Ct., Maumee, OH 43537

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., Maumee Ohio 45040.

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

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 Conser-

vancy 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 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 15 Buckeye Trail Hike, Fort Ancient Area, Loveland Section. 10:30 am. Hikes of 2, 6, 8, and/or 10 miles on the BT and white-blazed trails in the Little Miami River valley near Fort Ancient. Part of a series of hikes scheduled across southwestern Ohio to get BTA members to gather together and hike the Buckeye Trail. You do not have to be a BTA member to join in the fun (but becoming a BTA member would be a very noble thing to do). Loop hikes will start at ODNR parking lot on SR 350 near Morgan's Canoe. We'll have some views, ancient earthworks, the Little Miami River, the June Morgan Memorial, and the Kern Effigies to guide us along our way. Bring water and snacks; boots or walking shoes, long pants are recommended. Dogs are, but should be on leash.

Directions from Columbus: Head south on I-71. Take Exit 36 (Wilmington Rd.) and turn right onto Wilmington. In 0.5-mile turn right onto Middleboro Road. Drive two miles. Turn right onto SR 350. Go about 1.5 miles, past the entrance to Fort Ancient State Memorial and park in the ODNR parking lot on the left just before the bridge over the Little Miami River. Directions from Cincinnati: Head north on I-71. Take Exit 32 (SR 123) and turn right onto SR 123. Take an immediate left onto SR 350. Drive 3 miles to the ODNR parking lot on the right just after crossing the bridge over the Little Miami River.

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

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

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. Camping: Butler Springs Christian Camp & Retreat Center.

Contact: Rick Adamson, rickbta@gmail.com

October 23 BTA 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 6-7 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 are two steep hills to tackle (400, 300 ft., respectively), and the Gorge Trail can be slippery at times! The hike will take 3-4 hours. Bring plenty of water (2 liters minimum) and something to snack on (we'll take a lunch break along the way).

A favorite southern Ohio hiking destination, 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 7 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

DECEMBER

December 3 Annual BTA Soup Sampler Hike. Meet at 10:00 am at the Jones's. Phyllis Devlin will lead the hike.

Contact: 330-467-4338 for directions and an idea of what to bring.

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

Contact: Melissa Reed, president@buckeyetrail.org

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>

Moved or Moving? Send the BTA Your Change of Address!!

The *Trailblazer* will NOT be forwarded to your new address AND the BTA incurs 70¢ charge for each undeliverable *Trailblazer*.

Mailing labels are 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

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.

Calling all Hikers!

The Buckeye Trail Association wants to hear from you! Whether you are like BTA member Bruce "Poppie" Purdy who set out August 14th to thru-hike the BT, or you enjoy the trail in smaller increments, we want to learn more about you and your adventures on the Buckeye Trail.

In future issues of the *Trailblazer* we will spotlight BTA members who put boots to the trail, enjoying one of Ohio's most unique features, our very own Buckeye Trail.

If you would like to participate, please contact Jennifer Koester at gardenjen70@yahoo.com.

We look forward to hearing from you! Here are a few questions to get you started:

- Name and Location?
- How long have you hiked the BT?
- How many years have you been a member of the Buckeye Trail Association?
- How many miles of the Buckeye Trail have you hiked?
- What is your favorite Buckeye Trail location or section?
- What is your most memorable Buckeye Trail experience?
- Tell us about yourself (background, work, family, interests)

On the Trail . . .



Claudia Bashaw

This may be the first time I have sat down to write 'On the Trail' while I am actually on the Buckeye Trail. I have my pen and paper here looking out from a shaded cove across Burr Oak Lake. The waves gently lap against the forested hill-

side, large dragonflies humming by skim the surface of the water, a fish jumps and splashes before I can look up to see it. Turkey vultures circle and swoop through rising warm air on a cloudless summer day. The vultures remind me that time is passing. Great numbers of them gather around Burr Oak to roost with an unobstructed view of forested hillsides and hollers decorated in autumn colors, one of my favorite Fall places on the BT. Soon it will be Fall, a time for slowing down, thinking ahead and preparation.

The lake is full because it has been another wet year. It has been a challenging season for Buckeye Trail hikers and Adopters, another hot and humid summer with another great growth of vegetation on the Trail to clear. The economy has not improved much and gas prices have remained high, making it even more challenging for hikers and volunteers to spend as much time and care on the BT as they would like, including myself. Considering this, it is difficult to ask more of our BTA volunteers' and partners' time and expense. Instead I think we need to better recruit volunteers to lighten the load. In addition to greater numbers on the Trail we need the resources to make our volunteer service more efficient, and in turn hiking the BT more enjoyable.

Your BTA Board and Staff have been working diligently on a steady evolution of the BTA behind the scenes. Most likely you have personally met a BTA Board or Staff member and understand that they are folks like the rest of us with enough going on in their lives already let alone building, maintaining, promoting and protecting a 1,444 mile hiking trail. I feel fortunate to work with this group of people for many reasons, one peculiar reason is their willingness to work on very unglamorous projects that are improving the BT and the BTA well into the future.

To give you an idea of what I mean... they are revising all of the BTA by-laws and job descriptions, working on BTA brand standards and logos, developing new items to sell in our store, GPSing the whole trail piece by piece, digitizing the BT Sec-

tion Map process, organizing the 2012 Buckeye Trail SpringFest, experimenting with the latest social media outlets and renovating the BTA Barn on Tappan Lake. They are coordinating volunteer events, writing grants, refining strategic plans, negotiating with land managers, promoting the BT at local gatherings and much more. Not all of these things are nearly as exciting as our images of hikers in beautiful places, or volunteers with dirt covered tools in their hands on the Trail, but they are crucial to the long-term sustainability of the BTA and the BT itself.

Your Board and volunteer staff are an extremely hard-working and future-oriented group devoted to the mission of the BTA. With your membership contribution, you are also doing your part to fulfill the mission of the Buckeye Trail Association. BTA memberships make up the greatest single portion of the BTA annual budget, meaning much of what we are able to do together is thanks to you. Not every BT hiker, or even every BT volunteer is a Buckeye Trail Association member. Your membership combined with the hard work of your Board and Staff is leading to a lot of exciting developments within the BTA.

As the BTA slowly grows and evolves so too will the Buckeye Trail, in quality and in number of hikers. Slowly but surely disparate segments of off road trail are connecting to form longer and longer premier hiking and backpacking opportunities. Just this summer the BTA Renegade Chapter and the Buckeye Trail Crew completed a multi-year project to open the historic Miami & Erie Canal Towpath between Napoleon and Grand Rapids, OH along the Maumee River!

Here on the Trail the frogs are bellowing from the waters edge and the cicadas' repetitive song seems to rain down from the forest canopy. The nearby sounds of kids laughing, fishing, and playing in the water to keep cool seem part of the natural landscape rather than a distraction. As I sit here amidst this wonderful scene on the Trail I am confident that experiences like this will also grow all along the BT for years and years to come thanks to folks like you who believe in the vision of Ohio's Buckeye Trail.

Thank you for all you do for the Trail,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Bashaw". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Andrew Bashaw
BTA Executive Director
director@buckeyetrail.org
740-777-6BTA (6282)



Bits & Pieces

HELP WANTED!

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BTA members who are willing to serve on the 15-member Board of Trustees are critical. As a volunteer organization, we're dependent on dedicated members offering their time and talents to advance the BTA's interests and goals. Five Board members are elected every year at the annual business meeting in the Spring to serve a three-year term. There are five Board meetings each year: three usually held in Dublin in March, June and December; one following the annual business meeting; and a 2-day summer session in August at the BTA Barn.

The Buckeye Trail needs people with a variety of special backgrounds and talents: law, accounting, land management, fund-raising, membership development and carpentry, for example. What is really needed is a genuine enthusiasm for the BT and a willingness to work for the betterment of the Trail and the BTA with the best of your personal gifts.

BTA's Board is always looking for new opinions, new energy and new directions. Do you have the time and desire to serve? What special attributes do you have that could be of benefit to the BTA? Do you know any members who would be good candidates?

If you are interested serving as a trustee or know someone who would be a good nominee, please contact Jeff Yoest of the Nominating Committee at jeffyoest@columbus.rr.com or 614-895-0808. Questions welcome.

TRAIL PROMOTION COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER

All of us enjoy getting outdoors and hiking along the Buckeye Trail, enjoying the small towns, backcountry roads, and forests that the trail goes along? Have you ever wondered about doing "more" and taking on a role using your dedication and life experiences to enhance the Buckeye Trail experience for others? Perhaps you aren't able to build and maintain trails, but there are other opportunities for you to share your thoughts and efforts to support the Buckeye Trail Association.

The Trail Promotion Committee is the group that works on every aspect of promoting the trail to both Buckeye Trail Association members and others interested in hiking the Buckeye Trail. These areas include hiking and backpacking events, social media, website, newsletter and even the items we sell in the BTA Store. Perhaps you have ideas about how we can get more hikers using the Buckeye Trail. Maybe you have an idea about items we can sell in the store. Perhaps you are eager to organize events and advertise events along the BT. If you have the drive and commitment to bring your ideas forth and help those ideas come to life, then the Trail Promotion Committee is a great opportunity to give back and enhance the trail experience for others!

Contact Darryl Smith at trail_promo@buckeyetrail.org or 513.321.1539 if you are interested in finding out more. The potential volunteer should have a passion about the Buckeye Trail, the ability to communicate through email or regularly scheduled conference calls and have a desire to get more hikers using the Buckeye Trail. If this sounds like you, please contact me today!

Owl Nights

Margie Delong

Crickets competitively chirp in
the darkness
rhythmic careening choruses
while locusts sound a steady
background baseline.
Just as noisy is my brain
and sleep seems as far off
as the rare hoots of the barred owl.

I wish for it to come closer
to the nearby weeping willow
and stumble my heart by hooting
Who cooks for you, who cooks for all
but most nights it's afar
and I am here in an unkempt bed
with an unkempt ruminating mind.
Then the moon rises over the eastern trees.

Winner of the Poetry Contest,
2011 BTA Annual Picnic and Olympics



BTA
Wicking
T-Shirts
buckeyetrail.org

Russ Johnson

Russ Johnson, our longtime BTA friend and the Barn chairman, trail maintainer and recently the Akron section supervisor, died August 7 with his wife Gudrun, his son, Bryan Johnson, and his granddaughter, Autumn Johnson. Russ was a gentle, hardworking, generous colleague, who improved the BTA Barn from a primitive structure to a sophisticated meeting place. The BTA Barn has his work in every corner, as he planned and donated and built inside and outside.

He was often seen working on the Buckeye Trail, working on his section or anyplace else that needed improvement.

He was a hiker and backpacker who understood a great trail and strove to build that for the Buckeye Trail.

Russ was never one to back away from anything that needed to be done. He gave freely of his talents as veteran and patriot, carpenter and builder, trail builder and maintainer. We can see his spirit in the BTA Barn, and on every step on the Buckeye Trail.

Donations can be made to Johnson family Memorial Fund at any First Merit Bank. Please visit Johnson Family Memorial Wall on Facebook to leave condolences.



Pat Hayes



Pat Hayes



Pat Hayes



Jeff Yoest

Photos: Clockwise from top left: September 2007 Finger Lakes MAC trip; Russ at the July 2007 BTA Barn picnic; Russ on backpacking trip with Herb Hulls, Earl Garn, and Jeoff Yoest; Russ at the Barn at the July 2008 BTA Barn picnic.

Parker Cole Eagle Scout Project

Michael and Joan Cole

Two summers ago, for the first time in over 150 years, echoes of workers' voices reverberated on the Miami-Erie Canal trail. This time though, the voices were the Boy Scouts working on an Eagle Scout project for Parker Cole from Troop 95 in Sidney.

Parker said he and his family talked about doing various projects for the Shelby County Park District since his troop camped at Lockington Dam and had worked with Mr. Richard Milhouse, Shelby County Park District director. The Shelby County Park District helps maintain the Miami-Erie Canal from Lake Loramie State Park to Lockington Reserve. He decided there was a need for a shelter halfway between the parks; the finished shelter is near Pt. 6 in BTA's St. Mary section. Hikers can camp on the Trail or take shelter there in bad weather.

BTA offered a design, but Parker took it well beyond that. Parker and his dad took the design and made improvements with the aim of very low maintenance, as it is remote, but comfortable for hikers. They included a deck floor and a large sitting bench. Parker had obstacles to overcome: finding a suitable site to build on with access for equipment, materials and personnel. The towpath is narrow and surrounded by private property. Mr. and Mrs. Rob Klamar granted access to the towpath through their property and even set aside a portion of their property for the project.

This was a difficult project, as they had to clear the overgrowth of brush and trees. From the trailhead, they had 170 yards of narrow trails to move equipment and materials, plus provide electrical power. The project totaled over 340 volunteer hours, which is probably one of the largest Eagle projects ever completed in the Shelby District for the Boy Scouts. "But I think it was definitely worth it," said Parker.

A lot of people were involved in the project including his family, Mr. Milhouse; Mr. Fuller, Scoutmaster for Troop 95; adult leaders and scouts from Troop 95; Steve Baker from Troop 1910; Carol, Dan and Zack Hemmert from Troop 239; and Mr. Denny Ahrens. Menards Inc. provided materials and design assistance, Mr. Dave Kohli from Sterling Construction provided material, and the Klamars provided a site, material and access to their property.

"I am very pleased with how the project turned out. People are very surprised of how large the shelter is. I think they were expecting a very small shelter. My younger brother, Keaton, is currently working on his Eagle Scout Project to add a large fireplace and a rain barrel so water can be collected at the site," said Parker.

Parker is the son of Michael and Joan Cole of Sidney. He graduated from in 2010 from Lehman Catholic High School and is attending The Ohio State University where he is a sophomore majoring in Mechanical Engineering.



A Welcome Sight: Shelter for the Night . . .

Parker Cole at his finished shelter: it's remote and comfortable for a tired Buckeye Trail hiker at the end of the day.



. . . Or for Just a Short Rest

When all a hiker needs is a place to sit, here it is in the St. Marys section, thanks to Parker.

State Trail Coordinator's Report



Rick Adamson

My, oh my! As I compose this report the temperatures are moving up into the 90s for about the next week. This is why we do not usually plan Work Parties during July. *HOWEVER*, we recently finished an emergency Work Party in the Sinking Spring Section the first half of July because of very heavy spring growth making the Buckeye Trail next to impassable. The Trail Crew Work Party consisted of 11 very dedicated volunteers who not only cleared 25 miles of the BT but also blazed it in both directions. There were three very large treetops that were blown down blocking the Trail so extensively, it took a crew of four volunteers nearly four hours to clear it. The Trail Crew volunteers planned their attack from opposite directions, coming together in the middle with the same instructions. Clear the Trail, remove any and all deadfalls and blowdowns and cut back the brush and refresh the blazes. They also took care of about 1,500 feet of some much-needed benching (or sidehilling as some call it). This 4-1/2 day work party was extremely successful, not to mention HOT and humid, thanks to the leadership of our Trail Boss Jim Runk. With this new way of cleaning up a portion of the Trail that was heavily overgrown, I will be contacting each Section Supervisor to ask them if they have a piece of their section that needs this type of

assistance. In turn, they will be asked to estimate the length of that portion of their section that needs attention as well as where is the nearest campsite for overnighting for our volunteers. I will be asking for EXACT location of the BT section that needs work.

This is what we will be doing for the rest of this year and most likely next year too. So all you Section Supervisors please determine what portion of your section needs our assistance to make it much easier for you and your maintainers/adopters to keep maintained in the future. The volunteer Trail Crew is there for you and the section you supervise along with the hard work from your maintainers. Those who maintain the portion of the BT where the Trail Crew will be working will be asked to join us too.

For those of you who love hiking on the Buckeye Trail, please take note and location of any downed trees as well as those portions that need some maintenance along with detailed and exact locations and I will do my best to see that it is taken care of. Of course, please feel free to assist our Trail Crew as the BT is always in need of some type of maintenance here and there.

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

BTA Trail Crew Busy in Defiance Section

Courtesy www.henrycountyparks.org

BTA Hosts National Trails Day Trail Event with Local Groups

The Buckeye Trail Association, along with the Henry County Park District and the Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor, hosted a National Trails Day-Trail Awareness Event on June 4. Volunteers from all the groups were on hand to answer questions, provide information and to act as trail guides to hikers. Special Thanks to the Henry County Transportation Network for shuttling hikers to the trail so they could hike back to a shelter house. Also a special thanks to the local Boy Scouts, who were on hand preparing and selling lunch treats.



BTA Work Party Builds More Trail

BTA's June 18-22 Work Party attracted 10 Buckeye Trail volunteers and 12 local volunteers to open the last segment of the BT in the eastern side of Henry County. Thanks to St. Patrick's Church in Providence, who cooked breakfast for the work crew. As a result of everyone's efforts, the BT/NCT now connects Independence Dam (Defiance Section point 8) in the west to Providence Dam (Defiance point 18) in the east, 28+ trail miles.



New Bridge near Napoleon

On July 23, the BTA Trail Crew and local volunteers built a new bridge on the Buckeye Trail in Henry County.

Adopter's Corner

Jim Sprague, Maintenance Supervisor

Everyone has certainly heard the saying, “a woman’s work is never done!” Of course, if you are a well-brought up male, you probably don’t fully believe the statement. But if you are a woman, you have a real understanding of those words. However, if you maintain trail, whatever your sex, you may have found that an Adopter’s work is never done either. Plants and dust bunnies have a lot in common—they grow and multiply with amazing speed. Grass and brush grow on. And hikers passing only weeks after the Trail appeared in perfect shape may complain about overgrown conditions.

I have attached a couple of images from my adopted segment at the south end of the Belle Valley Section. The first image shows my trail as I found it on a cloudy afternoon last July 20. The second image shows the same trail the next morning after some substantial pruning and weed/grass whacking. Why would I show you these two rather unimpressive images? The second image looks substantially the way the trail looked after it was given its spring cleaning during the first week in June. Since then, the grass had grown again to about 8”–10” tall. Even more impressive than the grass, Autumn Olive, the “attractive” shrub that surrounds the trail here, has sagged or grown into the cleared space making most hikers somewhat less comfortable than they would be in a corridor of proper width.

The more open condition helps a hiker feel more free and relaxed. I know from personal experience that a properly sized corridor helps me actually see and enjoy my surroundings. When things intrude into that space, I feel forced to focus more on my feet to avoid those pesky weeds at the expense of what I came to see.

The segment that I have adopted in the Belle Valley Section is typical of many regions along the Buckeye Trail that are relatively little used. Like many of us, I live over 2 hours from my adopted segment. That means that I must make a special trip to the area. Fortunately, I can camp at an AEP Campground at no cost. That way, I can stay 2 or 3 nights and do significant work along my trail. By this time, I had hoped that I could state definitively just how much time is needed to keep an extended piece of trail in good condition. I cannot. I can say that, for trail in southern Ohio that receives little use and significant sun exposure, two mowings are not enough. That conclusion makes sense since the first cut of a hayfield here occurs around the first week in June. I suspect that one should cut weeds/grass at least 3 times—probably mid-May, early July and then mid-August. The more wooded an area is, the less need exists for the early cuttings. For those areas, I still believe that one significant cutting along about late July—early August will keep things in pretty good condition. But the jury is still out on these matters. Much like waiting for the Browns to win a championship, I must wait until next year!

Buckeye Trail desperately needs people who will adopt a trail segment in the less populated areas of Ohio. At this time, there are segments of trail that are nearly impassable and need attention. If you can spare a few days a year towards this tax deductible activity, consider adopting a segment of trail. Contact Garry Dill, Maintainer Coordinator, at either volunteer@buckeyetrail.org or 614-451-0223.



Entrance from C-20 West before Pruning and Mowing



Entrance from C-20 West after Pruning back and Mowing

Two New Items at the BTA Store

BOOK: A WALK IN OHIO

We now have limited copies of the only thru-hike book on the Buckeye Trail, *A Walk in Ohio*, written by John Merrill. This spiral-bound paperback describes Mr. Merrill's day-by-day trek along the blue blazes, on the (then) 1300-mile Buckeye Trail. Mr. Merrill is the first known thru-hiker of the BT, and his book showcases the best of Ohio hospitality. *Order today, supplies ARE limited!*

Retail: \$19.95

BTA Member price: \$15.00

WICKING T-SHIRT

We have a great new wicking T-shirt, the perfect Christmas gift for the hiker in the family . . . even if that hiker is you! The simplistic style of a blue on white t-shirt is not only stylish, but is also functional. *Hike with your blue blaze on any trail!*

Retail: \$18.00

BTA Member price: \$15.00



Picture Quilt Raffle to Benefit BTA Trail Preservation Fund

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Buckeye Trail Picture Quilt Raffle. We are almost 1/2 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.

Grandma Emma Gatewood & the Peace Corps

Roy P. Fairfield (President of the BTA, 1959-64)

In the summer of 1962 when I became Director of the Cameroon Peace Corps Training Program at Ohio University, it became clear that the group of 49 trainees could use a ten-mile hike or two to improve stamina as well as to learn to adapt to new situations. Since they were mostly “city folk” and I was one of the creators of the Buckeye Trail, why not plan a couple of ventures to accomplish the two objectives? I did! One hike would be in the vicinity of Old Man’s Cave; the other, close enough to Athens to make walking from a nearby pond back to campus feasible, especially on a moonlit night.

When planning the former, I came up with a gem of an idea: Call for help from friend and sister BTA member, Grandma Gatewood. I got her on the telephone in nearby Chillicothe and asked if she’d like to help with a Peace Corps hike. “What would you like for me to do?” she asked.

“I’ll tell you when you get here,” I assured her. She arrived safely at appointed time and place. Naturally, she was curious about what she could or would do!

I put her up in a convenient room at the university, arranged a meal ticket for the two days she would stay (or longer if she wished). Then she asked, “What do you want me to do?”

I told her about the ten-mile hike, a rather rough section of the Buckeye with which she was familiar. I said, “We have a number of overweight persons in the Peace Corps group. Ten miles may be hard on them, but we are training these folk to face and complete unfamiliar tasks. What I want you to do, Grandma, is to ‘head up the rear,’ don’t let anybody get behind you!”

“That seems easy enough to do,” she replied.

Knowing that some of the trainees would enjoy hearing about her experience as the first and possibly the oldest woman to hike the full length of the Appalachian Trail, Georgia to Maine’s Katahdin, I set it up for her to be available in the lounge, and the volunteers took advantage of her presence.

We took a university bus to the trail. It was an extremely hot day, and we heard thunder rumbling from our first step on the Trail. I gave the trainees instructions, including the request that they not fall behind Grandma. I positioned myself somewhere in the middle of the group and warned of a couple of deceptive intersections. I said, “There will be no turning back. Follow the blue blazes; the bus will be waiting for us, also a bean dinner with all the fixings when you arrive at the lake. You can swim if you want to; simply be careful.”

For the first mile or three, I kept close enough to the middle of the line to keep my eye on Grandma; as I hoped, the most overweight persons did not fall behind her. What I failed to foresee was the huge thundershower that beset us for an hour or so. Also, both Grandma and I failed to warn the volunteers of the heavy poison ivy that lined parts of the Trail. I would regret that the following week when two of the trainees became extremely ill.

But to finish the ten-mile stint: we all made it. My food team was present. But before we ate the frankfurters and beans, some of the volunteers grabbed me and carried me to the beach to “reward” me, much as football players dump cold water on their coach after a victory. I pled with them to let me take off my custom-made hiking boots before my dunking. They did, and the volunteers lined up on the beach to cheer me as they made me “pay” for their rugged experience.

The group thanked both Grandma and me for a successful hike and begged her to stay and continue their conversations with her. Grandma was not present a week or two later when my staff and I took the group ten miles into the country. The moon was full and spectacular; cider and donuts were plentiful. Then the task was for them to find their own way back to Athens. They all made it although it was strange territory for each of them.



She shows off her winning hiking style. Photo courtesy of Marjorie Gilliam Wood, Great-granddaughter of Emma “Grandma” Gatewood.



Grandma supervises the opening of a trail. Photo courtesy of Marjorie Gilliam Wood, Great-granddaughter of Emma “Grandma” Gatewood.

Welcome New Members!

Bev and Jerry Starcher

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Jason Casler | Ashland |
| Brian and Michelle Coleman | Fairborn |
| Vaughn Cover | Warren |
| Erik Dahlstrom | Beavercreek |
| Pam Derry | Fairlawn |
| Maria Dimengo | Cleveland |
| James Dukes and Family | Fairborn |
| Charles Fowler | Paulding |
| Sally Goodyear | Barberton |
| Chessie Henry | Reynoldsburg |
| Andrew Kaiser and Family | Columbus |
| Vicki and Tom Kelly | Columbus |
| Jenny Koester | Cincinnati |
| John Niedermeier | Loveland |
| Brian Noel | Cincinnati |
| Jenifer Pack | Cincinnati |
| Chris Petraser | Brooklyn |
| Kelly Ray and Family | Stoutsville |
| Kenneth Rhoads | Dayton |
| Faith Schlabach and Family | Chagrin Falls |
| Robert Seifert | Lancaster |
| Natalie Smith | Cincinnati |
| Suzanne Stagg | Milford |
| The Trust For Public Land | Cleveland |
| Thomas Wagner and Family | Avon Lake |
| Glen and Cheryl Whipple | Canton |



Little Loop Hiking in Geauga County, January 11, 2001

Margie DeLong

After leaving my car at our destination, Debe and I drive to the corner of Woodin and Robinson roads in the Big Creek Valley. It's a sunny but crisp day with temperatures in the high twenties and a 'bit of a wind'.

We despise on-road hiking, but Woodin Road isn't too bad. There's little traffic. The hilltops give great views of the rolling countryside and scattered homes. We meet a beagle jumping up and down on its leash, eager to join us. Its mistress thinks our planned 6.5 miles is too far for her dog.

Turning south on SR 608, we cross SR6 through Hambden Village as people are getting out of church. The motorized traffic forces us to the berm. It is so easy to feel superior when hiking.

Next we see a dead deer lying just beyond the ditch. "I'm going to go touch it and see if it's still warm," I say. "Don't," cries Debe, "you could get hurt if the deer isn't dead yet." I chicken out.

At the top of the next hill, an exceedingly neat farm is on the left. Its stone house and red outbuildings have not one speck of vegetation around their foundations. A master weed-whacker lives here.

We reach the entrance to Hambden Orchard Wildlife Area. The BTA section map instructs us to continue on to Sisson Road, turn left, and walk to the end where my car waits at Kile Road. But when we drove past here hours ago, we noticed a small parking lot halfway down Sisson Road. Why not go through the wildlife area and cut off the corner? There is a clear trail leading into the acreage and presumably a trail comes off that parking lot. I wonder why the BTA coordinators didn't suggest this route.

We decide to do it, anything to get off the road. The path is wide and easy to follow. Unplowed piles of snow and ice make the walking harder; but no car noises—just the sounds of birds or wind. About a mile in, the trail turns southeast back toward US 6. We'll have to go off-trail and make a beeline south where we know Sisson Road lies.

Soon the beeline (based on the sun's position at 1PM in the winter sky) ends at a half-frozen bog. We need to get to the forest on the other side. After trudging east, looking for a way past the endless bog, we conclude there is nothing else to do but attempt to cross on the frozen hillocks of fallen marsh grasses. How deep can it be? We select a route that has only one short area of open water with a small dam of entangled tree branches.

I take the lead and gingerly step on the high spots, avoiding the thin ice. Water comes halfway up my shoelaces. Debe, following in my wake, crashes through to the bottom of the bog not once, but twice, up to her right knee. Cold water fills her boot. Screams and laughter fill the air in the middle of a bog on a sunny Saturday in winter—the only two people about, our breath visible in the cold. This is why we go hiking. Easy for me to say, my feet are still dry.

Upon reaching the trees, there's a trail that comes out precisely at the small parking lot on Sisson Road. Over the last mile, we invent a new sport—ice bogging. First you find a bog in winter and then attempt to cross it without getting water inside your hiking boots. No knee-high boots allowed. Try it, you'll like it.

Winning Essay at the 2011 BTA Annual Picnic and Olympics

BTA Annual Picnic and Olympics: A Rousing Good Time

Deb Zampini

The July 16–17 BTA picnic and Olympics was a smashing success. There were great people, great conversation, great food, great activities—just an all around great time. About 30 people enjoyed the peacefulness of the BTA Barn and Tappan Lake and trails. Of course there was shoptalk: can't get more than one Trail maintainer in a room without talking Trail.

Patti Cook organized the kayak races. In the younger race Andrew Cook, Zachary Johnson, Luke and Autumn Johnson; the winner was Andrew Cook. In the adult race, Russ Johnson, Patti Cook, Deb Zampini, Evelyn Hewit, John Rethman; the winner was Russ Johnson. Patti Cook handed out paddle awards to each of the top three winners in each category and a special consolation paddle award to John Rethman for bringing up the rear.

The photo contest was a great success: five categories were displayed inside the Barn. No matter when you looked someone was gazing at the pictures. All attendees voted, and Jenelle and Mark Johnson were the deciding voters for ties. We will publish winning pictures in coming issues of the Trailblazer.

PHOTO CONTEST

- *On the Buckeye Trail* – Andy Niekamp took 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place.
- *Animals* – 1st Place: Deb Zampini; 2nd Place: Mike Tobin; 3rd Place: Deb Zampini.
- *Activities* – 1st Place: Garry Dill; 2nd and 3rd Place: Herb and Susie Hulls.
- *Miscellaneous* – 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place: Deb Zampini.
- *Structures* – 1st Place: Deb Zampini; 2nd Place: Bob Kurtz, 3rd Place: Deb Zampini.
- *Most Creative Photo* – From “On the Buckeye Trail” category: Jeff Yoest.
- *Best Overall Photo* – Also from “On the Buckeye Trail.” Bob Kurtz.

POETRY AND ESSAY CONTEST

- 1st Place: Margie DeLong.

Ribbons for the Photo Contest and Poetry and Essay Contest will be mailed out in September.

BAKING CONTEST (*I think everyone's favorite contest*)

- 1st Place: Jenelle Johnson, Chocolate Truffle; 2nd Place: Kelly Helmick, Mint Dessert; Tie for 3rd Place: Susie Hulls, Oatmeal Nut Brownies and Patti Cook, Cranberry Chocolate Chunk Bars.

We were going to have a Side Dish Contest but when it came time to judge, things were getting eaten up so fast that they were gone before I had a chance to get the contest set up. We barely made it for the Dessert Contest.

Each year we hope to see more people attend and the activities will grow also. Look for word of next year's BTA Picnic in the Spring 2012 *Trailblazer*.

Mmmmmm,
it's a bake off!



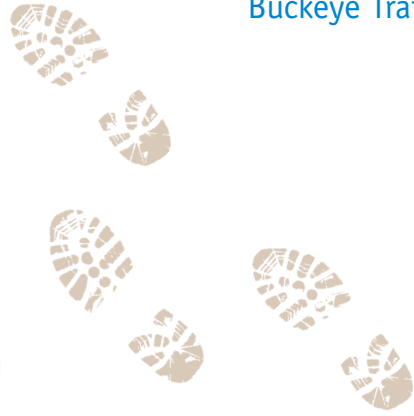
Luke Johnson fighting for first.



Ready, set, go!

Bowerston Section Trail Marking

While out blazing her section, maintainer Susan Stover came across this neat advertising for the Buckeye Trail.



Examples of photos displayed at the BTA 2011 Annual Picnic and Olympics



What's New in the Burton Section

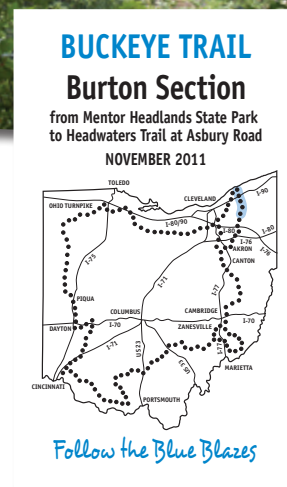
Patti Cook, Supervisor

It seems I took on the role of supervisor for the Burton Section just in time to jump in on the work for a new map. This involved coordinating efforts of the maintainers and the cartography team to include all the changes made to this section since 2001. After checking and double-checking and writing and rewriting, plus assisting Richard Lutz with the GPS work, I am very pleased with the final result.

Here are some of the new features of the Burton Section, which begins at the BT's northern terminus at Headlands Beach on Lake Erie:

- Point 5 to Point 6: A new 3.7-mile portion of off-road Trail follows the Greenway Corridor Trail.
- Near Point 6, a side trail leads to a beautiful waterfall.
- Near Point 9: A new scenic overlook of the Big Creek valley has been added as a short side trail.
- Near Point 11: The campground at Big Creek Park has been renovated with new lean-to shelters at some sites.
- Points 14-19: The Trail now passes through historic Chardon, providing dining and entertaining plus the opportunity to resupply. Leaving Chardon, the hiker now has an additional 6.5 miles off-road on the Maple Highlands Trail.
- Point 19: There is now a campground with lean-tos at Headwaters Park, where the sites offer a view of East Branch Reservoir.
- Point 21: At Burton Village, there is a new bed & breakfast. Just south of Burton, a new section of off-road Trail.
- Point 26: The trail again leaves roadways for the wooded paths of Camp Asbury, providing one final campsite for the Burton Section.

With campsites or accommodations approximately every 15 miles, the Burton Section is now more favorable for backpackers. Since the last map revision, the section has added over 11 miles of off-road hiking experience. Much credit for these improvements goes to former supervisor Mel Beers. We also owe a debt of gratitude to the following partners in this endeavor: Lake County Metroparks, Geauga Park District, Burton Township, and Camp Asbury of the United Methodist Church.



Photos: Top—Near Burton Point 9: Overlook of Big Creek in Girdled Road Reservation, Lake County Metroparks. Bottom Right—Near Burton Point 6: Chair Factory Falls, on Lake Metroparks Greenway Corridor, was the site of a waterwheel that powered saws and lathes in the 1840s. Bottom Left—Burton Point 21: Goodwin House Bed and Breakfast in Burton, built in 1828 for Dr. Erastus Goodwin, one of the area's first physicians. (Patti Cook)



A Series of Remarkable Experiences and Other ~~Hiking~~ Life Lessons (Part 2 Continued)

Barb Crompton

From the other side of the road I could see the driver of the mail truck was a woman so in a non-threatening way I indicated that I would like to approach the vehicle calling out that I was lost as I neared. As I rounded the front of the vehicle to get to her window and because the truck was perched on the very edge of the road to reach the mailboxes I never noticed the steep rain gutter down into which I began to stumble. To avoid falling I ended up running down this slope of weird soft material and it wasn't until I started climbing back up this mess that I finally saw her face. "Barb!" we both yell at the same time. The driver and I were once both Girl Scout leaders from the same unit. We were completely taken aback and spent the next few moments chatting excitedly. She of course knew exactly where we were, I was about to cross Boston Mills Road again. *Lesson # 4:* You will cross paths again. I have been amazed how many times I have crossed the same road, route or river—not to mention people and places from my past—on the BT. Sometimes the road starts out as one name then changes down the way, sometimes it is down the road quite a spell before I cross it again and other times it is just up the hill with an old friend waiting at the top! No matter how many times you cross paths, take it all in! Barb and I exchanged numbers in case I needed assistance again and as we parted ways, still beaming from ear to ear at the unexpected meeting and circumstances, I couldn't help but think, "God is wonderful."

Confidence renewed, a few steps down the road brought me back to the BT and then shortly thereafter another sign, Jaite 4 miles. However grateful I felt knowing I was on track, realizing I still had 4 miles left did not make me feel less tired. It felt like I had already been hiking for hours. *Lesson #5:* If you want to know how long you have been doing something, look at your watch for heavens sake! While hiking in unfamiliar areas on difficult terrain I have experienced the phenomenon I call "hiking time and distance" versus "real time and distance" (in reality I'd hiked only 3 miles in an hour). Thankfully this next section gave me plenty of distractions to silence my mental whining, stopping to photograph bubbling creeks and the rock towers people left behind in them, manmade run-offs trickling down moss-covered rocks, dense woods that opened up here and there allowing the sun to penetrate the darkness, birds lounging on branches and then there were the mushrooms. Never before had I noticed so many different types of fungi! As I ran into the next sign, Jaite 2-1/3 miles I went to take a sip of water and was met instead with the resistance of an empty camel bag. *Lesson #6:* Never underestimate your needs! I knew I had only half a bag when I left home, but I also had never finished one on a walk before. Now I had none. It is amazing how thirsty you get when you have no water!

After a while up ahead through the dense growth I could make out a lot of sunlight. As I passed this last line of trees I found myself in a utility line cut that swept right on down the mountain into the valley. As someone must have been drawn to do before me, I deserted the dirt trail and followed the bent grass path up to one of the cement platforms on which the towers were mounted. Tiredness and thirst forgotten, I climbed up and turned off my MP3 player. With one arm wrapped around the leg of the tower I leaned out over the edge of the platform as far as I could and soaked up the sights of this tremendous view, the feeling and the sounds of the wind rushing over me and through the valley and the birds and the insects around me. How does one capture this to take back and share? Suddenly the valley dimmed dramatically. I turned to look at the sky as this huge puffy cloud slowly crawled across the face of the sun completely eclipsing it in moments leaving only the most brilliant beams of light shooting out from behind. Looking back at the valley I watched mesmerized as one cloud after another passed in front of the sun causing graceful blazes of light and then swaths of shadows to dance one after another across the valley. I was in awe and let myself be entranced for a long while before I forced myself on knowing I still had trail left to cover, no water to drink and I was running out of time.

...to be continued.

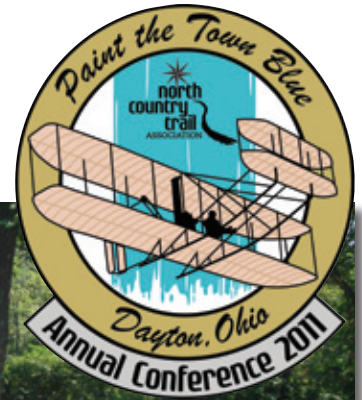


Ahh, a familiar Buckeye Trail marker: a great-looking blue blaze.



Maybe it's a cairn in the stream to indicate the Buckeye Trail to a hiker?

Just in from the NCTA 2011 Conference in Dayton . . .



Lockington Hike

25 people hiked the Lockington area as one of the hikes offered for the August 13 North Country Trail Annual Meeting. Led by Preston Bartlett, a maintainer in the St. Marys section, the hike started at the Locks then took the bus and walked the Buckeye Trail south to the Reserve. The group had really positive comments about improvements made to this section of Buckeye Trail. They hiked Johnston Farm, toured the museum and house and barn, and enjoyed a boat ride. Neal Brady, a very knowledgeable member of MECCA, presented along with Preston on the outing. Preston said he really enjoyed leading the hike and sharing facts about the section with people from all the states that the North Country Trail goes through.

Preston Bartlett



Preston Bartlett

Chainsaw Certification Workshop

Seven people participated in a Chainsaw Certification workshop sponsored by the North Country Trail Association and Buckeye Trail Association on August 10 & 11, 2011 in Dayton, Ohio. Participants received instruction on how to properly and safely operate and maintain a chainsaw. Participant got the opportunity to put their training to work on trees that had fallen over the hiking trails at Taylorsville MetroPark. The All participants, Andy Niekamp, Pat Hayes, John Rethman, Jim Sprague, Byron Guy, Jamie Guy and Dan Sahli, received a USFS Class B Chainsaw Certification allowing them to operate a chainsaw on Forest Service land.



Pat Hayes and John Rethman get a lesson on sharpening a chainsaw. Photo by Andy Niekamp.



Jim Sprague gets ready to buck a log while instructor Dan Peterson looks on. Photo by Andy Niekamp.

Missing Trailblazers

Patrick Hayes

I am searching for old *Trailblazers* and BTA maps to compile a history of the BTA. If you can help with an old issue, please contact me or send directly to me:

Patrick Hayes
5317 Royal Acres Dr
Lewisburg OH 45338

Vol. 3– Num. 2 – April 1970
Vol. 4– Num. 1 – January 1971
Vol. 4– Num. 2 – April 1971
Vol. 5– Num. 1 – January 1972
Vol. 5– Num. 4 – October 1972
Vol. 6– Num. 2 – April 1973
Vol. 7– Num. 3 – July 1974

Also looking for older maps of the BT.
Any help on this project is appreciated.

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? 10% Discount and you pay no tax

THOUGHTS AND RAMBLES . . .

Recently on our Facebook page and Trail Talk forum we asked BTA members “ARE YOU A FOUR SEASON OR A FAIR WEATHER HIKER?”

Here are some of the comments we received:

I'm definitely a 4-season hiker. Any day spent outside—regardless of rain, snow, or the dog days of Summer—is better than sitting inside behind a desk!

—Craig V., Harrison

Well, I love Spring because of the birds and the multitude of green things growing, and I love summer because of the shade and the young critters, and I love fall because of the trees changing colors, and I love winter because if there is snow it is beautiful, and if there is not you can see so much more of the woods without the leaves, so I would say I'm a 4 season hiker.

—Liz Mc., Cleveland

Love the change of seasons that Ohio offers. Hiking in a rainstorm or on a cold blustery winter day makes one appreciate our varying weather. Seeing the same section of trail during the different seasons gives a different feeling each hike.

—Darryl S., Cincinnati

I am an all season hiker! There is no such thing as bad weather, only inadequate gear. Mother Nature is best observed year round.

—Andy N., Dayton

My favorite (when I was still hiking) was winter. No bugs, no mud, no heat, and I don't sleep in tents.

—Garry D., Columbus

After adulthood I tended to hibernate in the winter but I found I prefer winter hiking over the buggy summer months. All seasons have their pluses and minuses pros and cons.

—Richard M., McArthur

I just got into serious hiking recently, so I have not been an all season hiker yet just because I have not been hiking for that long. However, I definitely plan on becoming one. My goal is to hike every trail possible in the world and that means I cannot afford any breaks.

—Pavel T., Maineville

I hike just about every weekend. The only things stopping me are a blizzard or lightning.

There are two main reasons I hike in every season in Ohio. First is for the pure challenge. The challenges are very different when it is -2°F with snow and ice to walk on, versus 92°F and everything is dry. The streams are running hard and sometimes not even passable in winter and spring. And, hiking, and maintaining a good pace in 14 miles of mud is a whole experience in and of itself.

The second reason is the views are very different. I favor winter hiking because I can see all around me. I can see ridge after ridge after ridge. The streams are all visible. Plus the ground is covered in snow. But, there is nothing more perfect than seeing all the hills and ridges covered in snow, while standing near a hard running stream. Plus the deer and coyotes are more visible in the winter.

—Pat S., Broadview Heights

I found that winter is great for solitude. I have been out to many trails after a snow and the only tracks I see are deer tracks. So pure.

—Preston B., Dayton

With my kids still commanding a lot of my time, I hike in any season . . . whenever I get the chance! I love seeing the trail from a different season perspective. Spring brings out all the water highlights, summer gives you new trails over dried up stream beds, autumn lets you hike forever with the great temperatures, and winter gives you unblocked views and no bugs!!!!

—Kathleen N., Mason

Join in on the conversation!

TRAIL TALK at
<http://www.buckeyetrail.org/TrailTalk/>

or on FACEBOOK at
Buckeye Trail Association

Highlights of the BTA General Membership Meeting—May 21, 2011

Ruth Brown, Secretary

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION JEFF YOEST

- Results of the BTA Board election: Short bios about each person had been posted. Everyone stood up and introduced themselves. An election was held by ballot. The five people elected to the board to serve a three-year term ending in 2014 were Darryl Smith, Mark Henry, Connie Pond, Melissa Reed, and Ruth Brown.

COMPUTER SERVICES STEVE MILLER

- BTA now has its own color laser printer that allows much flexibility since new maps can be printed as they are needed.

BTA BARN RUSS JOHNSON

- Three dorms had been finished. There is still more work needed to complete more dorms. Russ has been building bunks for the dorms at home and then bringing them to the Barn to install.
- There are plans in the future to make some flat spots on the hill for tent sites.
- More bat boxes have been built and are being put up.

STATE TRAIL COORDINATOR RICK ADAMSON

- There are many trees down especially in the Whipple section. A Trail Development and Management Team had been formed to advise and assist Rick on various trail matters. Members include Jim Runk, Jim Sprague, Pat Hayes, Richard Lutz, Deven Atkinson, Garry Dill, and Debbie Zampini.
- Ruth Brown reported on the progress of the North Coast Inland Trail. When parts of this trail are connected up parts of the BT in the Norwalk and Pemberville sections will be able to be moved off-road sometime in 2012 or 2013.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE JIM SPRAGUE

- Trail Crew awards:
 - Trail Crew shirts: Dianne Abney, Shane Cooke, Byron Guy, Jamie Guy, Charles Henry, Mark Henry, Sandy Henry, Bill Jindra, Todd Smith and CW Spencer.
 - 100 hour patches: Jerry Forrider, Jim Gilkey, Willis Kaufman and Del Ruckle.
- BTA needs to develop more people to maintain the trail. Maintenance is the hardest part after new trail is built.

Highlights of the BTA Board Meeting—June 11, 2011

Gary Williams, Acting Secretary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT ANDREW BASHAW

- Results were shared of a study of trails done by Ohio University students that stressed a need to involve sportsman's groups.

STATE TRAIL COORDINATOR'S REPORT RICK ADAMSON

- Mogadore Section Supervisor Matthew Funk wrote a local article on the trail that generated favorable responses and possible links with local groups helping with trail expansion.
- It was announced that work parties were now going to focus on maintaining existing trail rather than do new off-road relocation.

ANNUAL MEETING STEVE MILLER

- The Annual Meeting will change its name to Spring Fest. Next year's event will be in southwest Ohio, somewhere near Fort Ancient, from April 27-29, 2012, with the theme *Yes, You Can Thru-Hike*. There will be an emphasis on longer distance hiking and backpacking, with more classes and workshops on hiking related topics.

MAC TRIP JOHN RETHMAN

- The next trip is to the Appalachian Trail at Damascus, VA, from September 10-17. The cost is \$22 per person (\$42 for non-members), which covers shuttle and first and last day camping fees.

SCOUTING BRUCE "POPPIE" PURDY

- There have been presentations at five scouting shows so far this year and the reception has been very good. In pursuit of a scouting Historic Trail Award, there is a need to identify historical sites in every section of the trail.



BTA Funds Report

TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND

5/1/11-7/1/11

Dorothy Ipavec
Ohio Horseman's Council
Jeanette De Simone
Mary Lou Leanard
Kenneth Bordwell

GENERAL FUND

4/1/11-6/30/2011

Benchmark Outfitters Fund Raiser
Donald Desch
John Fetzner
Susan Fetzner

FM Global (Matching gift R.Weigandt)
Mary Anne Kamph

Kroger Community Rewards Program
Frances Jacobs
Robert Litt
Don McHugh
Rona Mitrovich
Napoleon Jr Guild
Bob and Connie Pond
Dorothy Pritchard
George Reed
Kip Shipley
Frederick M Silver
Deborah Zampini

BARN FUND

4/1/11-6/30/11

Patricia Cook

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

4/1/11-6/30/2011



Workplaces across Ohio are transforming their traditional workplace campaigns into company-branded "Employee Giving Campaigns." Taking ownership of the campaign and offering expended charitable choices leads to:

- Increased employee participation
- Enhanced employee morale
- Increased overall dollars raised
- Improved employee retention

Why it makes sense to add EarthShare Ohio

- » *EarthShare Ohio is good for business:* Adding EarthShare Ohio to your charity campaign demonstrates a commitment to the environment and employee choice. Environmental sustainability and social responsibility are good for business.
- » *Greater Efficiency:* Adding EarthShare Ohio to a traditional campaign is easy. It takes little to no additional time or expense.
- » *EarthShare Ohio and United Way are good complements:* More and more employees are becoming concerned about environmental causes. Including EarthShare Ohio's environmental and conservation organizations in a charity campaign is a natural complement to the traditional health and human services agencies.
- » *Employees welcome choice:* Introducing choice empowers employees and encourages new participation. Most employees who supported local health and human services will continue to do so.
- » *Expansion of employee benefits:* Expanded choice in workplace giving is comparable to the choice employees enjoy with other benefits such as health plans, flexible work hours, job sharing and telecommuting opportunities.

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

www.earthshareofohio.org

BRAMBLE #59

by Dana Zintek

1. Chipmunk 2. Gilead 3. Flush toilet
Bramble: THE HIKING POLE

WINNER: David McCahon, Chagrin Falls

Buckeye Trail Association

P.O. Box 254
Worthington, Ohio 43085

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The label shows expiration date of
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BRAMBLE #60

by Dana Zintek

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

For a chance to win the book
The Third Man Factor by John Geiger

Send your answers to:

Dana Zintek
2369 Suncrest Drive
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

Answers must be postmarked by November 1, 2011.

1. M on Map

TELMO



2. Xenia trailhead

TOASTIN



3. Zonta

UFANTONI



4. W in MWCD

SWETRHEAD



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



Why did the origamist prefer
a GPS to a map?

