

# Trailblazer



FOUNDED 1959

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Darryl Smith

## Fort Hill Hike Displays Fest and Fungi

Rock arches and a gorge, steep hills and several creeks through deep woods show off some of Ohio's best scenery in Fort Hill in the Buckeye Trail's Sinking Spring section. Many trail intersections make short or long—and always interesting—hikes possible in this area. Read Darryl Smith's account of his Fort Hill hike on page 13.



Darryl Smith

# Our Trail

Melissa Reed, BTA President

It's winter. The leaves are fallen, the frozen trails crunch under our feet, and snow threatens. We celebrate spring as our season of renewal, yet the vibrant plant life March and April will show us now rests in its incipient forms, tightly enclosed in buds, each waiting for its time to emerge.

Our organization, too, has its seasons. Fifty-three years of existence makes us new enough that the elders among us were personally acquainted with founders and other early members. In the last issue of the *Trailblazer*, past president Roy Fairfield, now in his nineties, reminisced about his early days with the Buckeye Trail Association when he knew Emma Gatewood—our “Grandma Gatewood”—who is now gone from us. When you sit around a campfire with long-time members, you can hear stories about others who came before us. One of them, Paul Daniels, wrote a paper “Biology and Biologists of the Buckeye Trail,” published in the *Ohio Journal of Science* in 1987, when the Trail was only 1118 miles long. Professor Daniels inscribed his paper, which can now be read on line, to the “dedicated group of volunteers [who] have obtained rights-of-way, publicized the Trail’s existence, and made a reality of the Buckeye Trail Association’s slogan “Linking the Four Corners of Ohio.”

A year-and-a-half ago we entered a new season by taking on an executive director, Andrew Bashaw, who gives half his time to us, the other half to the North Country Trail Association. Thanks to Andrew, we’ve been able to grow. Largely through his efforts, we were able to raise funds and receive a grant which enabled us to purchase the Pretty Run property, thus safeguarding the Trail in that part of southeastern Ohio. We’ve also been able to strengthen our relationships with land-preservation organizations, and Andrew recently secured funding for an AmeriCorps volunteer, Richard Lutz, who is working on program development for us in southeast Ohio.

In our early days, perhaps, soliciting grants and gifts was not a pressing need. But as encroachments of various kinds continue to threaten the Trail, our purpose requires that we have the financial wherewithal to respond, whether by land purchases or by retaining professional staff to negotiate on our behalf. Thanks to a supporter who has offered us \$10,000 if we can match that amount through member contributions, the Board of Trustees has unanimously agreed to undertake raising the required amount. We hope that you will help keep the Buckeye Trail linking the “Four Corners of Ohio” by joining me and the other fourteen trustees in this fundraising effort. You will find more information about the project in these pages and you have, or will soon, receive a letter with the details.



## Trailblazer

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### DEADLINES

Deadlines for submission are  
February 1 for the Spring issue,  
May 1 for the Summer issue,  
August 1 for the Fall issue,  
and November 1 for the Winter issue.

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*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.*

## BTeasers

Pat Hayes

**Q** What Ohio State Park was first opened in 1922 as the Theodore Roosevelt State Game Preserve?

**A** The game preserve was converted into Shawnee State Park during the Great Depression by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shawnee\\_State\\_Park\\_\(Ohio\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shawnee_State_Park_(Ohio))



Trailblazer is printed  
on recycled paper.

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**April 26-29, 2012  
Southwest Ohio**

Mark your calendars now for the first annual Buckeye TrailFest, to be held April 26–29, 2012 in southwest Ohio at King's Domain Conference Center. Buckeye TrailFest is a gathering of hikers, trail maintainers and Buckeye Trail enthusiasts. Activities include hiking trips of all skill levels, workshops, presentations and programs all related to hiking, backpacking and trail design, maintenance and construction. There will be led hikes on the Buckeye and North Country Trails in Little Miami Scenic State Park, Caesar Creek State Park, East Fork State Park and around the Fort Ancient area. Buckeye TrailFest is a chance to learn about the Buckeye Trail, get valuable tips on hiking and meet lots of new people with similar interests. The Buckeye Trail Association annual meeting will be held at Buckeye TrailFest.

There are plenty of non-hiking activities nearby too! Visit the ancient Hopewell Indian earthworks, ride the Ozone zip-line, bicycle, fish or canoe the Little Miami River, tour historic Lebanon, shop the antique stores in Waynesville and see Pioneer Village at Caesar Creek State Park. Visit Dayton or Cincinnati (less than a one-hour drive) and tour the Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati Zoo, National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park or the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

There are several lodging options to choose from at Buckeye TrailFest including cabins, bunk houses, trailer camping and tent camping. All lodging options are within walking distance of the conference center. Or if you prefer you may stay at one of several nearby hotels or motels. Bring your own food or opt for the meals we offer. The choice is yours! Come for the whole weekend or come for the day! There is something for everyone!

The event begins at noon on Thursday, April 26 and continues 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! Registration begins in January!

For more information and to register visit:  
[www.BuckeyeTrailFest.org](http://www.BuckeyeTrailFest.org)

*Buckeye TrailFest is sponsored by The Buckeye Trail Association.*



# Schedule of Hikes & Events



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

## DECEMBER

**December 3 Annual BTA Soup Sampler Hike.** Meet at 10:00 a.m. 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 a.m.

Contact: Melissa Reed, [president@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:president@buckeyetrail.org)

**December 16 Thru-Hiker Andy Niekamp Speaks, Kettering.** Andy Niekamp presents: *Thru-Hiking the Buckeye Trail—A 1,400 Mile Journey Around Ohio.*

Starts 7:00 p.m. at St Charles Elementary School in Kettering (sponsored by Dayton Backpacker Campfire). All presentations are free and open to the public. Bring a friend.

More information on the calendar at [www.buckeyetrailfriends.org](http://www.buckeyetrailfriends.org).

Contact: Andy Niekamp, [andyniekamp@gmail.com](mailto:andyniekamp@gmail.com)

## JANUARY

**January 7–8 New Year's Hike and Campout, East Fork State Park, Williamsburg Section.** Hike starts Saturday January 7 at 10:00 a.m. Meet and camp at the campground. Bring appropriate clothing/gear for winter hiking and camping. Come for the day or stay overnight. There are plenty signs to get to the campground off SR 32. Bring food and firewood to share.

Last year at Hocking Hills it snowed during the hike. Sitting around the campfire it was in the mid-teens and down to 7 degrees that night; so come prepared. Be on by for the hike.

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

**January 16 Martin Luther King Day Winter Hike, Hueston Woods State Park.**

Meet 9:00 a.m. Monday at Hueston Woods State Park Lodge, 5201 Lodge Road, College Corner, OH 45003. Arrive early and have breakfast with other hikers at the Lodge at 8:00 a.m. We will hike around Acton Lake, about 11 miles, on a variety of trails. A bean soup and/or chili and corn muffin lunch will be provided at the park office across from the Nature Center. Donations are accepted. For those wishing to hike only from the Lodge to the Nature Center, a shuttle back to the Lodge will be available. This is a free event.

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

Contact: Pat Hayes, [patiah@woh.rr.com](mailto:patiah@woh.rr.com) or 937-962-4884

## FEBRUARY

**February 4 32nd Annual Buckeye Trail Winter Hike, Findley State Park, Medina Section.** 10:00 a.m. Meet at the nature center in the campground. Choose from moderately difficult 5k or 10k hikes, or join the naturalist for an interpretive hike. After the hike warm up with bean soup and cornbread provided by Friends of Findley.

Contact: 440-647-5749

## MARCH

**March 10 BTA Board Meeting at Command Alkon.** Starts 10:00 a.m.

Contact: Melissa Reed, [president@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:president@buckeyetrail.org)

## APRIL

**April 14–15 BTA Work Party, East Fork State Park, Williamsburg Section.** This is a maintenance work weekend.

Contact: BTA, [stc@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:stc@buckeyetrail.org)

**April 21 Buckeye Trail Spring Hike, Fort Hill State Memorial, Sinking Spring Section.** Meet at 11:00 a.m. Join us for a day of spring hiking at Fort Hill State Memorial. 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. We will see 2,000-year-old Hopewell earthworks, rock outcroppings and small arches. There will be two steep hills to tackle (400 and 300 feet), and the Gorge Trail can be slippery at times! Bring plenty of water (2 liters minimum) and something to snack on (we'll take a lunch break along the way). The hike should take 3-4 hours.

Fort Hill is a favorite southern Ohio hiking destination of mine. Many hikers who have not been to Fort Hill are surprised to find that it offers challenging hills, beautiful forest and a gorge area that rivals anything in the Buckeye State. Spring flowers should be in full force, 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 daunting, there are options to shorten the hike, so do not let the mileage deter you from joining us!

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

Contact: Darryl Smith, [socialmedia@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:socialmedia@buckeyetrail.org) or 513-321-1539 (home), 513-600-4719 (cell)

**April 27–29 Buckeye Trail Fest, King's Domain.** Location is in southwest Ohio. See page 3 of this issue of the *Trailblazer*.

## 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

## MAY

**May 5–12 MAC Spring Hiking Trip.** Keep this date open for the hike. Details to follow.

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

**May 19–23 BTA Work Party, AEP.** \*Chuck Wagon Event\* We will camp at Campground A, Hook Lake. There will be room for small pop-up campers and tents. Pit toilets and drinking water available there, but NO hookups.

Chuck Wagon Reservations: Contact Jay Holwick, [holwick@columbus.rr.com](mailto:holwick@columbus.rr.com), 740-743-3813.

Contact: BTA, [stc@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:stc@buckeyetrail.org)

## JUNE

**June 2–3 Maintenance Work Weekend, Tar Hollow, Scioto Trail Section.** We will be working and camping there.

Contact: BTA, [stc@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:stc@buckeyetrail.org)

**June 9 BTA Board Meeting at Command Alkon.** Starts 10:00 a.m.

Contact: Melissa Reed, [president@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:president@buckeyetrail.org)

**June 16–20 BTA Work Party, West Branch State Park, Mogadore Section.** Continue trail building.

Contact: BTA, [stc@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:stc@buckeyetrail.org)

**June 16–20 Maintenance Work Weekend, Whipple Section.** Maintenance work in the Wayne.

Contact: BTA, [stc@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:stc@buckeyetrail.org)

**June 30–July 1 Maintenance Weekend, Old Man's Cave Section.**

Contact: BTA, [stc@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:stc@buckeyetrail.org)

## JULY

**July 21 BTA Picnic, BTA Barn**

## AUGUST

**August 25-26 BTA Board Retreat at the BTA Barn.** Starts 10:00 a.m.

Contact: Melissa Reed,  
president@buckeyetrail.org

## SEPTEMBER

**September 8-12 Work Party at the BTA Barn. \*Chuck Wagon Event\*** Please contact Jay Holwick at 740-743-3813 or holwick@columbus.rr.com to reserve your meals.

Contact: the BTA at stc@buckeyetrail.org

**September 8-12 BTA Work Party, BTA Barn. \*Chuck Wagon Event\*** Please contact Jay Holwick at 740-743-3813 or holwick@columbus.rr.com to reserve your meals.

Contact: BTA, stc@buckeyetrail.org

**September 8-15 MAC Fall Hiking Trip.** Keep this date open for the hike. Details to follow.

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

**September 29-30 Maintenance Weekend, Sinking Springs Section**

Contact: BTA, stc@buckeyetrail.org

## OCTOBER

**October 13-14 BTA Work Party, Burr Oak State Park, New Straitsville Section.**

*\*Chuck Wagon Event\** Improve existing Buckeye Trail throughout the BT New Straitsville Section. Trail Crew will rove mainly in Wayne National Forest and Burr Oak State Park. Scenic vistas of Burr Oak Lake, rock outcroppings and views of the surrounding Athens Unit of the Wayne National Forest in early fall provide a perfect setting for trail work, hiking, and sitting around the campfire after a well-earned meal.

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

Chuck Wagon Reservations: Contact Jay Holwick, holwick@columbus.rr.com, 740-743-3813.

Contact: BTA, stc@buckeyetrail.org

**October 24-28 Maintenance Work, Whipple and Road Fork Sections.**

Contact: BTA, stc@buckeyetrail.org

## NOVEMBER

**November 3-4, 2012 Maintenance Work Weekend.** Location to be determined.

Contact: BTA, stc@buckeyetrail.org

## DECEMBER

**December 8, 2012 BTA Board Meeting at Command Alkon.** Starts 10:00 a.m.

Contact: Melissa Reed,  
president@buckeyetrail.org

## Are You In The Loop?

*The Loop* is the Buckeye Trail Association's new e-mail newsletter. Sent approximately every 4-6 weeks, *The Loop* keeps you informed with what is happening along the Buckeye Trail between issues of *Trailblazer*. If we already have a good e-mail address from you, you should have already received a few issues. If you have not, you can subscribe in one of the following ways:

- Go to <http://theloop.buckeyetrail.org> and sign up
- Send you e-mail address to [theloop@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:theloop@buckeyetrail.org)

The Loop is absolutely free and available to both members and non-members, so forward your copies to someone you think may be interested in the Buckeye Trail.

## Calling all Hikers!

The Buckeye Trail Association wants to hear from you! We want to learn more about you and your adventures on the Buckeye Trail.

If you would like to participate, please contact Jennifer Koester at [gardenjen70@yahoo.com](mailto: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)

## 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](mailto: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.

# On the Trail . . .



Bashaw

Another year on Ohio's Buckeye Trail is coming to close and another year begins under

the blanket of an Ohio winter. We've had another busy and successful year building, maintaining, protecting and promoting the use of the BT.

Buckeye Trail adopters have worked hard throughout the year to keep the BT open and blazed for all to use. The Buckeye Trail Crew travelled around our 1,444 miles on 10 larger projects building and improving the BT throughout the year. As you can see from our communications we continue to improve the look of the BTA through our logo and branding work. We finalized the paperwork on the Pretty Run property, which sounds simple enough, but is just the first chapter of the BTA learning how to protect a corridor for Ohio's Buckeye Trail for years to come. We have also been busy behind the scenes steadily improving the BTA's fundraising capacity so that we will thrive for years to come.

Let's not forget the beginning of 2012! Another great year on the Trail is ahead, even through the winter it seems the BT never sleeps. The 2012 Buckeye Trail Crew schedule is set, events all around the Trail are being planned by the BTA and its partners, and every day is a good day to get outside and enjoy the best of Ohio from the BT. Put down this issue of the *Trailblazer* for a moment and get out your new 2012 calendar and block out some dates for you and your family on the BT this year. You didn't get out on the Trail as often as you would have liked in 2011 did you? Neither did I (is there such a thing as too much time on the BT?).

Getting out on the Trail in the wintertime is a great way to experience a familiar place with a different feel. The snow, cold and solitude can drastically alter what you thought you knew about a landscape. Using the BT all year round reminds me of one of the BTA's longest partnerships. Ohio's State Parks have been supportive of the development of this intriguing idea of a long-distance hiking trail in Ohio and the BTA since our beginning. If you know a little of your BTA history, you know that the BTA continued to broaden the idea into the nation's longest loop trail. Our partners in the State Parks have continued to support us throughout our growth, mainly by giving the BT access through many of Ohio's most treasured landscapes; Hocking Hills, East Fork, Caesar Creek, Independence Dam, Findley, West Branch and Wolf Run to name just a few.

Our State Parks understand the need to get out and enjoy the outdoors in any season. Look to the Christmas celebrations at Quail Hollow and Hocking Hills for a unique experience. Check out a winter hike at Hocking Hills, Findley, or Hueston Woods to see the artistry of icicles, frozen streams and chickadees on snowy branches. Learn how to make real maple syrup (and a taste?) at Caesar Creek and Hocking Hills with the promise of spring in the air. State Parks are a great partner to the BTA not only for allowing the BT to pass through these beautiful areas but also for the work they do to introduce people, young and old, to the outdoors all year round. Many become introduced to Ohio's Buckeye Trail through these types of experiences.

Like many other public agencies that we may have taken for granted, Ohio's State Parks are feeling the budget crunch as well. Our parks struggle to meet the needs of visitors while keeping up the facilities, public safety and their staffing. The BTA's work throughout the state has always been appreciated by State Park staffs. We provide a devoted and organized volunteer effort that helps to improve and maintain the BT, an important asset within many parks. The BTA is an organizational member of the Friends for the Preservation of Ohio's State Parks because we recognize the great work and the challenges of our partner. On your next visit to a park along the BT I encourage you to ask about their Friends Group, not only for your personal interest or help, but to help build those links between the BTA and others that care about the same place we do.

Enjoy winter in Ohio on the Trail, and don't forget to thank a Park Ranger for being a good friend to the Buckeye Trail Association.

See you on the Trail,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Bashaw".

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



# Bits & Pieces

## HELP WANTED!

### BTA TRUSTEES

Just as the BTA needs volunteers to keep the Buckeye Trail in the best possible condition, it also needs dedicated and competent volunteers to serve as trustees. Trustees manage the administrative, financial and business affairs of the organization and address the challenges in keeping America's longest loop trail open.

Several current Trustees will be retiring from their duties this year. Do you have the desire, talents and background to advance the best interests of the Buckeye Trail? The nominating committee is actively seeking members who wish to serve the BTA in this capacity. Trustees must be members in good standing, be willing and able to attend pre-scheduled Board meetings (5 annually) and be appointed as a committee chairman by the President. Trustees serve a term of three years. Elections are held at the annual meeting (April 26-29, 2012).

Please contact Jeff Yoest of the Nominating Committee if you have questions or want to lend your time and enthusiasm to the BTA: [jeffyoest@columbus.rr.com](mailto:jeffyoest@columbus.rr.com), 614-895-0808.

### SEEKING TRAIL ADOPTERS

Buckeye Trail desperately needs people who will adopt a trail segment in the less populated areas of Ohio. Off-road trail segments are available in the beautiful, rugged Road Fork and Whipple Sections. At this time, some segments of each section 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, [volunteer@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:volunteer@buckeyetrail.org), 614-451-0223.

### BTA STORE HELP

BTA needs a person to share their business planning talents to develop a viable business plan for our online store and retail distribution.

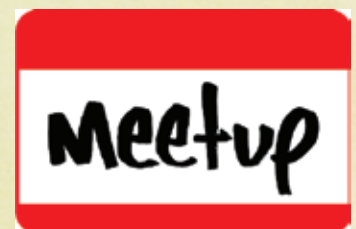
We seek a volunteer with business planning experience to develop a working plan for our online store, and potentially marketing BTA merchandise to outdoor retail locations. The plan should include marketing ideas and suggestions (based on research and historical data) on items sold and pricing structure we offer the Buckeye Trail community. The store advertises the Buckeye Trail and we want to maximize its potential for trail promotion. If you have business planning experience and can volunteer some time to help the BTA develop a plan, contact Andrew Bashaw, [director@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:director@buckeyetrail.org).



**April 26-29, 2012**  
**Southwest Ohio**

## Attention Meetup Members!

There is now a Meetup group called the *Friends Of The Buckeye Trail*. This is a great way to learn about all of the upcoming Buckeye Trail events. The *Friends Of The Buckeye Trail* group is for everyone. You will see Buckeye Trail Association events listed such as trail crew outings, hikes, special events and meetings. Other happenings on or around the Buckeye Trail will be listed too! Join today. It is fast, free and easy. Want your Buckeye Trail event listed? Contact Andy Niekamp at [andyniekamp@gmail.com](mailto:andyniekamp@gmail.com). Check us out at: <http://www.buckeyetrailfriends.org/>



# \$10,000 BTA Member Challenge

Double your impact for the BTA! A BTA Member has challenged us all by committing \$10,000 to the BTA's greatest needs if our membership matches that \$10,000. A total of \$20,000 will go to the BTA! If (WHEN) we make that \$20,000, the BTA will:

- Secure additional funding for trail projects around the Buckeye Trail.
- Develop stronger working relationships with communities and organizations around the Trail.
- Develop new programs and improve existing ones that address BTA needs.
- Afford our modest administrative costs.
- Improve the coordination of our devoted volunteers.
- Continue to achieve the mission of the BTA to build, maintain, protect and promote the use of the Buckeye Trail, Ohio's longest scenic hiking trail!

Many employers will match your contribution. Ask your employer to match employee contributions to non-profit organizations.

The Buckeye Trail Crew has stepped in to do their part. The Crew volunteered their sweat and expertise in exchange for a contribution to the Challenge.

The Buckeye Trail Crew and efforts of your Trustees have already raised \$3,000 to date, totaling \$6,000 with the dollar-for-dollar match from our generous donor. Will you help us meet our goal?

Please consider making a contribution to the BTA Member Challenge.

Your BTA Board is unanimously committed to supporting the Challenge. A few Trustees have even developed in their own fundraising efforts to help us all meet that goal:

## The newest Buckeye Trail Shirt *Life Is Better On The Buckeye Trail*

Short Sleeve – 100% Heavy Weight Cotton  
Shirt Color: Forest Green  
Ink Color: White  
Full, Front Design  
Adult Sizes: S, M, L, XL & XXL

*You decide the amount!* Suggested minimum amount: \$10.00.

*More is appreciated!* All proceeds will be donated to the Buckeye Trail Association \$10,000 Matching Grant Challenge.

For information on how you can get your *Life Is Better On The Buckeye Trail* shirt visit:

<http://www.andyniekamp.com/buckeyetrail/>



## Buckeye Trail Vehicle Sun Shades

Protect the interior of your vehicle and spread the word about the Buckeye Trail.

They are nylon, fold down to a quarter of the size and stay secure with an elastic band. When band is taken off, sun shade pops open.

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# Maintenance Supervisor's Corner



*Jim Sprague, Maintenance Supervisor*

Each time that I write the word “Supervisor” when I am referring myself, I cringe. Each of BTA’s maintenance people—or Adopters as they are called—is a volunteer. How can anyone pretend to supervise volunteers? In a very real sense, the person filling the role called Maintenance Supervisor is much more a teacher or a coach than supervisor. Recently I have seen disturbing conditions that show that more coaching is needed. In this article, I will summarize what is expected from a person who adopts a trail segment.

First, let’s define the trail and its maintainers within a very broad scope. Currently, the Buckeye Trail is about 1440 miles long. The trail comprises a linear string of roads, sidewalks, multipurpose trail and primitive footpath. It is possible to adopt any length of trail ranging from something near a mile in length to the entire 1440 miles! The State Trail Coordinator has adopted the entire trail. To make the maintenance job somewhat more manageable, BT is divided into 26 sections. Each section has an average length on the order of 55 miles although real sections vary in length from about 45 miles to nearly 75 miles. A Section Supervisor adopts an entire Section. Finally, the Local Maintainer or Adopter works some fraction of a section.

The main difference between a Local Maintainer, Section Supervisor and State Trail Coordinator is the length of trail that the maintainer has agreed to adopt. All maintainers have agreed to keep their trail segment in good hiking condition. A hiker may have trouble defining exactly what he expects from a trail. However, when that same hiker says, “I had a great hike last week!” and then goes on to describe your trail segment, you know that you have met his desires. The marks of good maintenance follow essentially four rules: 1. The trail is marked with 2” x 6” vertical blue blazes; 2. The trail is kept free of brush or other obstruction; 3. Under no circumstance is a maintainer ever expected to do more than he can do or feels comfortable doing; 4. Always, at all locations, the maintainer must keep BTA informed about conditions that affect passage across the property. These conditions include construction, logging, sale of all or part of the property that the trail crosses, downed trees, excessive overgrowth, etc.

The various types of trail have widely diverse maintenance needs. However, by focusing on the similarities between such diverse elements, some sense can be made of the maintenance needs. BTA owns only one small trail segment throughout the entire Buckeye Trail. That segment lies within the Old Mans Cave Section. Elsewhere, the trail crosses either private or public properties that are owned and managed by some other entity. The degree of maintenance responsibility depends on how BTA gained access to the trail. If BTA requested permission from the owner to use existing “trail”, maintenance responsibility is minimal. In this category, “trail” may be primitive path, state highway

or anything in between. However, if BTA built trail across the owner’s land, maintenance responsibilities include the full monty.

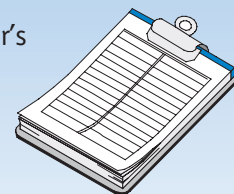
When BTA uses existing trail, the maintainer has no concern with keeping the trail open. If the trail should be closed for any reason, the maintainer should report on up the line about the problem and talk with the owner or owner’s representative about when the trail will be reopened. The main responsibility here is to keep the trail well marked or blazed. Even here, the maintainer’s efforts may be restricted. For example, within Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Buckeye Trail is blazed only on primitive trail. On the developed Towpath Trail, no marking is permitted. A variety of rules are employed at different locations around the state.

When BTA built new trail or is in partnership with owner management, the only maintenance done will be either by or under the direction of the adopter. To achieve well maintained trail is often a daunting task, so daunting that even a highly motivated person may falter or even fail. If this happens to you, remember the old saw, “Even the longest hike begins with the first step.” That concept remains true. Cut the project into chunks that can be accomplished within the time that you have available. Do each chunk well. Remember that your objective is to maintain trail in good condition. It is much easier to be proud of parts of your trail that are maintained well than it is to be proud of the whole trail that is just “good enough.” And possibly, the result of trying to do “good enough” will fall below even that low level of accomplishment. Above all, however, remember rule 3—under no circumstance is a maintainer ever expected to do more than he can do or feels comfortable doing. What happens if one cannot keep up with inexorable wild growth? How does one implement rule 3? While it may take courage, the answer is very simple—ask for help and, when it arrives, use it.

This presentation has given a very quick, probably oversimplified, view of the challenges inherent when adopting segments of the Buckeye Trail. If you have questions or feel that you would like to discuss some aspect of the challenge more completely, either drop me a note at [jimsprague4135@att.net](mailto:jimsprague4135@att.net) or call me at 440-884-4757.

## 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>

# News from the Bedford and Belle Valley Sections

Debbie Zampini

It has been a busy, wet and productive year. I am section supervisor of two sections: no small task, as one section will keep a person busy. Each section has its own features that keep you coming back to hike.

The Bedford section has trail in Lake Metroparks, Geauga Park District, Cleveland Metroparks and residential areas with towns to visit and resupply. You can have the feeling of remoteness while traversing the Zimmerman Trail in the Mentor Marsh and then the vastness of Lake Erie as you walk along the Lakefront Trail at the Mentor Lagoons or the all-purpose trail at Headlands Beach State Park. Thank you to all the maintainers for keeping Bedford looking good. You can walk to the water by taking the new side trail (blazed white) through the Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve. There is also a new Buckeye Trail sign. This is the first of three signs designed and produced by BTA staff member Jeff Yoest. Thank you Jeff for all your hard work.

Patti Cook, Burton Section Supervisor and I worked hard on the first Bedford/Burton Buckeye Trail garage sale in June. Everyone who came to the sale left with at least knowledge about the Buckeye Trail and membership brochures, and very few left without buying something. We were able to donate a profit of \$178.00 to the 10K challenge. We hope to make this an annual event and that other sections will give it a try.

In just the last couple months several new trail adopters have joined the Belle Valley section. I want to welcome and thank Ryan Lawrence, Joe D. Phillips and Jerri Perry. And I thank the Belle Valley trail adopters who have maintained the BT for numerous years. In contrast to the Bedford section Belle Valley is remote, featuring Salt Fork, and Wolf Run State Parks, along with Seneca Lake. Belle Valley does have quite a bit of the Buckeye Trail on roads, but what peaceful, scenic roads these are. Buffalo Hills Campground has a view is beautiful beyond words.

Each section of the Buckeye Trail will give a hiker some memory to take home with them. Anyone interested in volunteering in the Bedford or Burton Section can contact Debbie Zampini, [half-marathoner@hotmail.com](mailto:half-marathoner@hotmail.com).



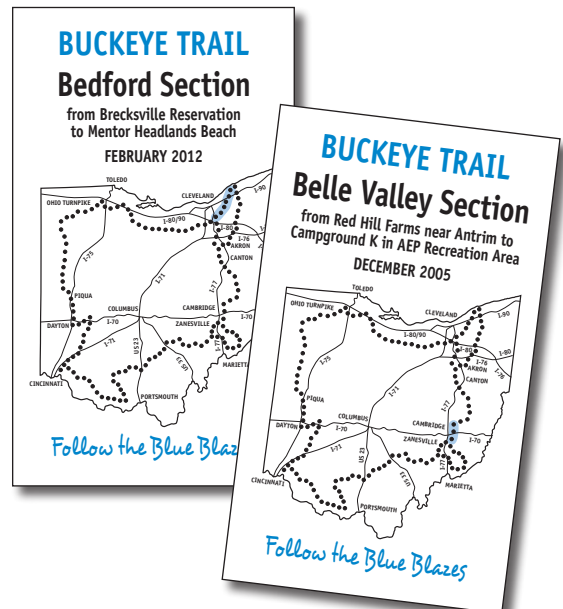
Debbie Zampini

New Buckeye Trail sign at Headlands Beach State Park, where Bedford and Burton sections meet. It was designed by Jeff Yoest.



Debbie Zampini

New Belle Valley adopter Joe Phillips paints his first blaze.



# Grandma Emma Gatewood Story Is Being Told

Mary Hayes

*Grandma Gatewood: Ohio's Legendary Hiker*, a storytelling program, premiered on November 1 at the Westlake Community Center. Eden Valley Enterprises performed the story of BTA legend Grandma Gatewood. As many Buckeye Trail Association members know, Grandma Gatewood was a founding member of the BTA; she is commemorated in an especially beautiful section of the Buckeye Trail in Hocking Hills State Park.

Betty Lou Higgins of Eden Valley Enterprises began researching Emma Gatewood in 2009 as part of a collection of women's tales she titled "What's Her Story?". But after talking with Emma's daughter Lucy, Betty Lou decided to make Emma Gatewood's story a full documentary. She contacted Peter Huston of FilmAffects, and he became involved. Their plan became an effort to produce a first-person character program, a documentary for PBS, and a DVD. The Toledo-based PBS station WGTE has agreed to broadcast the documentary. Betty Lou and Peter interviewed Emma's youngest daughter Lucy, great-granddaughter Marjorie, and oldest daughter Esther (who at age 93 was still leading hikes). They obtained photos of Emma's life and visited towns where Emma lived. Grants from the National Storytelling Network and the Buckeye Trail Association helped fund this first phase of Emma's story.

Grandma Gatewood grew up in Gallia County where she was one of 17 children. She married at the age of 19, raised 11 children, divorced her abusive husband after 33 years of marriage, and at age 66 in 1954 attempted to thru-hike the Appalachian Trail. An article in the National Geographic about the AT provided the motivation. Her first attempt failed, but in the process she learned many things, and left determined to complete the AT the following year. Her life of hard work and knowledge of plants and animals, along with her independent and positive attitude, gave her the necessary skills to accomplish her goal.

In 1955 she tried again, but this time she started in Georgia rather than in Maine, where she had started in 1954. She learned that she did not need all the things that she had taken along the previous year. Her load was light: a blanket, a little food, a warm coat, a plastic cloth, a cook pan, a change of clothes. She carried no compass or maps, trusting to follow the AT white blazes. Sometimes she was able to stay in a farmer's home overnight, but many nights were spent out in the open. She encountered some snakes, overgrown areas and unfriendly people. Most of all she



Mary Hayes

Documentary producers Peter Huston and Betty Lou Higgins meet BTA member Pat Hayes.

enjoyed seeing nature and its many offerings. Her hike was 2,050 miles that year, and she completed it in 145 days. She was the first woman to thru-hike the AT solo. The feat brought media attention to her and she went on several TV programs and even was the subject of an article in *Sports Illustrated*. She became quite a celebrity.

She continued hiking, taking on the 2,000-mile Oregon Trail in 1959, the AT two more times, and of course, the Buckeye Trail. All totaled, she hiked 10,000 miles between 1955 and 1969. She served on the BTA Board until 1969. Grandma Emma passed away in 1973.

Visit Eden Valley Enterprises [www.edenvalleyenterprises.org](http://www.edenvalleyenterprises.org) to find locations where Grandma Gatewood's story will be presented and to monitor the progress of the documentary.



# Beautiful Fall in Fort Hill

*Darryl R. Smith*

Scenery was the theme of the annual fall hike at Fort Hill State Memorial in the Sinking Springs section. Hikers from various parts of Ohio came out to enjoy Fort Hill's steep hills, arches and its gorge cut eons ago. While many areas had already seen peak fall colors at the time of this event, the deep woods at Fort Hill had plenty to share with us. Pawpaw (a sign of a healthy forest) abounded along the hilltop that is Fort Hill and all along the Deer Trail.

We climbed Fort Hill using the Fort Trail. One of the steepest in Ohio, this trail climbs nearly 400 feet. Evidence of the native Hopewell people is clear, as the hilltop is surrounded by a 1.5-mile long wall enclosing 49 acres. To the southern end of Fort Hill, we descended on a steep rocky trail. An easy walk led us to the Connector Trail, which a few of the group took, while the rest of the group continued down the Fort Trail to the shelter house, then to the Deer Trail (and another steep climb) and the seemingly endless fields of Pawpaw.

The Deer Trail joins with the Gorge Trail near the southern end of the memorial. From here we took the Buckeye Trail south into an open area to explore the circular earthworks and an old barn where we found Ohio Historical Society displays from Grant's birthplace. After a quick lunch we headed up (north) the Buckeye Trail to the west along the Spring Creek Ravine where we met an Amish family hiking the opposite direction. After a brief chat, we were able to see the Spring Creek Arch, the first that we would see during our hike. Staying on the Buckeye Trail (also the Deer and Gorge Trails at this point), we entered the gorge where the Baker Fork of the Ohio Brush Creek flows. A right turn and short climb to the north, then we dropped down along the creek and saw one of Fort Hill's most impressive features, the Keyhole Arch, across the creek. This arch is really a tunnel—deeper than it is wide—that makes an interesting place to explore if the creek is fordable. However, instead of scaring hikers with a deep creek crossing, I pressed us northward into an evermore beautiful gorge area. We passed Almost Arch and some impressive rock formations and outcroppings, and saw the Y Arch on the opposite side. (The Y Arch has two openings and one exit, like the letter Y.) You can see the Y Arch during low foliage periods by looking across the creek at the top of a flight of wooden steps.

We eventually climbed out of the gorge to an old cabin and took another break. The trail goes through the cabin and picks up Baker Fork again. We were now a mile from our endpoint with one short steep climb to go. Crossing a small bridge, we came out into the open area near the parking lot and our cars.

The next hike at Fort Hill will be April 21. See the Schedule of Events for details. Spring brings a completely different facet to hiking at Fort Hill as the ephemeral flowers put on quite a display. I hope you'll join me at this great southern Ohio destination!



*Darryl Smith*

*A serene section of the Buckeye Trail in Fort Hill where a hiker can catch his breath between ascents and the gorge.*



*Darryl Smith*

# A Series of Remarkable Experiences and Other ~~Hiking~~ Life Lessons (Part 3 Continued)

Barb Crompton (*Blue Blaze Bugsie*)

As I hiked the Buckeye Trail through the Akron section, I freed myself from the awesome scene. I jumped down off the platform and waded through the long grass back to the trail, though I didn't get far before I saw that from boot toes to thighs I was covered in these flat burrs. A few quick swipes with my driver's license flicked them back to the ground, seed for next year's plants and I am off and nearly trampling this very unusual plant. The central stalk and shorter stems were a beautiful scarlet color and there were white berries with little black dots perched on the tips of the shorter stems. Oooh, pretty! *Lesson#7: Don't touch it!* The Boy Scouts get a good laugh at my "If it's green, it's poisonous!" rule, which makes it really rough on a hiker, but I've gotten into enough poisonous you-name-it to come up with the rule to begin with. Luckily, I took my own advice and only took photos of what I later learned was Baneberry, a.k.a Doll's Eyes—a poisonous plant!

Pining for water yet again, as I was about to come out of the woods to cross a street I saw a sparkle of light at the trailside. There lay this unopened bottle of water! I had to look around to see if someone was playing with me. Licking my lips I examined the bottle more closely. The contents and the seal appeared ok; it was expired, but closely dated; and the seal cracked as I slowly twisted it open. I took a tiny sip to test it and it seemed fine so against all my "This is really gross" instincts, not that I advocate to anyone drinking from abandoned water bottles, I drank gratefully anyway. Aaaaah! Thirst slaked, I walked out onto the road and glanced at the BT sign that no longer mentioned Jaite, but Boston, Brecksville and Red Lock. I searched all around, even looking through the camera up to the next intersection, hoping to be able to pick up the trail, but there was nothing. I did see yellow buildings like those from the NPS Headquarters, but they didn't look the same. The map indicated that if I went toward Brecksville the path would eventually take me to my car. Happy enough that I had water, I decided to go for it.

The trail went off road almost immediately onto a path that went through a meadow and then into a thick pine forest that was only darkening with the day. Spying a bounding deer, I readied my camera where I thought would appear again, but it never did. I took a few more photos until I realized I was totally stalling; I felt it would be a mistake to go on. I reviewed the photos I'd taken of the signs from the road and decided that being on it was the only way I was going to find my car. *Lesson #8: Follow your instincts!* And luckily I did, as this trail would turn out to be part of yet another very long adventure. I took another swig of heaven-sent water, turned around and walked out of the darkness and back to the street. I breathed a sigh of relief when I realized the intersection was Riverview at Snowville and now I could clearly make out the CVNP headquarters buildings, which I knew were near the car.

Distracted at how giddy I felt at nearly completing this first little section, I only peripherally saw this huge light-colored object drop down to the ground. "You're almost done! Keep walking!" I tell myself, but I couldn't stand not knowing what that was and after a few more agonizing steps the curious part of me won out.

I walked back toward the tree and examined the ground looking for something white. Then I see a huge brown lump digging furiously at something. It was a very large bird! I immediately started wrestling with the camera. As I took one step closer the bird whipped around and the first thing I saw was his hooked beak agape, and then one huge eyeball gawking at me. I think he was as startled as I was. Just then the cover popped off the now fully extended lens and I started snapping away as a magnificent Red-tailed Hawk beat his wings and flew up into the next tree. I took a few more photos of him glaring at me before he flew out of view.

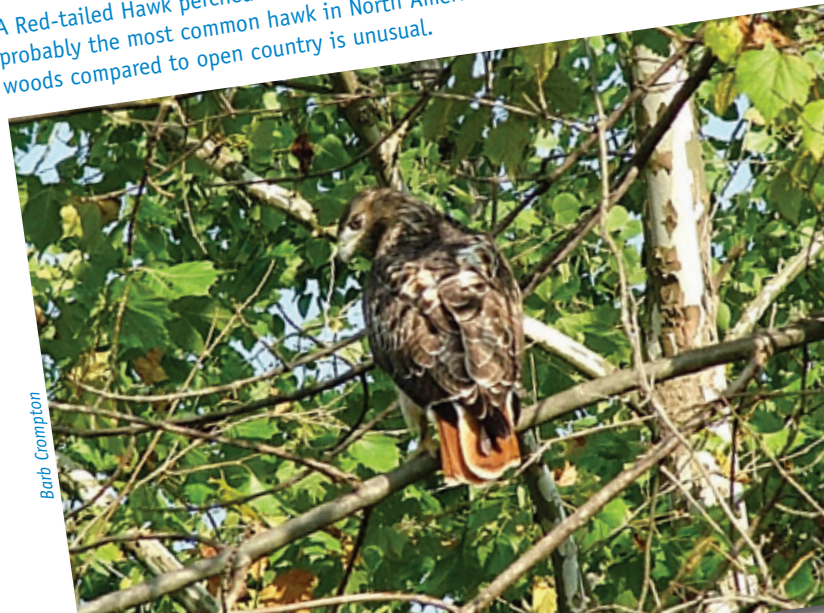
Safe now in my car, I called a few people to share my experiences from today's adventure. It was then that I decided that I would start journaling my hikes. As I drove up Riverview Road, I couldn't help but smile at all my good fortunes, ever grateful for each special moment and for the gift of curiosity.



Barb Crompton

Although there are historical accounts of use in medicinal teas, Doll's Eyes plants are poisonous. Interestingly, birds can eat them without ill effect.

A Red-tailed Hawk perched in a tree, as his meal was interrupted. They are probably the most common hawk in North America, but seeing one in the woods compared to open country is unusual.



Barb Crompton

# Welcome New Members!

*Bev and Jerry Starcher*

Julie Balazs, Chardon  
Anthony Kathryn Bolognone, Dublin  
Gayle Conley, Dayton  
Carol Coy, Dayton  
John & Marsha DeWeese, Beaver Creek  
Patrick Dwyer, El Verano, CA  
Paul & Barbara Emch, Burton  
Tom Evans, Cuyahoga Falls  
Michael Fanelli, Centerville  
Patrick Farrell, Navarre  
Don Fink, Akron  
Mary Fohl-Bailey, Westerville  
Timothy Ghrist, Akron  
Gary Greenlee, Lakewood  
Janice Heileman, Copley  
Mariano Iberico & Family, Dayton  
Barry Kendall & Family, Cincinnati  
Charlotte Kinnison, Dayton  
Darrell & Shelley Lamb, Clarksville  
Eric Lammers & Family, Elyria  
Stephen Latza, Twinsburg  
Ryan Lawrence, West Lafayette  
Laura Letton, Dayton  
Mark Liewellyn, Kettering  
Chuck Malone, Loga  
Mary E. Moore & Family, Bellbrook  
Sharon Mullins, Vandalia  
Denny O'Leary, Kent  
Bernard Parry, Akron  
Cyndee Perkins, Yellow Springs  
Timothy & Jeri Perry, Hopewell  
Stephen Rayo, Columbus  
Richard Rice, Columbus  
Kathleen M. Rocco, Lakewood  
Margaret Ronning, Columbus  
Jean Schmelzer, Lancaster,  
*gift from Jay Holwick*  
Joseph Shreve, Cincinnati  
Dru Streicher, Cleveland  
Carl Trimble, Greenville  
Hank Trimble, Dayton  
Pavel Tulisov, Maineville  
Karen Upton, Florence, KY  
Cathie Vickers, Dayton  
Jane A. Welch, Mechanicsburg



# MAC Committee Hits the AT

*John Rethman*

The renowned Appalachian Trail Town of Damascus, VA was the setting for 2011's MAC fall hike. On Sunday morning 9/10, we met at Mt. Rogers Outfitters for our 60-mile shuttle north to start our AT hike.

We were ten hikers this trip, three new to the group: Charlotte Kinnison, Andy Shreve and Karen Smith. The highlight of the trip was the Grayson Highlands State Park with its rocks, scenery and the (so-called) wild ponies (they would eat out of our hands). We camped at Grayson near the Wise Shelter and had a great campfire that evening. We also camped at Trimp Shelter and Saunders Shelter. Our most beautiful campsite was not at a shelter, but along the trail on the side of Whitetop Mountain near Buzzard Rock, where had beautiful views of the valley below.

On the last day of hiking the AT goes through downtown Damascus, but most of opted for the easier Virginia Creeper Trail (a former railroad) into town. We stayed at the Mt. Rogers Outfitters Hostel for our last night. It was another exhilarating MAC trip full of exploration and wonder at the scenery, plus admiration for the venerable Appalachian Trail.

# Buckeye Trail's Defiance Section

A towpath walk and views of the wide Maumee River, Independence Dam State Park and old cemeteries make the Defiance section a great hike. Towns including Defiance, Napoleon and Grand Rapids welcome you and keep you fed and pampered. Pat Frock's group took several hikes through the Defiance section in autumn. Greg Wisniewski (on the right) helped the group with area history and recommendations.



Pat Frock

# Campsite at Lock 21 Opened

The campsite featured on the Fall 2011 *Trailblazer* cover is now open. Boy Scout Troop 315 members Rylee Collins, David Fisher, Shawn Jackson, Brian Matson and Jordan Weidenhamer, along with leaders Ian Gochenour, Brian Knapp and Philip Jackson built the permanent campsite in Buckeye Trail's Delphos Section between points 22 and 23. Les Weidenhamer represented the BTA. Buckeye Trail hikers will be impressed all over again with the always-improving BT in northwest Ohio—but now, we'll bring our camping gear! Thanks for the hard work and generosity.

# Captain Blue On The Blue Blazes

Andy "Captain Blue" Niekamp

On March 20, 2011, the first day of spring, I began a hike on the Buckeye Trail in my hometown of Dayton. I got dropped off at Deeds Point, a mere four miles from my house. I carried a fully loaded backpack with gear, clothing and several days of food. I wasn't sure how long of a hike it would be. My goal was to hike on the Buckeye Trail for as long as it was fun. Would this be several days, several weeks or several months? I did not know. Just in case though I had cleared my calendar for three months and purchased all 26 section maps of the Buckeye Trail. I had hoped for an early spring and a mild spring. My wish was not granted. It turned out to be the rainiest spring in Ohio on record.

It was sunny and breezy that day as I headed north out of Dayton on the Buckeye Trail. From the start it did not feel like a typical hike to me. I am no stranger to long distance hiking. Over the last twenty years I've hiked 7,500 miles on the Appalachian Trail including three end to end hikes where I got my trail name of Captain Blue. In the previous year I had backpacked over 1,000 miles in 16 states on 15 different trips. Little did I realize that hiking the Buckeye Trail would be anything but typical?

My destination for the first night was Tipp City which was a 17 mile hike. I spent the evening with a friend of mine who lives there. I made arrangements to stay with friends and family along the way for the first few nights of my journey.

Captain Blue starting at Deeds Point with Dayton in the background.



Other than that I did no planning on where to stay or where to resupply. I was told that finding campsites would be difficult and obtaining food and groceries would be easy.

On the second day I continued hiking through Troy along the Great Miami River. The views of Troy and the courthouse were strikingly beautiful to me. I'd been to Troy many times but I never saw the city from this viewpoint. I told myself that if I continue to see pretty sites such as this then I am going to like this trail. I started doing daily updates

.....  
 Does the person make the journey or  
 does the journey make the person?  
 I believe the journey makes the person.  
 Captain Blue  
 .....

to my online trail journal and added photos to my online photo album. This proved to be invaluable as were people were able to following along on my hike and offer me assistance along the way.

By the fifth day I had hiked 70 miles and was in New Bremen. New Bremen is a charming town along the Miami-Erie Canal and was settled by German immigrants in the mid 1800's. Like several towns in the area the canal and Buckeye Trail go right through the center of town. I took a long break from the cold and wind at the local coffee shop. The staff was so polite to me even though it was clear I wasn't "from around here" and I tracked mud all over the place. I sat in a lounge chair in a corner by myself. But not for long as a group of five people joined me. All five were very cordial and welcoming. It was then I started to realize that the people of Ohio were very nice to hikers.

In Paulding County, in northwest Ohio, a farmer had erected a fence over the route of the canal towpath and the Buckeye Trail. I didn't feel like backtracking so I decided to climb over the fence. When I had straddled the fence I felt this tremendous electrical shock on my inner thigh and quickly realized I was standing on an electric fence. Instinctively I dove head first, backpack on and all, over the fence and did somersault on the ground. It was quite a jolt but I was unhurt. I realized that you can't hike on the Buckeye Trail without some surprises.



On March 29 and after 165 miles of hiking I camped out for the first time. Up until then I was still staying friends and family each night. This was not my plan but it turned out this way. The weather had turned cold, windy and rainy and turning down an offer to sleep inside was hard to do. My first campsite was on a bluff along the Maumee River outside of Napoleon. It had a makeshift bench of boards and concrete blocks. It was a fine place to camp after a 21 mile day. The temperatures dipped into the mid 20's that night and my water bottles and muddy hiking shoes froze. In the morning the sunrise was beautiful. By now I had developed a deep appreciation for the Buckeye Trail and the people who maintain it.

I thought I knew what hiking the Buckeye Trail would be like before I left home. I was born in Ohio, grew up in Ohio, went to school in Ohio and worked my career in Ohio. I thought I had a pretty good idea of what Ohio was about. I didn't think that hiking the Buckeye Trail would be as fun as out of state trails. I had been on the Buckeye Trail in many places before like Caesar Creek State Park, Hocking Hills State Park and Shawnee State Forest So I began this journey thinking I knew what the Buckeye Trail was about. I was so wrong! It was a much more rewarding and rich experience than I could have ever imagined.

After a 20 mile day I arrived in Pemberville and met a man quite by accident. He was the general manager of the local opera house and gave me a tour of the magnificent place. He had friends at the American Legion in town where they let me camp in their out building. A guy from the American Legion brought out an electric heater to make sure I would stay warm that night. He offered me money for dinner. I declined. In the morning at a local breakfast café a man paid for my breakfast. My stay in Pemberville was truly magical made special by the people. Pemberville gets my vote for the Friendliest Town on the Buckeye Trail.

### Trail Slang

**Blow Down** – A tree or shrub that has fallen across the Trail. A problem for both hikers and trail maintainers.

**Twelve by Twelve** – Hiking 12 miles by 12 noon. Example: I was really moving fast today. I did a twelve by twelve!

**Stealth Camp** – Camping in a manner or fashion where you wish to remain undetected.

**Slackpack** – Hiking without a fully loaded backpack. This makes hiking less strenuous.

**Trail Magic** – Random acts of kindness bestowed on hikers by strangers.

**Trail Angels** – People who perform trail magic.

**Trail Name** – A nickname adopted by or given to a hiker.

**Thru Hiking** – Attempting to hike a long trail in a single, continuous journey.

**Yogi** – A verb meaning to acquire something from strangers by asking or implying. Example: I yogied a hamburger from some people who were having a cookout.

**Zero or Zero Day** – A day in which no miles are hiked usually to rest or because of bad weather. Example: After ten days of hiking I decided to take a zero day.

I came to realize that hiking the Buckeye Trail was rich in Trail

Magic. I was the lucky recipient of it. Trail Magic is defined in many ways but it usually means unexpected generosity from a stranger. These random, unplanned acts of kindness usually happen at a time when it is most needed by people called Trail Angels. Trail angels show up, help out and then disappear. Trail magic is one of the great joys of hiking on the Buckeye Trail.

On April 10 and after 375 miles of hiking I reached the junction of the Little Loop where the Medina, Bedford and Akron sections meet. I had finished what I call the "Great Road Walk" from Toledo to Akron. In the round numbers the last 180 miles had all been on roads except for about 20 miles. (Note: This will change soon with the completion of the North Coast Inland Trail.) Reaching this area was a milestone for me. The weather had turned unseasonably hot. I found the steep hills of Brecksville very difficult in the hot weather. I ran out of water and was very thirsty. At Blue Hen Falls I encountered some day hikers who offered me three bottles of water. They could see that I was sunburned and parched. This kindness appeared when I need it most and it touched me. The trail magic continued throughout my hike and never let up. In all my hiking on the Appalachian Trail I had only experienced a tiny fraction of the trail magic I received on the Buckeye Trail.

On April 27 I finished the Little Loop with help from BTA board member and vice president Debbie Zampini. Debbie, who had never met me, graciously invited me into her home. She helped me slackpack some of the Little Loop. I stayed five nights with Debbie.

On May 4 after 722 miles and 45 days of hiking I reached my half way point near Salt Fork Wildlife Area. It was a bitter sweet moment. I was glad to be in the second half of my journey. But the realization that I still had a long way to go was a bit overwhelming. By now spring had sprung and the trail was getting overgrown in areas. I was no longer in the flat part of Ohio. I was hiking up and down hills now.

My friend Mike Fanelli joined me for ten days of hiking starting in the Whipple Loop. Mike was no stranger to long-distance hiking, as he had hiked the entire Appalachian Trail and much of the Pacific Crest Trail. Mike had hiked with Brent and Amy Anslinger for a week on their 2003 Buckeye Trail thru-hike. I told Mike that if wanted to hike with me had "to hit the ground doing 20-mile days." He agreed. Little did I know that this would be impossible to do in the Whipple Loop. The Whipple Loop is the 110-mile loop in southeast Ohio off the main loop. It's a 30-mile stretch in the Wayne National Forest. Most of the trail here does not have a maintainer, and as a result is overgrown and needs a lot of work. Mike and I got lost many times in this area. We only averaged about 10 miles per day because of confusing or missing trail markers, downed trees and an obscured footpath. After finishing this section it was another 40 miles of road-walking back to the main loop. Now I know why it is called the Stupid Loop.

*(continued on next page)*

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I am fortunate that I had a hiking companion in this area.

On May 20 we reached Murray City where Mike and I parted ways. I was met by Andrew Bashaw who is the executive director of the Buckeye Trails Association. I rode with Andrew and his family to the BTA Annual Meeting at The Barn on Tappan Lake. I enjoyed meeting everyone and taking a weekend off from hiking. It was great to be among the people who make the Buckeye Trail possible.

On May 24 I crossed to the west of SR-33 near Logan marking the 1,000 mile point on my journey. I looked forward to hiking through Hocking Hills State Park and several state forests. By now I wasn't real concerned about where I would end up each night. Early on I would want to know in advance what lodging options were available to me each night. Now I just hiked all day and found a place to camp each night sometimes stealth camping. I camped at churches, in cemeteries, picnic shelters, yards or wherever I could find a place to stay. It was easier finding places to camp and stay than I expected. The hiking on the back roads was very enjoyable. Many people frown on the Buckeye Trail because it uses roads for its path in areas. But the road walking was some of the highlights of my journey. It gave me a chance to see how people lived and to meet people along the way.

Near Richmond Dale I stayed with Mike and Connie Snyder for several nights. Mike and Connie are trail angels who host long distance hikers on the Buckeye Trail, American Discovery Trail and North Country Trail. They are delightful people to stay with and are very helpful. Look the up if you are hiking though the area.

On June 4 and after 1,200 miles hiking I was in the West Union section. I noticed the hills were starting to flatten out. For the last six weeks or so I endured hill after hills sometimes very steep. But now the hills were disappearing and I was back in flat farm land. This was a welcome relief to me as I could hike over 20 miles per day again. I noticed the water quality of the streams was deteriorating. I no longer obtained drinking water from the creeks. I filled up my water bottles from the faucet on people's houses.

On June 9 I reach Milford and Eden Park. Eden Park is the southern terminus of the Buckeye Trail. The hike from Milford to Eden Park is an urban trek and a different hiking experience. I felt out of place carrying a backpack through Cincinnati.

On June 15 I was back in my hometown of Dayton. I stopped at Eastwood MetroPark, a mere three miles from where I started, and took a long break. I was met by a reporter from the Dayton Daily News. I talked with the reporter for about an hour so he could do a story on my thru hike. A dozen of my friends showed up to hike the remaining miles of the Buckeye Trail with me. A camera crew from our local ABC new station showed up to get footage for evening news. We hiked the last few miles together. With a quarter of a mile to go I could see that a crowd of 20 people had gathered at Deeds Point to celebrate my arrival. It was



Andy Niekamp of Kettering returned to Deeds Point in Dayton Wednesday June 15 after a four month long trek on the Buckeye Trail hiking more than 1,400 miles. Niekamp started his journey at the statue of Orville and Wilbur Wright located at Deeds Point and returned to the same spot for the finish. Photo by Lisa Powell. Courtesy of the Dayton Daily News.

a welcome site. The last 100 feet of my journey involved crossing a pedestrian bridge over the Mad River. Midway on the bridge I did a celebratory jump into the air and kicked my heels. This victory pose was caught on film by a Dayton Daily News photographer. To finish the loop of the Buckeye Trail I walked over to the statues of Orville and Wilbur Wright and gave them a hug. Tears came to my eyes as I realized that I had completed a thru hike of the Buckeye Trail. The crowd was waving flags and congratulating me. It was a fitting finish to an amazing hike!

*Afterthoughts:* My hike on the Buckeye Trail was much richer and rewarding than I had ever imagined. There is so much to see in Ohio. The people of Ohio are incredibly nice. There are places to camp or stay along the Buckeye Trail. You can rely on the generosity of strangers to help you find places to stay. Resupplying is easy. Hiking on the roads turned out to be an enjoyable experience for me. My advice is to leave your car behind and go for a long distance hike on the Buckeye Trail. People in Ohio are very kind to travelers on foot. Hospitality is not strictly a southern term. Northern hospitality and trail magic are alive and well in Ohio. If given the choice of hiking the Appalachian Trail again or the Buckeye Trail again which would I choose? The answer is easy—*The Buckeye Trail*.

.....  
Come see Andy Niekamp presentation titled *Thru Hiking The Buckeye Trail—A 1,400 Mile Journey Around Ohio*. The presentations are free and open to the public.

For a complete list upcoming presentations visit:  
[www.buckeyetrailfriends.org](http://www.buckeyetrailfriends.org)  
.....

### Thank You!

I would like to thank everyone who is assisting and helping me along on my hike of the Buckeye Trail. Your support made my more possible. I would especially like to thank the follow people and organizations:

Jim and Janet Bolton - Kettering  
Diane Brown - Tipp City  
Rick Thien - Minster  
Tom and Pam Rammel - St Marys  
Paul Rammel - St Marys  
Don Schwieterman - Maria Stein  
Bill and Angie Lorenz - Defiance  
Phil and Julie Wenig - Haskins  
American Legion Post 183 -  
Pemberville  
Jim Fields - Pemberville  
Steve and Sara Whitman - Fremont  
Bill Beier - Norwalk  
Sharon and Tom Farmer - Berea  
Liz McQuaid - Cleveland  
Cleveland Hiking Club  
Jim & Renie - Hinckley  
John Spitzer & Erica Schade - Stow  
Paul and Laura Lynch - Mayfield Village  
Debbie Zampini - Chardon  
The Sport Rack - Chardon  
Maria Dimengo - Cleveland  
Jim, Gayle & Shane Wohlken - Burton  
Dana Zintek and Lisa Daiber -  
Cuyahoga Falls  
John and Juli Boron - North Canton  
Mary Hamilton - Dover  
Ray Ferrell - Cadiz  
Jim and Pat Spain - Freeport  
Doug and Ethyl Marie LeVassuer -  
Senacaville  
Timo's Backyard BBQ - Belle Valley  
Mike Fanelli - Centerville  
Eric and Debbie Cunningham - Marietta  
Jeff Erb - Marietta  
Herb Hulls - Stockport  
Andrew and Claudia Bashaw -  
Gloucester  
Rocky Myers - Shawnee  
Bruce "Poppie" Purdy - Grove City  
Byron Guy - Hideaway Hills  
Mike and Connie Synder -  
Richmond Dale  
Brian and Sheryl Saul - South Point  
Steve and Susan Miller - Bethel  
Jenny Waters - Batavia  
Christine Plepys - Newport, KY  
Bob and Brenda Schwieterman -  
West Chester  
Terry Cooper - Cincinnati  
Brent and Amy Anslinger - Miamisburg  
Five Rivers MetroParks Outdoor  
Recreation Staff - Dayton

A special thank you to all the volunteers of the Buckeye Trail Association for making hiking on the Buckeye Trail possible.

# Sign of Improvements in Troy Section

Preston Bartlett refurbished this trail sign, making it more readable to anyone following the blue blazes. He maintains the Buckeye Trail near Lockington in the Troy section.



Preston Bartlett

Before



Preston Bartlett

During



Preston Bartlett

After

# Photo Contest Winners

Deb Zampini

The Photo Contest was held at the Annual BTA Picnic at the Buckeye Trail Barn in July. Each issue of the *Trailblazer* we will feature winners from the Photo Contest in other categories.

Start taking those photos for next year. Thank you to all who participated in photography and voting.



GENERAL PHOTOGRAPHY:  
3rd Place—Deb Zampini



GENERAL PHOTOGRAPHY:  
2nd Place—Deb Zampini



ANIMAL PHOTOGRAPHY:  
1st Place—Deb Zampini



GENERAL PHOTOGRAPHY:  
1st Place—Deb Zampini



ANIMAL PHOTOGRAPHY:  
2nd Place—Mike Tobin



ANIMAL PHOTOGRAPHY:  
3rd Place—Deb Zampini

# Meet the Volunteer ... Tim Murphy



Jennifer Koester

Tim Murphy has been living the BTA experience by maintaining and hiking the Buckeye Trail. He has volunteered since 2007 and worked in the Bedford and Burton sections. He has also volunteered on trail and bridge projects in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Tim lives in Painesville.

He has hiked over 300 miles of the Buckeye Trail, and the Old Man's Cave Section is his favorite area so far. This spring, he started hiking Cleveland's Emerald Necklace and figures it will take at least two more summers to complete. He is also a race walker and has completed 14 half-marathons in the past four years. Since 1987, he's walked over 40,000 miles. Tim has traveled to all 50 states, Canada, Mexico and Ireland. He has visited 35 of America's National Parks, rafted Alaska's Nenana River, canoed the Allegheny River and explored caves in Arizona and Pennsylvania.

*Meet the Volunteer will be occasional feature. If you would like to participate, please contact Jennifer Koester at [gardenjen70@yahoo.com](mailto:gardenjen70@yahoo.com).*

## Tribute to BTA Member Russ Johnson

BTA Barn Supervisor and Akron Section Supervisor/Trail Maintainer Russ Johnson, along with members of his family and others who died August 7, are memorialized in this black granite bench at Copley Circle. The bench was donated by Hummel Funeral Homes and Midwest Engraving and Midwest Everlasting Memorials. It was dedicated November 5.

*(Photo Used by Permission from Akron Beacon Journal)*



# Mapmaking Goes Digital

Steve Miller, with help from Jack Watkins, Jim Sprague and Darlene Karoly

In 2010, Buckeye Trail section maps underwent changes most drastic. BTA moved from manual paste-up and off-site printing to digitization and in-house printing for maps. Beginning with the Akron section map, it was entirely created, assembled and printed using computers. Gone were the cardboard and Mylar paper of old for paste-ups. In came the applications ArcView and Illustrator and a high capacity Xerox color laser. Here's a look back at where we were, where we are now, and where we plan to go in the future.

Find any Buckeye Trail section map dated earlier than 2010 and the first thing you will notice is color—there isn't much of it. All maps were printed in two colors, black and cyan (blueish). The reason is simple: printers charge more for more colors! So to hold down costs, BTA settled on just two. But trying to make an easily readable map with just two colors was only one challenge faced by the Cartography Team.

Jack Watkins, Jim Sprague and Josh Gille, along with John Paton early on, were the volunteers of BTA's Cartography Team. They created every map sold by the Buckeye Trail Association from 1997 until 2009. Prior to 1997, maps were created solely by Bradford Jones, and before that by Bob Paton, though both received input from others, principally Ed DeLaet. The work was painstaking and labor-intensive, but it was a labor of love. Here is what it took to generate just one map.

Jack Watkins would obtain maps for each county the section traversed. Those were Ohio Department of Transportation maps, printed black on white paper. Jack would use a black pen and literally color in all bodies of water. Why? On the original maps, only outlines of lakes and rivers were shown, making them harder to distinguish. These maps were then pasted to the artboard (see sidebar).

Meanwhile, Jim Sprague was physically out in the section verifying the information that would appear in the trail log. Whenever possible, Jim used the Section Supervisor to aid in updating this information, but he liked to personally check everything whenever he could. Early on, Jim would use his car's odometer for on-road mileage, and a measuring wheel for off-road sections. The odometer though, was prone to significant error, so he made the first real use of computer technology. Using special software combined with USGS topographic maps, he was able to get much more accurate mileage readings.

Once Jim had all the log written plus accurate mileage, he typed the familiar trail log using a word processor on his PC. He

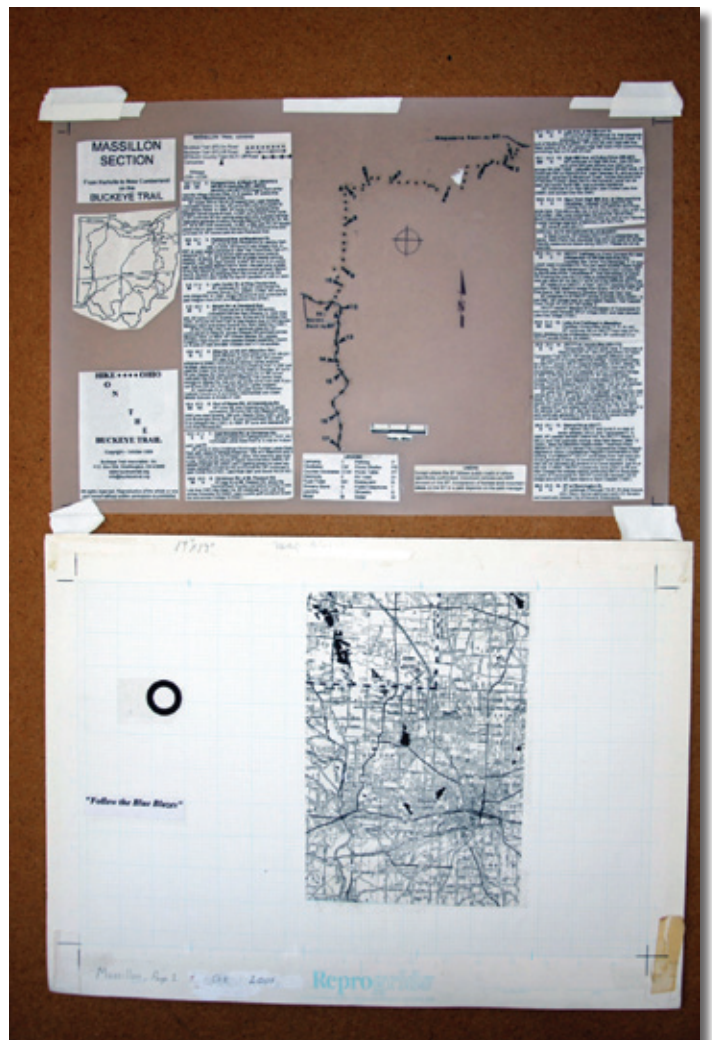
also printed the other bits and pieces of text found on the map. The printed text would be sent to Jack to fit and then paste them to the artboard and Mylar.

Finally, Josh Gille took over. He added each dot marking the trail route, along with diamonds for the North Country Trail, lines for off-road parts and numbers for each point. This was painstaking work all done by hand and with careful precision.

Next, the completed artboard was sent to the printer. Printing on BTA's waterproof paper required a special press. Only a few printers in Ohio had such a press and would print our maps at a reasonable cost. Even so, economy of scale dictated that we print at least 300 or more maps at a time. For some sections, that provided years of maps.

To paraphrase a well-known expression, necessity is the mother of all change! In 2009, the physical printer used for our maps broke and the company decided it was not economical to

BTA's former map production was truly hard work. Shown here is the Massillon map: the artboard (to print black ink) and Mylar (to print blue ink) are separated.



.....  
Back in the days when Bob Paton was making maps, software tools to help determine distance simply did not exist. Unable to always get mileage information for every bit of off-road trail in time for the map, Bob would often take a string and trace the route on a topo, then measure how much string he used!  
.....

repair or replace it. BTA had already been considering digitizing the map process. This 'problem' forced us to speed up those plans.

Meet Richard Lutz, Darlene Karoly and Jim Sprague, BTA's current Cartography Committee. They are responsible for the creation of all maps since late 2009. Also on the committee are Steve Miller, who handles forecasting, and chairs Herb and Susie Hulls.

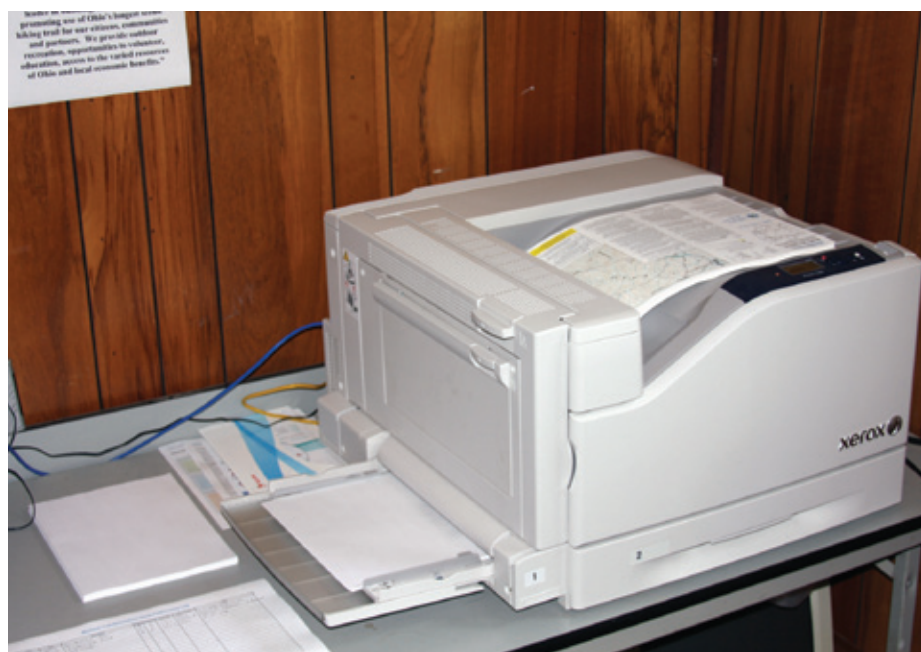
To ease into digital production, the Committee decided to initially create maps that were as identical as possible to the existing maps. Thus, you may have a digitally produced map in your possession and not even know it. At its core, digital map production is the same as the old paste-up method: a base map layer is established, with trail markings added to it. Then it's merged with the text to create a final map. How that is accomplished, though, is quite different.

Three high-end software packages are used to create the current section maps. The first is ArcView, a component of a suite of programs called ArcGIS. ArcView is used to create the actual map portion. Over the counter, this package costs several thousand dollars, but through grants from TechSoup and ESRI (the software's owner), the BTA got two copies at about a 90% discount.

The other two software packages are Illustrator and InDesign, both from Adobe. We use Illustrator to create the front and back covers, and InDesign to put all of the parts together.

As before, once a section needs a new map, Richard Lutz will obtain the base map from the state of Ohio, but now that map is a data file readable by ArcView. Like its paste-up ancestor, our digital maps are created in layers. ArcView allows maps to use many layers as overlays, where we formerly hand-made Mylar layers on artboard representing different colors. These layers can include topographic information, highway information, property line data and so on.

Many section maps are now printed on this Xerox 7500 at the BTA office. BTA's digitalization of map production is underway now.



.....  
Because the maps were printed in two colors, two separate paste-ups were needed for each side of the map. Everything to be printed in blue was pasted to an artboard, while everything that would be black was placed on a piece of clear Mylar. The Mylar was taped over the artboard and registration tic marks added to the corners to ensure everything lined up correctly. (See photos.)  
.....

One layer that we must make ourselves is the trail route. Richard, aided by other members, has been using a GPS to collect a complete digital track of the entire Buckeye Trail. That track is converted to its own ArcView layer and added to the section map in progress. Other annotations including point numbers and campsites are then manually added to the layer.

Meanwhile, Jim Sprague works on the trail log. The one area that has not changed is Jim's hard work in verifying every point of the section, either through the section supervisor or in person. He still writes the entire log using Microsoft Word and sends that log to Darlene Karoly.

When Richard completes his work on the map portion, he saves it and sends it to Darlene. She uses the map file, Jim's trail log and her own work on the covers and other text, then Adobe InDesign to put it all together. Where Jack would literally cut and paste the various pieces to the artboard, Darlene does the same digitally. She must find good break points in the log and get it to flow between the columns, front and back. Finally, she saves the finished map as a PDF file. This file is sent to a PC in the BTA's Shawnee office. A copy is also placed on our servers for safekeeping.

When the first digitally produced map—Akron—was ready, the BTA did not have a printer. Fortunately, our friends at the North Country Trail Association did have one and agreed to

print our maps on an interim basis. By the end of 2010, BTA had researched and budgeted for our own printer. In January 2011, BTA purchased a Xerox 7500 Color Laser.

There are numerous advantages to digitized map production. Though the design work is every bit as demanding and tedious as before, any errors, like a misplaced point, are easy to fix. The cut and paste of the trail log can be redone easily if text is changed.

For actual printing, the economy of scale is gone, but to our benefit. We can print one map or one hundred for roughly the same cost. This lets us reduce inventory with smaller print runs, as small as 20 maps at a time. The smaller runs let us make frequent updates as the trail changes. Now we can provide our map users with the latest information. Errors can also be corrected immediately.

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Use of a color laser also allows us to go from having only two colors to over two billion colors! We already incorporated additional colors onto more recent maps to help make them more readable.

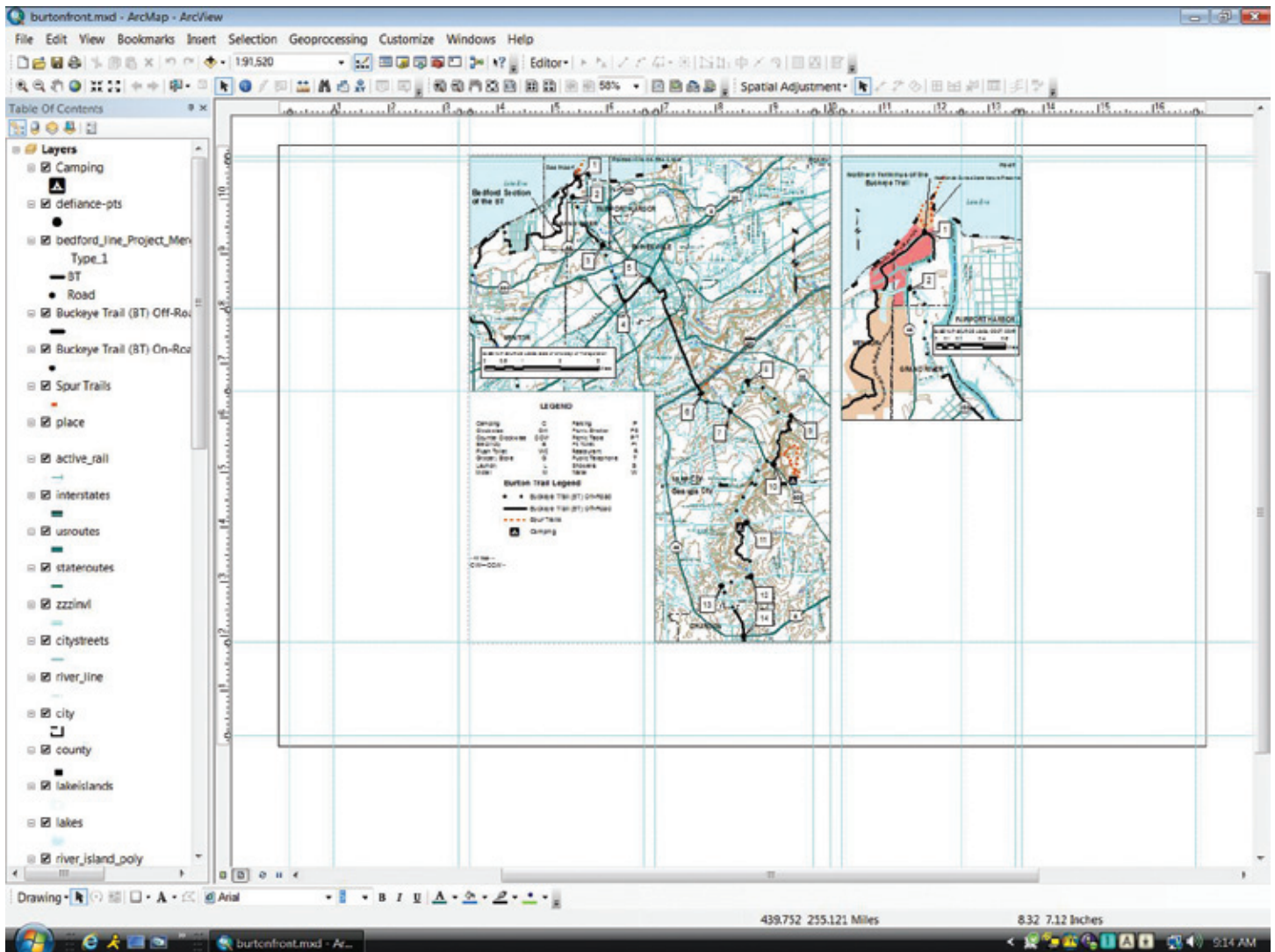
Furthermore, the collection of data necessary to create the maps becomes a useful asset to BTA and can be used in other mapping projects, along with being provided to other mapmakers, such as ODOT.

What does the future hold? Currently, 14 of BTA's 26 section maps have been converted to digital format. The goal is to complete this transition in 2012. In the coming year, the Cartography Committee will review the entire map process. Using input from

the BTA Forum and other sources, studies of other organizations' maps and a full understanding of the tools we have, we hope to unveil a completely new set of maps designed for the 21st century hiker.

As we make that transition, let us not forget the hard work put forth by the original Cartography Team. BTA maps may not be considered 'flashy' by some, but they have always been well-researched, meticulously drawn and highly accurate. Jack Watkins, Jim Sprague and Josh Gille set a high standard over 13 years of mapmaking the 'old-fashioned' way. The new team is working hard to maintain that standard with tools of the digital age.

In BTA's new digitized map process, the layers for map print colors are produced on the computer screen. This is a screen shot of the new Burton map created in ArcView.





# THOUGHTS AND RAMBLES . . .

Recently on our Facebook page and Trail Talk forum we asked BTA members  
**“WHERE IS YOUR FAVORITE BUCKEYE TRAIL WINTER HIKE?”**

Here are some of the comments we received:

I like the portion through Fort Hill in the winter.  
 —Craig, Harrison

The hike on U.S. 250 in the Norwalk section!  
 —Andy, Dayton

The Hocking Hills Winter Hike—next one is  
 January, 21st, 2012.  
 —Bob, Apple Creek

I would have to say my favorite hike in the winter is the  
 Old Man’s Cave section too, but preferably not during the  
 Winter Hike. I think it’s a great idea and it’s the largest  
 public hike in the entire state all year but I would much  
 rather sit inside Ash Cave by myself, I haven’t been able to  
 catch it fully iced over yet but it has been pretty close.  
 —Todd, Cleveland

Connie and I like to walk along the towpath of the Miami  
 and Wabash Erie trails near Napoleon. The trail is off-  
 road and flat. One caution, avoid deer season up there.  
 —Robert, Hebron

It’s not a very long section of the trail, but I really  
 like hiking the ridge above Sagamore Creek in the Bed-  
 ford Section—waterfalls, wildlife, solitude and close  
 to home. I also enjoy the Annual Buckeye Trail Winter  
 Hike at Findley State Park (next one: February 4).  
 —Darlene, Cleveland

The northern part of Burr Oak State Park: nothing but  
 hills, trees, rocks and streams and the backwaters of Burr  
 Oak Lake/the East Branch of Sunday Creek, beaver lodges,  
 bald eagles and the BT . . . but don’t tell anybody!  
 —Andrew, Shawnee

*Join in on the  
 conversation!*

TRAIL TALK at  
<http://www.buckeyetrail.org/TrailTalk/>  
 or on FACEBOOK at  
 Buckeye Trail Association

## End of Trail

Dana Zintek

This issue we award Circuit Hike patches to:

HIKER	DATE STARTED	DATE FINISHED	MILEAGE OF BT WHEN HIKED*
Bob Simons	May 31, 2003	August 20, 2011	1,445
Paul Imhoff Jr.	May 10, 2003	September 18, 2011	1,440
Michael Hooper	May 10, 2003	September 18, 2003	1,440

\*mileages vary because of reroutes and improvements

Bob Simons has always been a hiker and discovered the Buckeye Trail in the early 2000s. He put a group together in 2003 and began in Eden Park in Cincinnati; he enjoyed it so much he kept hiking on his own even after his hiking group fell apart. Paul Imhoff and Michael Hooper both started their hikes to improve their health. Paul also credits his sense of adventure, thinking it would be fun to do and a good chance to get outside. He felt he’d gain a sense of accomplishment completing the Buckeye Trail. Michael was ready for the challenge of a long hike; after sitting around the campfire on several occasions, he just decided to do it.

Michael Hooper’s favorite parts of hiking the Buckeye Trail was picking up different hiking partners along the way and learning Ohio history. Paul Imhoff especially enjoyed hiking along the Miami-Erie Canal. Bob Simon’s favorite part of his Circuit Hike was meeting wonderful people along the Buckeye Trail, both hikers and others. He learned many things about Ohio and its people, including the canals, agriculture and many park systems the Buckeye Trail visits.

Paul Imhoff says that more people should hike the Buckeye Trail.



# Highlights of the BTA Board Meeting—August 27, 2011

Ruth Brown, Secretary

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT— ANDREW BASHAW

- Thanks to Kathy Hamilton and all BTA volunteers for their work on the NCTA Conference. BTA was well represented
- Richard Lutz is now the Americorps Liaison for one year. Richard's duties will be developing these: a BTA chapter system, a trail routing plan in the Wayne National Forest, new and traditional media to promote trail development, and new sources of funding along with working to have a volunteer program in the Sunday and Monday Creek watersheds.

## BARN MANAGER

- Mary Hamilton volunteered to be acting chairperson due to the loss of Russ Johnson.

## 2012 ANNUAL MEETING—STEVE MILLER

- The BTA Annual Meeting will be renamed.

## PRODUCT SALES—JAY HOLWICK

- Two styles of BTA wicking T-shirts are new items in the store

## SHOWS AND EXHIBITS

- GearFest, an annual event, will be held at Eastwood Metro Park in Dayton on 9/30-10/1. BTA will be there.

# Highlights of the BTA Board Meeting—August 28, 2011

Ruth Brown, Secretary

## GIS COMMITTEE— RICHARD AND STEVE MILLER

- Burton and Mogadore sections now digital
- Section map reprints now happen as current stock is depleted
- Caesar Creek, Shawnee and Williamsburg in 2012

## TRAIL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE—JIM RUNK

- 17 projects that could actually be worked with a few that were urgent including:
  - Carsonite posts near the BTA Barn
  - Washout in Newport: Jim will head up special project (it is too big for Boy Scouts)
  - Carsonite posts in Clark County
- AEP will be done 2012
- There may be a training session at a work party this year to teach people how to work on trail

## NEW BUSINESS

- There will be an ad in the Hocking Hills Magazine that will take visitors to a different web page so we can track the ad

# BTA Funds Report

## TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND 08/01/11–10/01/11

P.M. Devlin  
Mr. and Mrs. R.S. Kramer  
John Winkler  
Martie and Michael Lynch,  
*in memory of  
Mark E. Anderson*  
Marcie Beil,  
*in honor of  
Robert Simon's completion  
of the Buckeye Trail*  
Larry and Sophia Morton,  
*in memory of Russ Johnson*  
*The following persons  
gave in memory of  
Andrew Grace.*  
Scott Stanilious  
Andy and Linda Hodovan  
Capital City Bank  
Mr. and Mrs. Rogers  
Brandi Veal  
Jodi Kidd  
Mr. and Mrs. Rodolf  
Mr. and Mrs. Rathbun  
Ms. Tammy Murray  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Tankle  
Bill Hurley  
Matco Tools  
T. F. Bassmasters  
J. L. Ruby  
Gary Cook  
Barbara Kallenbach  
Susan Sigmon  
Mr. and Mrs. Leghart  
DBA Weld Tech  
Diebold, Inc.

## GENERAL FUND 07/01/11–09/30/11

Rick Adamson  
Lana Ahlum  
Bob and Ruth Brown  
Earth Share of Ohio  
Roger Hardway  
Byron Henry  
Jay Holwick  
Barbara Kurtz  
Kroger Community Rewards  
Andy Niekamp  
John Rethman  
Rory Robinson  
Darryl Smith  
Jim Sprague  
Gary Williams  
Deb Zampini  
Edward Berardi  
*The following persons  
gave in memory of  
Andrew Grace.*  
Beatta McInerney  
William Hurley  
Deborah Tankle

## BARN FUND 07/01/11–09/30/11

Matthew Kircher,  
*in memory of Andrew Grace*

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND 07/01/11–09/30/11

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# GearFest Shows 12,000 What's Out There

Pat Hayes

2011 GearFest offered an Off-Road 5K Run/Walk, Gibbon USA National Slackline Championship, a mass bike ride, climbing wall, youth adventure zone, kayaking and canoeing, geocaching, disc golf and fly fishing, as well as demonstrations and competition in freestyle snowboarding, rock wall speed climbing and X-country mountain biking. Held on a cold September 30-October 1 weekend at Eastwood MetroPark in Dayton, BTA showed off hiking opportunities throughout Ohio. For a look at all the events that took place, click on <http://www.metroparks.org/GearFest/Home.aspx>.



Pat Hayes

Melissa Shaw, Byron Henry and Pat Hayes at the GearFest Club Membership Drive table represent the BTA, NCTA, and the ADTS, respectively.



Pat Hayes

BTA member Dale Wical works the BTA booth.



*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)

## BRAMBLE #60

by Dana Zintek

1. Motel
2. Station
3. Fountain
4. Watershed

Bramble: IT WAS EASIER TO FOLD.  
WINNER: TRAVIS NEELY,  
RED LION, PA

**Buckeye Trail Association**

P.O. Box 254  
Worthington, Ohio 43085

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# BRAMBLE #61

by Dana Zintek

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

For a chance to win the **2-book set** of *Hiking the Appalachian Trail Southbound* and *Walking Home* by (the Barefoot Sisters) Lucy and Susan Letcher

Send your answers to:

Dana Zintek  
2369 Suncrest Drive  
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

Answers must be postmarked by February 1, 2012.

1. T on map

**I C L E E N T H E B L O U P P**

□ □ ○ □ □ □ ○ □ □ □ □ □ ○ □

2. P on map

**G R I N K A P**

□ ○ ○ ○ ○ □ □

3. S on map

**W O R S H E S**

□ ○ ○ □ □ ○ □ □

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



Why was the accident-prone hiker  
chosen to lead in the snow?

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □  
□ □ □ □ □ □

*Happy Holidays! From the Bramble Staff*