

# Trailblazer



FOUNDED 1959

FALL 2012 VOLUME 45 NO. 3

## Buckeye Trail's St. Marys Section— A Better Trail Every Day



Preston Bartlett

### NEW OFF-ROAD SECTION OF TRAIL OPENED

Another piece of St. Marys is now open. A new 0.2-mile off-road section is hikeable now that the fences have been removed. The BTA and ODNR worked together to produce a better trail for everybody. If you'd like to hike this new section of Buckeye Trail, the coordinates are N40°14.167, W084°14.196. Access it by walking from Lockington Reserve parking lot. Go north on the Trail into the woods for about 1 mile and turn around at Stangel Rd.

### STORMS HIT THE SECTION HARD

Severe storms felled many trees in the St. Marys section this summer. According to St. Marys Section Supervisor Preston Bartlett, volunteer adopters worked hard to get it reopened. 67.3% of the Buckeye Trail in here is along the Miami-Erie Canal, and fallen trees are common, but this was excessive. Counter that with a lot of generous people, a few chainsaws and a few days, and the the job gets done.



Preston Bartlett

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# Our Trail

What are your reasons for joining the BTA? Why do you value the BTA? In an attempt to answer those questions, *Our Trail* is a new feature in the Trailblazer. It will be written each issue by a different BTA member.

by Deven D. Atkinson



**Trail Angels** Just saying the words can bring up images of those wonderful people who are on the lookout for hikers and backpackers. They invite the hikers into their homes, provide meals and hand over bottles of water without a thought for recognition. But they are justly recognized, even if anonymously. If they weren't, how would those two words have become so well known?

There are other kinds of trail angels out there, others who do things for hikers and the BTA. Much of the time we don't even recognize that anything special has been done, let alone acknowledge them publicly. I am learning to look for signs of these wonderful people. It has been a hard lesson for me because the same people I now see as trail angels are people I used to complain about. Let me tell you the story about my discovery of one such group of trail angels.

There has been an extraordinary amount of clear-cut logging along the Scioto Trail section of the Buckeye Trail in the past few years, beautiful trail that wound through high canopy woods is now open to the scorching sun. Carefully benched tread was churned up and removed by logging loader drag paths. Maintenance used to be a simple matter of clipping back the pawpaw and dogwood trees growing in the understory and kicking aside small windfall, acorns and hickory nuts. Now ragweed, greenbrier, blackberry and nettles have taken over. Heavy powered brush cutters are now needed to keep the trail open. Cairns became necessary because there are no trees to paint blazes on. Clear-cuts are the bane of any maintainer and the loggers that create them are not thought of fondly.

My reaction to clear-cuts was aptly expressed by my middle son when he compared one such clear-cut area to pictures he had seen of the WWI "no man's land" battlefields. The area was part of the trail I personally maintain. Such devastation, such waste. I admit my thoughts towards those who would do this were not kind. This was my trail!

And yet . . .

And yet there were a small number of trees still standing. A few young maples, an old sassafras, a bent and gnarled maple that the Buckeye Trail Crew had rescued from the crushing burden of the largest grapevine I have ever seen, a tall and stately red oak. And on every one of them was the 2x6 "sweeping blue" blazes that I had painted. The forest was gone, but the blazed trees were still there. Someone on that logging crew recognized our hiking trail and did what they could to preserve what they could.

This wasn't an isolated incidence. At another clear-cut later that summer I saw the same thing: three lone maples standing along our trail. And there was something more. Not only were the trees with blazes left to stand, but the area where the trail footpath ran, or would have if it still existed, was free of treetops. Someone had taken the effort to clear the corridor. They did what they could to preserve what they could. They were trail angels.

This spring, a selective logging effort at Pike Lake State Forest included a long portion of the Buckeye Trail. The state forester who contacted the BTA about the logging was on-site, and I wanted to meet him and thank him for being proactive. While I was waiting at the landing where the logging company loaded the trucks, I struck up a conversation with one of the loggers. He was very interested in the BTA and said that he'd hiked portions of it. During the conversation I mentioned that I was happy that only selective cutting was happening at Pike Lake, and lamented the damage caused by clear-cutting elsewhere and specifically mentioned the clear cut areas mentioned in this article. He asked, "the clear-cuts that left the marked trees standing?" When I said yes, he waved his arm to include all the loggers at Pike Lake that day, "we did that."

I'd found my trail angels—hardworking people, doing what they needed to do to earn a living. If they had not won the contracts to harvest the wood, someone else would have, someone else who would likely have cut down those blazed trees for the profit they represented. I got my chance to shake his hand and say thank-you, and asked him to pass the thanks along to his coworkers. He seemed shocked and proud to be recognized; I am happy I got the chance to do so. Recently I was back at that selective cut area and the trail footpath was clear of limbs.

(continued on page 5)



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August 1 for the Fall issue,  
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# West Branch Work Party

The Trail Crew gathered June 16–20 at West Branch State Park in the Mogadore section to continue work on an ambitious multiyear project. Neither hot weather, thunderstorm, nor a detour to construct a new bridge over railroad tracks dampened the Trail Crew's enthusiasm. Seventeen people worked the five-day event. New people and experienced workers alike enjoyed the work and good conversation around the campfire at the end of the day.

The Trail Crew was motivated to push on, because every turn in the trail provided a never-before-seen vista. The project is construction of 23 off-road miles to add to the Buckeye Trail. From scenic views over the reservoir to a stand of 200-year-old white trees, there was always something new to discover.

The only downside to the progress being made is that it now takes almost an hour to hike from the trailhead to the ever more remote work site. But with the scenery and wildlife, the hike is most enjoyable. As work gets farther along, the Crew will be able to come in from the other side of the reservoir, making for a shorter hike to work.

Work on the trail will continue at least one weekend per month during 2012 to keep the Trail progressing. There is a nice campsite at the horse camp, and showers are available at the main campground. Come and join the Trail Crew and see what beauty this area has to offer, in northeast Ohio!



Bill Jindra

## Trail Crew Takes a Break

A fallen tree serves as a comfortable break area. Pictured left to right: Rick Adamson III, Mike Adamson, Veronica Adamson, Delila Adamson, Ellen Satre, Steve Latza, Bill Jindra and Rick Adamson.

# BTA Funds Report

## GENERAL FUND 4/1/12-6/30/12

John Bruening  
Flora Burkholder  
Pamela Derry  
Donald Desch  
Rose Ann Kay *in memory of Coco, Good Girl & Morgan*  
Eastern National  
Richard Feldmann  
Thomas Friedman  
Golden State Imports  
Harvey Hanna

Harvey Harris  
Herb & Susie Hulls  
Robert Litt  
Richard Mark  
Deborah McColloch *in recognition of John Fetzer completing the Buckeye Trail*  
Leonard Monnin  
Rona Mitrovich  
Connie Pond *in memory of Coco*  
Louis Tincher  
John Willenberg

## TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND

5/1/12-7/31/12  
Clara Paryzek  
C. W. Spencer  
Travis Neely

## BARN 4/1/12-6/30/12

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## SCHOLARSHIP 4/1/12-6/30/12

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# Schedule of Hikes & Events



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

## SEPTEMBER

**September 8-9 BTA Work Party, West Branch State Park, Mogadore Section.** Start work 8:00 AM: Continue work on ambitious multi-year project Camping at West Branch State Park Horse Camp on the north side of the lake. You can arrive Friday 9/7. Bring your own food.

Directions: Currently the Rock Spring Road bridge at SR5 is closed and will be for most of the summer. Follow the detour signs.

Contact: Rick Adamson, [rickbta@gmail.com](mailto:rickbta@gmail.com)

**September 8-12 BTA Work Party, BTA Barn, Bowerston Section.** Continue building the Buckeye Trail on the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District lands to connect the BTA barn with Tappan Lake Park. We will be based at the BTA Century Barn near Deersville.

Camping on the shore of Tappan Lake at the BTA Barn.

Food provided from the BTA Barn Kitchen. \*Reservations Required For Food\* Contact: Jay Holwick, [holwick@columbus.rr.com](mailto:holwick@columbus.rr.com), 740-743-3813 for food.

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

**September 22-23 BTA Miami Rivers Chapter Event, Intro Backpacking, Caesar Creek Section.** 11:00 AM: This is an ideal trip for folks who want to get into backpacking, for those who haven't backpacked for years and want to get back out on the trail, or for testing new gear. This low-mileage, slow-paced trip will be ideal for you. About 7 miles of this trip uses the Buckeye Trail in Caesar Creek State Park.

We will meet at the Wellman Meadows trailhead in Caesar Ck. SP, and hike 7 miles to the Day Lodge Group Camp. Along the way we will see the Pioneer Village and Crawdad Falls. 9/23: We will hike 5 miles and end back at Wellman Meadows, passing a great view of the lake, the Corps of Engineers Visitor's Center and Horseshoe Falls.

Have a lightweight tent, sleeping bag and backpack, along with clothes and food. You should also have a camp stove and water filter. I will share my stove and filter and show folks how to use them. The Day Lodge Group Camp does not have a water source; I will cache a few gallons there for use our night at camp.

Because this is a backpacking trip, I am limiting it to 12 folks.

Post-trip festivities will be at a variety of locations including 73 Grill, the Corwin Peddler, or places in Waynesville.

Contact: Darryl Smith, 513-321-1539 [preds81@yahoo.com](mailto:preds81@yahoo.com)

**September 29-30 Maintenance Weekend, Sinking Spring Section.** Maintain and improve the Buckeye Trail between Sinking Spring points 9 and 11 and the connector trail to Cave Lake. Camping: Cave Lake Campground. Bring your own food.

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

## OCTOBER

**October 13 Miami Rivers Chapter Hike, Fort Ancient Area Hike, Loveland Section.** Meet 9:15 AM: Near Fort Ancient State Historic site, there are trails that can be combined into 8- and 10-mile loops. Enjoy some of the nicest hiking in the Miami Rivers region as we'll have several steep hills to get the heart rate up, historic sites to visit, and the beautiful Little Miami River valley as our constant companion.

From the parking lot we will head north on the Buckeye Trail for 0.7 miles, then duck into the woods on the white-blazed side trail. After winding back to the BT, we will head south, and have the option to climb into Fort Ancient and add 2 miles to our day. Those wanting to do 8 miles can keep heading south on the BT to Strout Road, and heading north. We will stop at the June Morgan Memorial and the Kern Effigies before recrossing the river to the parking lot. Total miles will be 8 or 10, depending on if you take the side trip into Fort Ancient.

Directions: Take I-71 to Exit 32, head south on Ohio 123, then turn left immediately onto Ohio 350. Drive 3 miles, and cross the bridge over the Little Miami. The entrance to the ODNR parking lot will be on the immediate right. Meet in this ODNR parking lot.

Wear hiking boots as some sections can be wet, bring plenty of water, and have something to snack on along the way.

Post-hike, for those interested, will be at Doc's Place in Lebanon.

Contact: Darryl Smith, 513-321-1539 [preds81@yahoo.com](mailto:preds81@yahoo.com)

**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. Based out of the rolling meadow of the Group Camping area, the 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 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.

\*Reservations Required For Food\* Contact: Jay Holwick, [holwick@columbus.rr.com](mailto:holwick@columbus.rr.com), 740-743-3813 for food.

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

**October 20 BTA Miami Rivers Chapter Event, Intro Backpacking, Shawnee State Forest.** Meet 8:45 AM: Here is a one-night backpacking trip that might be good for beginners, with short mileage and a few tough climbs that Shawnee is known for.

Starting from the backpacking parking lot, we will use the Backpack Trail loop connector to join with the Day Hike Loop Trail. Taking the Day Hike Trail north, we will join with the Silver Arrow Trail until it joins with the Backpack Trail. We'll take that trail to Camp 1 where we will make camp. Water can be had from a spigot before descending to Camp 1, or by filtering water from a stream near the camp. The next morning we will head out using the

## 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

## 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.



Backpack Trail, then Forest Road 6, passing a fire tower we can partially climb for a view of the "Little Smokies". We will rejoin the Backpack Trail, which then will also join the Buckeye Trail as it winds through a nice hollow, and hike south back to our cars. Total miles for both days combined: 13.

Limiting this event to 8 attendees.

We will meet at the Meijer store, 888 Eastgate Road North, Cincinnati, 45245. Eastgate is Exit 63 on the east side of Cincinnati. It will take 1.5 hours to drive to Shawnee. Would prefer to cram the 8 attendees into two cars if possible.

Post hike: For those so inclined, we will drive into Portsmouth and enjoy the excellent half price pizza and cold draughts at Portsmouth Brewing Company.

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

### **October 20-21 BTA Work Party at West Branch State Park, Mogadore Section.**

Start work 8:00 AM. Continuing work to extend the Buckeye Trail all the way around Michael J. Kirwan Reservoir Camping: West Branch State Park Horse Camp on the north side of the lake. You can arrive on Friday 10/19. Bring your own food.

Directions: Currently the Rock Spring Road bridge at SR5 is closed and will be for most of the summer. Follow the detour signs.

Contact: Rick Adamson,  
rickbta@gmail.com

### **October 24-28 National Make a Difference Day, Maintenance Work, Whipple and Road Fork Sections.**

Improve existing Buckeye Trail throughout the Marietta unit of the Wayne National Forest.

Camping: TBD. Bring your own food.

Contact: BTA, stc@buckeyetrail.org

### **October 27 Miami Rivers Chapter Hike, Fort Hill State Memorial, Sinking Spring Section.**

Meet 10:30 AM: Join us for a day of fall 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 some small arches and spring flowers. There will be two steep hills to tackle (400 and 300 feet, respectively), and the Gorge Trail can be slippery at times. The hike will start at 10:30 and should take three to four hours. Please arrive no later than 10:15 and bring your cameras for some excellent fall colors!

Be certain to bring plenty of water (I suggest two liters minimum) and something to snack on (we'll take a break or two along the way).

A favorite southern Ohio hiking destination of mine, many hikers who have not been to Fort Hill are surprised to find that Fort Hill offers challenging hills, beautiful forest and a gorge.

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!

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

## **NOVEMBER**

### **November 3-4 Maintenance Work Weekend, St Marys Section.**

Start work 8:00 AM: Improve existing Buckeye Trail and North Country National Scenic Trail on the Miami Erie Canal Towpath between map points 2-3 on St Marys 2007 section map. We will be removing an old fence that parallels the trail and removing trees and shrubs to move the trail higher up on the towpath. Bring gloves, boots and warm clothes. Camping: Lockington Reserve Park, NE of Lockington Dam. Lat 40° 12.945'N Lon 84° 14.285'W. Tents on the grass, campers in the parking lot. Bring your own food. Directions: Google Map of the 2012 BTA Trail Schedule: <http://tinyurl.com/bta110312>.

Contact: BTA,  
stc@buckeyetrail.org

### **November 10-11 BTA Work Party at West Branch State Park, Mogadore Section.**

Start work 8:00 AM. Continuing work to extend the Buckeye Trail all the way around Michael J. Kirwan Reservoir. Camping: West Branch State Park Horse Camp on the north side of the lake. You can arrive on Friday 10/19. Bring your own food.

Directions: Currently the Rock Spring Road bridge at SR5 is closed and will be for most of the summer. Follow the detour signs.

Contact: Rick Adamson,  
rickbta@gmail.com

## **DECEMBER**

**December 8 BTA Board Meeting at Command Alkon.** Starts 10:00 AM. Contact: Melissa Reed, [president@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:president@buckeyetrail.org)

## **2013**

**April 25-28 2013 BTA TrailFest.** *Save the Date!* TrailFest in Northeast Ohio. Hosted by the Bedford and Burton Sections. We will be showing off Lake and Geauga Counties. The event will be held at Red Oak Camp in Kirtland. Additional information will be available on the Buckeye Trailfest web pages soon.

Contact: Deb Zampini, 440-567-1894  
half-marathoner@hotmail.com

# **A New Camp in Mogadore Section**

Hikers on the Buckeye Trail now have a new campsite for overnight stays. Ravenna Woods Camp nestles in deciduous forest at the end of a quarter-mile white-blazed trail off the BT, between points 5 and 6 on the BTA Mogadore Section map (2011 edition). Virginia Shaw generously allows BT hikers to walk and camp on her land. She helped the Traveling Buckeyes build the side trail and campsite during a work session in July 2012. In the photo, Mogadore Section Supervisor Stephen Latza clears the tent area for the new Ravenna Woods Camp.



Deborah Zampini

## **OUR TRAIL** *(continued from page 2)*

This kindness happens everywhere, I think. Trail angels cleaned up a trash-cluttered section of trail. Others expertly placed firm stepping stones at a creek crossing. Last week I found that someone had propped up the trunk of a small, blazed, dead fall tree so that the blazes were visible to hikers. I wonder who that trail angel is? A fellow hiker? The landowner? Or perhaps it was a road worker from the crew who had cleaned out the road ditch 30 feet away?

Whoever you are, I hope to catch you in the act someday, so I can thank you.



Bashaw

# On the Trail . . .

Fall is Ohio's second hiking season, and perhaps our best. If you happened to begin experimenting with hiking in Ohio this past summer please give it a second try during the cooler autumn days. There are over 200 BTA Trail Adopters that take on a portion of Ohio's 1,444-mile

State Trail as their own, and what would we do without them! Weather is not just a topic of polite conversation among hikers and adopters—it is a matter of personal health and safety as well as workload. The extreme heat of the summer had one blessing, perhaps only one, in that the vegetation on the Trail did not grow as high or fast as it otherwise would. Let's not forget the 'derecho' that barreled across the state toppling many trees across the trail impeding hikers and adopters alike. Many volunteers have been tackling the impact of the windstorm for several months for all of our benefit, and much remains to be done.

One of the many great things about my position with the BTA is hearing from members and volunteers like you around the state. I get to commiserate with the frustrations and celebrate successes with many of you and this is one way that I learn what is going on and what needs to be done. What I get from you is a bigger picture that not everyone gets to share. As you probably know the BT and the BTA are constantly growing and evolving with an insatiable need for devoted volunteers and volunteer hours. A goal of the BTA is to have enough Trail Adopters so that the amount of trail responsibility for a single adopter is manageable with all of the other demands for their time. Here are a few pointers that you have taught me that may help as we work on the trail this fall and make plans for the coming year.

**DON'T DO IT ALL BY YOURSELF** For some of you trail maintenance may be a solitary experience, time for just you and wherever the trail takes you, with loppers and a paint kit in hand. BTA Adopters, we not only depend on you for your labor of love but also as a local representative of the BTA. I encourage you to look around your community for others you think might like to join you on the Buckeye Trail Association. Consider your friends and family, then step outside your comfort zone to approach the local scout troops or church groups, any collection of people that have an interest in volunteerism, a little bit of hard work and some fresh air. Reaching out to others takes a little more coordination, planning and scheduling but is worthwhile to introduce more folks to the BT and lighten your load. Reaching out to potential volunteers just might help you recruit some long term help on their own designated portion of the BT that used to be part of yours, and grow our community just a little.

**ASK FOR HELP!** When trees fall or trail erodes some major trail projects may be born. Do we expect every adopter to possess all the skills, knowledge, tools and time to take care of every trail issue? Of course not! This is why we have an entire organization. We may not be the fastest but together we do have all the resources needed to address trail problems. When you encounter a problem on the trail contact your Section Supervisor and our Trail Management Team to get the resources you need. Your project may need a weekend to a full week of attention by the

Buckeye Trail Crew. The Crew makes its schedule for the following year each August but leaves some room for projects that arise in the meantime. We even have a fledgling Traveling Buckeye Work Crew that addresses more immediate needs around the state. Need a bridge, a campsite, or a trail register box? Please let us know and we will provide the plans, materials, signage, tools and volunteer help you need. Just be patient with us as we define and schedule the work to be done.

**ORGANIZE A HIKE!** One of the best tools to keep a trail low-maintenance is hiking boots. You may not be a people-person or be interested in organizing a small event, but the more people in your community who come to know your portion of the BT, the more popular it becomes and the more potential recruits you may find for some trail maintenance assistance. Call us for advice, and check in with your county's convention and visitor's bureau for assistance as well.

**GET TO KNOW THE LAND MANAGER!** Much of the existing off-road BT is on federal, state and county public lands. Land managers need to know that the BTA (You!) is actively volunteering and the condition of the trail that they seldom have the time to hike themselves. Staying in touch with land managers is a valuable role you play for the BTA and could influence how the BTA is managed for years to come. Land managers are also tuned into resources from their agencies that could include tools, materials, volunteer and event promotion that they would be happy to use towards the BT, if only they knew there was a need.

**ENJOY YOURSELF!** Please don't forget the reason that you venture out on the BT in the first place. Yes, we hope you give back to trail for all the great experiences it provides, and for all the hard work other volunteers have devoted all so that we can hike it. However, if you don't enjoy it yourself then you are likely to lose heart, interest and motivation. Enjoying some camaraderie on trail, getting some help, organizing enjoyable hikes for yourself and others, and getting to know others who care about the same part of the BT as you are all ways to make your volunteer life a little easier and a little better.

For those of you reading this who do not adopt a portion of the BT, pick your favorite spot on the trail and get in touch with the local adopter (through our Section Supervisors) to lend a hand for a day this fall or in 2013 as an enjoyable way of saying thanks. For those looking for a favorite spot on the BT to get to know, give me a call, I have some miles of Ohio wilderness to introduce you to at Burr Oak State Park. Don't worry, I won't work you too hard. Thank you Buckeye Trail Adopters for providing a footpath around the state for all to enjoy, no matter what the weather brings.

*See you on the Trail,*

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



# Third Annual EGGS Hike

Byron Guy

For those of us who have long-distance hiked, we know we are a special breed. When my brother Jamie and I first heard of the 4-state challenge on the Appalachian Trail (hiking 4 states—43.5 miles—in 1 day) we couldn't help but think, "Hey, that's how long our section of the BT is!" We are section supervisors the Old Man's Cave section, 45.7 miles in length.

And so it began. On a cool Friday night in 2010, at 11:59 p.m. at the intersection of OH-664 and Walnut-Dowler Rd. in Hocking County, the northern extreme of our section, the first official EGGS (Emma Grandma Gatewood Solstice) hike had begun. The goal was to hike 46 miles in one 24-hour period. Now, the actual 4-state challenge is from Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and into Pennsylvania. It's hardly the topography of southeastern Ohio, but our challenge had been laid before us, and we were determined to complete it. We chose the summer solstice because it would offer us the most daylight of any day on the calendar (and fortunately fell on a weekend that year), and we knew the Buckeye Trail here like the backs of our hands. The miles flew by, through cool hollows at night and huge eastern hemlock shade during the day; before we knew it, OH-327 in Vinton County was in view! The end of the OMC section was a stone's throw away and it was 11:20 p.m. on Saturday. We had hiked the entire section in one day! We had actually finished what we had set out to do and completed a challenge that few have done, but many would attempt.

Fast forward to June 23, 2012. The 3rd Annual EGGS hike started at 3:00 p.m. when 26 people set out on a similar challenge in Burr Oak State Park to honor Emma "Grandma" Gatewood, a founding member of the BTA and the first woman to thru-hike the AT. Though the hike has taken on different forms over the

past couple years, one principle has remained: a long-distance hike (40+ miles) in 24 hours. 2012's hike would encompass two of Ohio's gems, the Wildcat Hollow Backpack Trail and the Burr Oak Backpack Trail. Many of you who have hiked in this region know the beauty and the terrain, and you can understand the difficulty. But for those of you who haven't, I can assure you, it's no "walk in the park"!

After 24 hours, 15 people had finished the hike. Not that it is a race, but Jamie Guy, one of the creators of the hike, finished first in 18 hours, 20 minutes!! One thing can be said about all the hikers though, whether they finished or not, everyone had a great time and can't wait until next year.

The first thank you goes out to the volunteers who worked 2012's checkpoints. They made sure that all the hikers were accounted for throughout the entire event, even at 4:00 a.m.! And they were there to cheer on the hikers as they all made their way to the finish.

A great big thank you goes out to the sponsors for the 2012 EGGS hike: Buckeye Trail Association, North Country Trail Association, American Discovery Trail Society, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, USFS-Wayne National Forest/Athens District, EnerTia Trail Foods/Coleman-USA, the Outdoor Source, Rocky Boots USA, and Kroger's of Trimble. Also, a big thanks to those businesses that donated to the raffle prizes including the Hocking Valley Canoe Livery, the Georgian B&B, the Painted Horse Lodge, and the Lodge at Hide-A-Way Hills; without all of them the event would not have been as successful.

Next year we plan on adding a shorter hike for those who might be interested, and a longer hike for those who might just be insane. Either way we hope to see you all out for the 4th Annual EGGS hike in June 2013!



Hikers and volunteers ready for the hike!



A few of the proud finishers showing off their 2012 EGGS patches.





Andy Niekamp

In March, Ray Ferrell and Andy Niekamp rallied hikers from Dayton, Cincinnati, and Columbus for a weekend of hiking and camping in Harrison County. Over 30 hikers attend the 10+-mile hiking trip around Clendening Lake and about 20 people spent the weekend at the BTA barn. Many people got an introduction to the BT and the BTA during the weekend.

## Running Group Thanks BTA for the Trail

Debbie Zampini

Western Reserve Trail Running (WRTR, [www.wrtr.org](http://www.wrtr.org)) hosts several trail races every year, many on the Buckeye Trail. The group uses the Buckeye Trail throughout northeast Ohio, and they host a 50K each spring on over 30 miles of the Buckeye Trail in the Belle Valley section. Each year the group makes a large donation to the Buckeye Trail Association to say thank you for having the Buckeye Trail.

For the past two years, BTA volunteers have operated an aid station at the Alexander Road parking area in the Bedford section. Pictured are Debbie Zampini, Joe Jurczyk, Matthew Monsman, John Jones, Joyce Richardson, Patti Cook, and Andrew Cook. If anyone is interested in volunteering at the BTA booth one of WRTR races, contact Suzanne Pokorny, [running2befree@gmail.com](mailto:running2befree@gmail.com).



Debbie Zampini

Buckeye Trail Annual Picnic, doesn't get much better than this.



Richard Ellison

## BTeasers

**Q** The Buckeye Trail traverses about 25 miles of this county:

- Last to be formed of Ohio's 88 counties
- Home of the first North American oil well
- BT originally sponsored and maintained by the Duck Creek Hiking Club

**A** Noble County: From a brochure published in the 1960s called "The Buckeye Trail Story"





[BuckeyeTrailFest.org](http://BuckeyeTrailFest.org)

*The Buckeye TrailFest offers a long weekend packed full of hikes, workshops, presentations, speakers and social opportunities*

**April 25–28, 2013**  
**Red Oak Camp**  
**Kirtland, Ohio**

***Come for the whole weekend or come for the day!***  
***There is something for everyone!***

**GET HIKING**

Join us for led and self led hikes on the Buckeye Trail and other trails. All skill levels—easy, moderate, difficult.

**GET DIRTY**

Join a trail crew and help build a section of trail. Learn from the best.



**GET CONNECTED**

Meet hikers and trail maintainers from around the state. Never hike alone again!

**GET INVOLVED**

Attend the Buckeye Trail Association business meeting. Learn how you can help.

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

The Buckeye TrailFest is sponsored by The Buckeye Trail Association, [www.BuckeyeTrail.org](http://www.BuckeyeTrail.org) and hosted by *Lake MetroParks*

# Spring Activities Committee Hike

John Rethman

This year's spring Activities Committee trip was on the Buckeye Trail. Planning a backpacking trip on the BT can be hard work because of the lack of camping in places, but the results can be very rewarding.

For Chris McIntyre and me, it started several days before our hike. C.W. Spencer, a Williamsburg maintainer, called with the news that rain had flooded the Buckeye Trail at East Fork Lake. We devised a Plan B, changing the starting and ending points. The change would now require someone to shuttle us.

We got started May 6. C.W. shuttled us four hikers—Chris McIntyre, Jim Gilkey, Patty Wheelbarger and I—to our starting point. We spent our first two days hiking the Buckeye in East Fork State Park. The Trail in the park is clear and well-blazed, but East Fork, while it wasn't officially flooded here, was like a swamp. After two days of tough hiking with wet feet, we were on to our next challenge—the camping. For over 20 miles on the Buckeye Trail, from East Fork to Milford, there is none. In the middle of this distance is the Clermont Sportsman's Club; we searched and found a club contact, were able to get it put before the Club's board, and they allowed us to stay the night. Sportsman's Club members Bridget Collins and Chris Hageman welcomed us upon our arrival. We had rain all night, and we grateful to be dry and comfortable; a concrete floor never felt so good. The next morning we made breakfast and started our hike in a steady rain.

About one mile down the road, we passed a small coffee-house in Batavia called the Riverside Coffee Mill. As we passed, the owner came out and invited us in for a free cup of coffee. She said they were trail-friendly; she and her husband would like to hike the Appalachian Trail someday. Their trail magic of a very good cup of coffee was a welcome surprise on a wet and cold morning.

We hiked into Milford and stayed at Jim Terrill Park along the Little Miami River. We were the first to sleep in the three-sided shelter built by Vince White as an Eagle project. That evening we walked 1/2 mile into town to Roads Rivers and Trails, a very nice backpacking store. We were treated to a slide show that evening on a kayak trip down the Little Miami River. The next day we hiked the spur to the Buckeye Trail's southern terminus in Eden Park overlooking the Ohio River.

Backpacking on the Buckeye Trail can be done but it takes work research, phone calls and planning, but in the end it was well worth it, as we had a challenging hike and met more than a few generous trail angels.



## In Remembrance

### PAUL DANIEL

Paul Mason Daniel, 87, formerly of Oxford, died June 3, 2012. A World War II veteran, he returned to earn degrees from the University of Cincinnati, Miami University and Ohio State University. Paul had a lifelong career in teaching, spending several years overseas in Liberia, and for many years as a professor at Miami University.

He contributed his expertise to periodicals, books, organizations and museums. After retirement, Paul was able to devote his energies to hiking trails. He wrote about his adventures on the Appalachian Trail, helped establish the American Discovery Trail, and all the while supported, hiked and maintained the Buckeye Trail.

### PAULINE MILLER

Pauline B. Miller, 97, died March 17, 2012, in Tiffin. Pauline was a longtime member and supporter of the Buckeye Trail Association and was avid in nature preservation. She enjoyed camping, traveling the world, and was a great gardener.

### ED HILBERT

Edward Conrad Hilbert, 81, of Columbus, died June 30, 2012. Ed served in the U.S. Army Air Force for 21 years.

Upon retirement, he received degrees in education and recreation from Ohio State University and Central Michigan University. Ed worked at Battelle Memorial Institute as the supervisor of the physical fitness facility. Ed volunteered many hours to the Buckeye Trail Association as regional trail coordinator, and oversaw merchandise and service awards.

### MIKE GROVE

Mike "Tom-A-Hawk" Grove supported BTA through his work for MECCA (Miami-Erie Canal Corridor Association), an organization with close ties to the BTA. He died July 17, while clearing fallen trees on the towpath trail. He will be deeply missed by maintainers from both MECCA and BTA. Tom oversaw maintainers for the Miami-Erie Canal from Ft. Loramie to Delphos.

## Johnson Family Memorial

Debbie Zampini

A graveside remembrance service for longtime BTA Maintainer/Section Supervisor/Barn Supervisor Russ Johnson and his family was held August 4. BTA friends swapped stories and memories of Russ and his family. BTA Burton Section Supervisor Patti Cook said an emotional prayer that touched us all deeply. Russ and Patti had planned to kayak the Tuscarawas River, and Patti intends to keep that dream alive. She began her trip this year in Canal Fulton; each year her plans will be posted on <http://www.buckeyetrail.org/events.html>. Russ Johnson and his family are gone but not forgotten. They are alive in our hearts, memories, stories and photos.



[www.buckeyetrail.org](http://www.buckeyetrail.org)



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

Barb Crompton (*Blue Blaze Bugsie*)

You will be so proud of me! Just before leaving for today's hike I ordered the Bedford and Akron BT maps! One last blindfolded hike! Also today is the day I decided I would employ my bike to get back to the car after my walk; no more backtracking on foot! Picking up where I left off, I went to the CVNP Brecksville Station, locked the bike and drove to the Frazee House on Canal Road. Par for the course, I still managed to go the wrong way following the blue blazes south down Canal Road, which had more to do with this picture in my head of where the Trail would be in reference to the river, but thank heavens I ran into someone right away hiking toward me on Sagamore Road. She had some hand-drawn BT maps that she had from a hiking club years ago when she first walked the BT. She pointed out where we were and where my bike was parked. Launching off in her same direction, I told her I was in a hurry and had to go, but I knew I'd see her again when I biked back to my car. As an afterthought, I turned and took a photo of her. Realizing that soon enough, there would be many lonely days on this adventure, I was sorry I didn't just walk with her to begin with, as she was right behind me most of the way and would have been a great hiking companion.

**Lesson #16:** Walk awhile with someone regardless of their pace. Sometimes shar-

ing your journey with someone not only makes it more of an adventure for you both, it makes it less lonely.

Back on the correct side of the canal I stopped and took photos of Stephen Frazee's house. Perusing the sign, I note that the backdrop of it is a copy of a 1930s painting done by Cleveland artist Frank Wilcox, whose family was close to and spoken highly of by the family of my great aunt! I got caught up taking photos of everything around me, the fall flowers, herons, spider webs wet from the light rain that was falling, and humming insects collecting. Every time I stopped I'd see my Samaritan slowly fading into the distance until I finally lost sight of her altogether. In keeping with last week's observation there were no blazes to be found on this section of the towpath, but the low engraved posts steadily pointed the way toward Brecksville Station. Additionally, there were interpretive signs calling attention to features of the canal I would not have noticed, as some of those elements lay on the other side of the canal embedded into the side of the bank, like the mud catcher: "the small dam where the stream enters the canal—which holds back silt and debris" keeping the canal from clogging, or "the Pinery feeder channel" that to this day continues to feed the existing canal from the Cuyahoga River.

It never dawned on me that it was being KEPT filled! I'd been on the Towpath just a few times, but hadn't taken the time to stop and read about the historic importance of the canal. Learning about the early history of this area I felt pride for the tremendously hard work these people did using their bare hands and sheer determination as tools to achieve their goals, the remains of



A lock along the Buckeye Trail in the Cuyahoga Valley.

which are still here today for us to bear witness to.

Through the trees, I caught sight of the Station Road Bridge slung low over the river, and knew I was close to finishing my walk as I passed under the gigantic Rt. 82 Bridge. Finally getting to actually cross the white historic wrought iron bridge for the first time, I completed this hike. Having prepared my bike and self for my ride back, I rolled forward to the tracks, looked up one side then the other to cross and saw my Samaritan! I stopped to talk and after introductions, it is then I learned that Diane grew up around Brecksville and was re-exploring the area—in particular the BT—on which she's heading toward Peninsula. She liked my bike idea for getting around post-hike, but at the moment is calling on her brother for rides at the end of her hikes (that I found an exciting thought: one way altogether? I like the sound of that!).

Riding across Station Road Bridge I stopped and set my camera to capture me biking across and after a few tries got a good shot then peddle on my way toward the car. After stowing everything away I took a quick drive up Alexander and Dunham Roads to scout out my next hike and the excitement of the BT maps coming in the mail made me giddy with delight.



Station Road Bridge at Buckeye Trail at point 3 Bedford on the section.

# Scouts Follow the Blue Blazes On

Bruce "Poppie" Purdy, Buckeye Trail Association Scouting Liaison

## COMING EVENTS 2012

October 13

- Miami Valley Council University of Scouting is offered once a year to assist all Scout volunteers in their Scouting positions. The day includes courses for each type of unit and courses of general interest to all attendees.

October 13

- Dan Beard Council Peterloo at Camp Freelander To help adult leaders with camping skills. Leaders will have the opportunity to complete an outdoor skill while camping with their units as the Scouts are busy with activities.

November 3

- 8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Erie Shores Council University of Scouting, at Cardinal Stritch High School, 3225 Pickle Rd., Oregon. A day-long event combining several training opportunities into one exciting learning opportunity for Scouts of all ages.

*Presenters also needed for the Muskingum Council in Zanesville (date to be determined).*

## FIRST CLASS IN ONE YEAR

Boys entering the Boy Scouts will complete a few basic requirements of a new Scout, including agreeing to live by the Scout Oath and Law. In this oath, he commits to "help other people at all times." His rank will be Tenderfoot, where the first requirement is to spend a night on a campout, including pitching a tent and cooking a meal. They are also required to explain the rules of safe hiking. The Buckeye



Charles Nusbaum

Ohio Scouts at Minister Creek.

Trail is a great place to teach safe hiking by embarking on that first hike, perhaps identifying local poisonous plants, insects and venomous snakes.

The Scout will meet with his Scoutmaster and a board of review before continuing in Scouting. These conferences with adult members of the troop are equivalent to job interviews. A Scout will complete a minimum of 13 of these "job interviews" on his trail to Eagle Scout.

To achieve second class, his first requirement can also be earned on the Buckeye Trail, as it requires demonstration of map and compass work on a five-mile hike. Most important, a Scout must learn the Leave No Trace principles. Scouts must also demonstrate proper care and use of a knife, saw and ax—sounds like a BTA Work Party, right? There he would have the opportunity to be taught by BTA's experienced tool masters.

It is now time for the Scout to apply these principles as he continues to use a map and compass, camp out and perform community service. A first class Scout must also show at least ten plants found in his community and continue to use Leave No Trace ethics on these activities. All activities could be demonstrated on the Buckeye Trail.

The first year will teach the Scout good citizenry and will give him the opportunity for community service. Many exciting adventures are waiting for Scouts with their journey on the "Trail to Eagle" and on the Buckeye Trail.

## TRAIL BUILDING AT SECTION C6B CONCLAVE

BTA's Trail Maintenance Supervisor Jim Sprague taught trail-building to the 2012 Order of the Arrow Section Conclave at Camp Berry in Findlay on May 19. Jim presented the correct use of trail-building tools and techniques. Over 300 Scouts from Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio attended the event. The Order of the Arrow leaders hope to use these skills in the spring when they perform trail maintenance at Caesar Creek.

Poppie was present with BTA's scouting booth to answer question on hiking and service projects on the Buckeye Trail. Many Scouts and leaders were not familiar at all with the Buckeye Trail; after Jim's class and Poppie's presentation, several Scouts said they were going to hike the Buckeye Trail and check on service projects, including Eagle projects. Scouts are required to perform community service to advance in the Boy Scout ranks.

Jim Sprague instructs Scouts on use of a pulaski.



Bruce "Poppie" Purdy



# Their Trail to Eagle

## NEW SCOUT WEB LINKS TO DEBUT

The BTA will soon have a link to scouting information on [www.buckeyetrail.org](http://www.buckeyetrail.org). The web site will provide information about volunteer service projects, historical sites near the Buckeye Trail, as well as areas that are hiker-friendly for earning hiking merit badges and awards, including the 50-miler. Geographic areas, such as the meteor strike in southern Ohio and the earthquake fault in northeast Ohio, will be described and hopefully updated by Scouts as they earn the geology merit badges. Current and past Eagle projects will be posted with information on getting started on a project on the Buckeye Trail and how to receive help from the volunteer BTA members. The web site will provide information on maps, patches and other supplies available to Scouts as they hike the BT. The Boy Scouts of America has given permission to use the Scout brand in the production of the web page. Scouts can earn advancement credit and hiking, backpacking, camping and bird watching merit badges. They can also earn historic trails award and national hiking awards.

Contact the Scouting Liaison with ideas on the web page and other Scout-related information in your corner of the state. Improving this site would also be a great opportunity for an Eagle Scout project.

## EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT IN PAULDING COUNTY

Ian Munger completed his Eagle project, a seven-foot tall information kiosk and benches on the Buckeye Trail, on May 25. He completed his Eagle project after a Troop service project in 2011, where Ian's Troop 315 cleared Lock 21 on the Miami & Ohio Canal near Junction.

The kiosk's design was changed three times before it was finalized. Jon Andrew Munger and Jon William Munger, Ian's father and grandfather, helped plan, design and draft the kiosk and benches. Ian's mother Brenda helped organize the finances. Troop members provided the manpower for the project. "There is no way I could thank you enough for what you have helped me accomplish," said Ian.

Ian and his Troop can be very proud of the Lock 21 improvements. Today a Buckeye Trail hiker there has information from Ian's kiosk and a wide comfortable corridor up ahead. Ian, the Buckeye Trail Association, and hikers would like to thank local businesses for their donations, including Hartzog Lumber Co., VFW Post 587, Knights of Columbus, Napa Auto Parts, Layman Well Drilling, Susie's Family Bakery, Straley Real Estate, Morton Buildings, and Bennet Equipment.

Les Weidenhammer thanks  
Ian Munger for Eagle Project  
at Lock 21 near Junction.



Photo supplied by Ian Munger.

## Welcome New Members!



*Bev and Jerry Starcher*

Janet Allen, Xenia  
Dawn Assen, London  
Shayna Bach, South Euclid  
Rishi Batra, Columbus  
Jodie Bauman, Columbus  
Elizabeth Bender, Kent  
Dori Bishop, Hillsboro  
Meghan Bogutz, Gahanna  
Eugene Border, Reynoldsburg  
Mark Borromeo, Pataskala  
Martha Brown, Zanesville  
Nancy Buchman, Cincinnati  
Stephanie Byrne and Family, Garrettsville  
Clermont County Sportsman Club, Batavia  
Chris Courter, Hamilton  
David Crabtree, Mansfield  
Brian Davis, Chillicothe  
Tim Dennis, Columbus  
Steven Dreyer, Dublin  
Jason Dyke, Kingston  
David Fisher, Vandalia  
Jim Gadrow, Williamsburg  
Eileen Gerson, Fairborn  
Barry Hall, Waverly  
Hocking Hills Adventure Trek LLC,  
Columbus  
Kathy Hosking, Cincinnati  
Ronnie James, Youngstown  
Luke Jordan, Maple Plain, MN  
William Kizer III, Waverly  
David Koczur, Columbus  
John Kuehnle, Columbus  
Michael Long, Columbus  
Jason Manning, Westerville  
Michael Marchiano, Loveland  
Dennis Matherly, Youngstown  
Joette McGriff, Richmond, IN  
Nathan Metek, Litchfield  
Michael Musgrave, Tallmadge  
Patty Nicolai, Maineville  
Penny Oancea, Columbus  
Paul Oswalt, Mansfield  
Todd Paul, Kenton  
Stephen Platz, Columbus  
Emery Rowe, Avon  
Rustin Roy, Gahanna  
Bethany Royer, Greenville  
Colt Runion, Lexington  
Joseph Scaglione, Bellbrook  
Valerie Staton, Columbus  
Jim Stratton, Columbus  
Nan Taylor, Columbus  
Joel Timmons, Dayton  
David Toy, Grove City  
Marc Vincent, Bay Village  
Rob Waeger, Columbus  
Marjorie Wood, Gallipolis  
Jared York, Mansfield

# Adopter's Corner

Jim Sprague, Maintenance Supervisor

I did not write anything for the Summer *Trailblazer*. Somehow I missed the deadline, and missing the deadline created a problem. For a variety of reasons, mostly the means by which time records are transmitted between a Trail Adopter and me, a number of people did not receive proper recognition in the Spring *Trailblazer*. They will be recognized elsewhere in this issue.

Another issue I want to address is the need to obtain more Adopters. To encourage more people to volunteer for off-road trail, I ask the question, "Is trail maintenance fun?" I am one person who answers that question, "Yes!" I think that I am one of many. If you have not already adopted a segment of Buckeye Trail, I hope that my experiences on my adopted segment at the bottom of the Belle Valley Section will persuade you that it can be enough fun to overcome a serious problem—most BTA members live several hours from off-road trail that needs some TLC.

Background: The segment that I adopt comprises the southernmost 3.7 miles of Belle Valley Section. Of this length, 0.4 miles was on the drive into the American Electric Power (AEP) Bicentennial Campground. I have worked on this section now for nearly three growing seasons. Aside from laying out this route many years earlier while I was State Trail Coordinator, I had had little to do with this trail during the intervening years. The section was maintained by Gary Williams; who was then Belle Valley Section Supervisor, with encouragement and support from Herb Hulls (Stockport Section Supervisor). My reintroduction to this segment occurred in the summer of 2010, the year that Herb injured himself and could not perform in his usual exemplary fashion. Lots of people helped on Stockport Section that summer. Fewer worked on the AEP portion of Belle Valley. Pat Hayes and I sweated our way through horrible tangles between Bicentennial Campground and Road C20. Separately, Susan Stover, working south from Road C11, and I, working north from Road C20, reopened that segment. Once reopened, the trail was easily passable. But it was not very pretty. The rough edges showed clearly. Since the three of us had worked so hard to get those trail pieces open, I decided to adopt the combined segment to see if I could smooth the edges.

As my primary maintenance tool, I chose a Stihl® weed-whacker supplied by Buckeye Trail Association. The weed-whacker is equipped with a triangular blade that does not clog easily in tall grass and is able to beat its way with ease through brush like multiflora rose and autumn olive. Grabbing it by the handle, one can reach up to prune low-hanging overhead branches. I supplement the

weed-whacker with an 8" sharks-tooth pruning saw for those pesky shrubs whose stem diameter exceeds what I want to use the weed-whacker on. The weed-whacker leaves some rough edges but, as time has passed, the rough edges have diminished in number. In addition, since the size of the stems severed has diminished also, the visual impact of the whacked edge has become less significant.

In common with so many members, I live a substantial distance from the off-road trail that is most available for adoption. I live in Parma, 132 miles give or take from my adopted trail. That trip requires about 2½ hours each way. That condition could be a problem. Fortunately, BTA allows credit for time spent camping (it is counted as travel time for want of a better description), as well as time spent working. Staying overnight near the segment allows me to work longer by not requiring a drive home at the end of a long day. I camp, which allows me the pleasures of having more time outside enjoying sunsets, stars and whatever.

That is fun but it may not seem enough fun to make you want to adopt your segment. There is more. Rather than give a boring list of details, let me provide an example. One day in July, the second day of a 3-day visit to AEP, I was walking up the trail from Bicentennial Campground towards where I had stashed the trusty weed-whacker the day before. This part of the trail is on an old service road through a mined area; no vehicles have used the service road in several years. When I started working on this segment, several mud holes remained. I come to the first hole. The drainage I had dug during the spring of 2011 is still clear and doing its job. A little farther on I pass another hole. In July, there is no standing water but it is clear that water is present during the wet seasons. This hole is essentially not drainable because the trail is in the middle of a ridge well over 50 feet from an edge. I mull over what to do, a process that I do every time I pass this point. Soon, I pass another hole that also needs some action but not today. Later, I descend to the last significant mud hole. A wide drain was built here, also in spring 2011. This drain is very satisfying. I can see signs of erosion showing recent water flow, probably from the big storm that hit the area in early July. Soon,

Here are a few more Adopters—Heroes of the Buckeye Trail—whose maintenance records arrived late. The numbers at the bottom are the revised totals for the year.

Name	Visits	Work Time	Total Time	Distance	TC Visits	TC Work Time	TC Total Time	TC Distance
Bowers, Don	3	11.75	17.75	238				
Cunningham, James	1		43	164				
Daiber, Lisa	7	27.26	35.33	0				
Henry, Byron	12	64.17	171.92	762	16	96.91	110.41	945
Henry, Charles	3	13.5	51.5	266	5	34	34	140
Henry, Chessie	3	9.5	42	164				
Henry, Mark	3	13	51.5	266				
Henry, Sandy	7	42.67	124.34	152	3	20	26.5	0
Morgan, Noah					1	3.75	3.75	0
Shelton, Mark	6	11.08	14.33	96				
Zintek, Dana	7	28.76	35.33	225				
<b>2011 Totals (Updated)</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>1,131.43</b>	<b>3,326.9</b>	<b>24,392</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>3,071.43</b>	<b>3,619.75</b>	<b>24,182</b>



I emerge into an opening where an oil well pump once chugged along. It is now gone. I stopped for some water. Although early in the morning, it is muggy and I am hot. A towhee sings from a hidden perch in nearby autumn olive. I interpret his song as an obscenity (not repeatable in proper company), followed by, "Hee! Hee! Hee!"

Resuming my walk in, I enter woods now carrying a branch in front of me to pick away the spider webs that diligent spiders have stretched across the trail hoping to catch a fly or two. I start to climb a ridge side on benched trail. Here, the benching has degraded over the years since the trail was built. I decide to restore some of the trail. After scuffing away some dead leaves, I pull out my trusty mattock, dig away the slough and distribute this soil along the berm of the trail. In an hour or so, about 250 feet of trail look as good as new! It is now a lot easier to walk than it had been. After more water and a couple of cookies, I reach my weed-whacker. I gas up, add some safety equipment and spend the rest of the day removing deadfall and whacking back brush that has dared to insert its presence within the treadway. At the end of my working day, I stash the weed-whacker and admire my handiwork as I walk back to camp. I am happy. I look forward to a beer. It has been a good day!

If any of this sounds good to you, please contact [info@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:info@buckeyetrail.org). Please note, make known both your desire for off-road trail and your willingness to drive 2 to 3 hours to a site. BTA has many miles of off-road trail in the more remote parts of the state that require Adopters. With your help, BTA can bring these remote segments to an improved status of well-maintained trail!



## 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)

# Highlights of the BTA Board Meeting—June 9, 2012

*Ruth Brown, Secretary*

## TRAIL MANAGEMENT TEAM

### PAT HAYES

- The off-road trail project through Plum Creek Park in the Medina section had been started.
- The BTA Barn reroute is ready to be started.

## CHAPTER FORMATION: MIAMI RIVERS

### DARRYL SMITH

- Miami Rivers chapter has been formed to include the BT trail sections and counties within the Great and Little Miami River watersheds. To date, 55 members are on Meetup. Approval was given for the Miami Rivers Chapter proposal.

## BTA BARN

### MARY HAMILTON

- Six bat boxes will be put on poles.
- A new mower had been purchased for the Barn.

## NEW COMMITTEE STAFF

### MELISSA REED

- Betsy Bender will head the Shows and Exhibits committee.
- Deven Atkinson will be on the Nominations committee.

## SCOUTING LIAISON

### BRUCE (POPPIE) PURDY

- The Scout Arrowmen will work trail maintenance service projects at Caesar Creek.



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[www.earthshareohio.org](http://www.earthshareohio.org)

**Buckeye Trail Association**

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