

Trailblazer



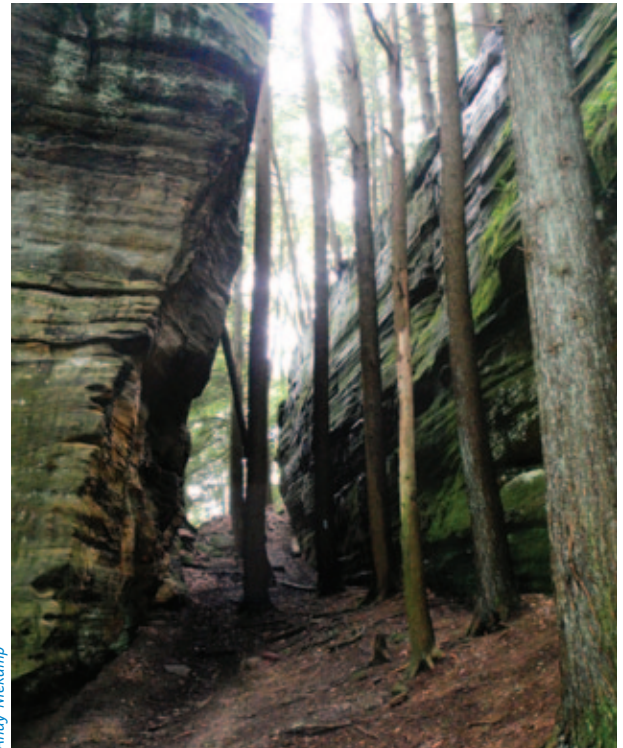
FOUNDED 1959
SPRING 2012 VOLUME 45 NO. 1



Debbie Zampini

Three First Place Winners of the BTA Photo Contest

On his spring 2011 Buckeye Trail thru-hike, Andy Niekamp enjoyed the rocks in Hocking State Forest. He took first place in the category On the Buckeye Trail.



Andy Niekamp

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Bob Kurtz

Our Trail

Melissa Reed, BTA President

In the 1980s I worked in a small nonprofit food cooperative in Brooklyn, New York. The co-op began as an 11-member food-buying club in the basement of a house. By the 1980s, when I became a member and the co-op's second salaried employee, we had moved to a 700-square-foot storefront around the corner from a subway stop; the building vibrated every time a train passed. Ordering forms were tossed haphazardly into an old satchel and bookkeeping consisted of checking the current bank balance. Notwithstanding all that and more, business grew and finances improved. The unwavering dedication, adherence to cooperative principles, hard work and sound business sense of the general manager were the driving force and attracted a core of able volunteers. In the 1990s, the co-op moved to a bigger space on a busy street in a neighborhood that almost yearly became more upscale. With increasingly sophisticated planning and management, these days the co-op, now in an even larger space on the same street, flourishes with 25 employees and more than 3,000 members.



The Buckeye Trail Association, too, began small. Our 14 founding members met in Columbus in 1959 to begin realizing the vision of a hiking trail from the Ohio River to Lake Erie. The first years involved not only working out innumerable details to plan a route from Cincinnati to Hocking Hills to Lake Erie, but also establishing an organizational structure. Our founders filed with the state for incorporation, wrote a constitution and bylaws, and formed a working board of trustees and officers. When the first newsletter was published in 1968, the editor reported that our bank balance was a little under \$711 and that 150 miles of trail were ready for hiking. "[P]rospects," he wrote, "for getting a trail marked and ready for hiking from Cincinnati to Lake Erie by the summer of 1968 are bright." Local negotiations along proposed trail locations were active. Private landowners were reluctant to allow use of their land because of exposure to liability, and it appeared that most of the trail would need to be on public land, much of it on roads. Ralph Ragula, later a U.S. congressman but then vice president of our board and a state legislator, introduced a bill that became the law relieving Ohio landowners of liability for recreational use of their land. The law removed a major barrier to moving the Buckeye Trail off roads and into woods and meadows.

Now, nearly 45 years later, the 150 miles of the Buckeye Trail ready for hiking have increased to nearly 1,450 miles of trail that encircles the state. Our trail-building and maintenance goals now focus on improving trail locations and maintaining good hiking conditions, not on increasing total mileage. Some landowners permit us to locate trail on their land; we continue to negotiate with others who have a variety of reasons for not wanting hikers. In the case of the Pretty Run property in southeastern Ohio, we have been able to safeguard the trail by purchasing land, thanks to a Clean Ohio grant and member support.

As to maintenance of the Buckeye Trail, more hiking miles have meant more miles to maintain. The plight expressed by an unnamed circuit hiker in the December 1991 issue of the newsletter, that he had "lost count of the number of times I got lost due to poor or non-existent blazes," is still with us. Our system of section supervisors and trail adopters depends on volunteers, each of whom agrees to keep blazed and open a short segment of the trail. Overseeing this system in a statewide trail has presented us with goals that we struggle to meet.



Trailblazer

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DEADLINES

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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.



Trailblazer is printed
on recycled paper.

**B T A B O A R D O F
T R U S T E E S**

O F F I C E R S

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Debbie Zampini, Vice President
Ruth Brown, Secretary
Constance Pond, Treasurer*

T R U S T E E S

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Byron Henry, Mark Henry, Chris McIntyre,
Andy Niekamp, John Rethman, Melissa Shaw,
Darryl Smith, Gary Williams*

**B T A S T A F F &
C O M M I T T E E C H A I R S**

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Annual Meeting

Andy Niekamp

Awards & Recognition

Mary Hamilton

BTA Century Barn

Mary Hamilton

BuFiLo

Debbie Zampini

Bylaws

Mary Hayes

Cartography

Herb and Susie Hulls

Computer Service Coordinator

Steve Miller

Mail Secretary

Dorothy Anson

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John Rethman

Membership

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Scholarship

Elmo Layman

Scouting Liaison

Bruce Purdy

Shows and Exhibits

Liz McQuaid

Trail Maintenance Supervisor

Jim Sprague

Trail Management Team

Pat Hayes, Interim Chair

Trail Preservation

Debbie Zampini

Trail Preservation Fund

Bill Schultz

Trail Promotion

Darryl Smith

Volunteer Placement

Garry Dill

Webmaster

Mary Hayes

As to organization, we remain chartered by the state of Ohio and donations to us are recognized by the government as tax-deductible. Our bylaws are currently being revised, as they have been from time to time. Our bank balance far exceeds \$711, and special funds for trail preservation, scholarships and the Barn attract donations. Membership has increased from 14 to nearly 900. We maintain a store that sells books, t-shirts, patches and other items mainly of interest to members. We print maps on our own printer and can update them quickly. They reflect current cartographic technology and are sold through our store and through retail outlets. The internet was unknown in 1959; we now have an identity as www.buckeyetrail.org and have established a social networking presence. This April, in connection with our annual meeting, we launch our first annual Buckeye Trail-Fest, which will include three days of hikes, workshops and festivities intended to inspire both ourselves and newcomers with renewed interest in our organization and its activities.

Perhaps the most significant recent organizational change is the hiring of an executive director. That was a move forward for us, yet we need to move ahead even further. Our executive director is half-time and cannot give us his undivided attention. This situation creates a limitation that we need to address. Our "Challenge" campaign has met its stated goal of funding for another year of his employment, but at the time of this writing appears unlikely to give us more than a half-time employee. Our volunteer staff is exceptional, but can legitimately say, "Sorry, my day job needs me; I can't do that thing I thought I could do for you." The job of a full-time salaried Buckeye Trail staff member is that person's day job.

The Buckeye Trail Association lacks some of the advantages of the Brooklyn food coop where I used to work. Hiking is not the necessity that food is. Our membership is spread throughout in a large state, and many of us will never see each other face to face. Yet we have progressed and grown immensely since our founding. Our task now is to maintain the impetus of the original vision while refurbishing it to meet changing circumstances. An important role of a leader, such as an executive director, is shaping the vision, keeping it before us and insisting that we strive to fulfill it.

BTeasers

Pat Hayes

Q How many women have presided over the Buckeye Trail Association Board of Trustees?

A Virginia Sand, New Philadelphia, April 1977–April 1980
Emily S. Gregor, Parma Heights, April 1982–April 1987
Melissa Reed, Piqua, June 2010–current

CORRECTIONS FROM WINTER 2011 TRAILBLAZER

Preston Bartlett's Section of the BT

Preston maintains trail in the St. Marys section, not the Troy section.

The sign in his photographs on page 19 of the Winter 2011 *Trailblazer* is within the St. Marys point 2 area, at the edge of the Reserve Park, near where the hiker would enter or exit the woods. The same sign is in the photograph of Melissa Reed on page 2.

EarthShareOhio.org Address

The website printed for EarthShareOhio should be *EarthShareOhio.org*. We had it printed wrong in our story.

Schedule of Hikes & Events



Always check www.buckeyetrail.org/events.html for last-minute updates

MARCH

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

March 24–28 Work Party at the BTA Barn. This work party will focus on continuing the improvements to the BTA barn. Bring hammers, drills, tools, etc. We need help in various tasks. If you can't use tools you can carry supplies to workers. We will try to install the additional bat boxes on poles. Food will be provided.

Contact: Mary Hamilton, hamilton3310@roadrunner.com

APRIL

April 14–15 BTA Work Party, East Fork State Park, Williamsburg Section.

Maintain and improve the Buckeye Trail Williamsburg points 17-18 (November 2005 map). East Fork's diverse landscape includes dry-forested hills, rocky cascades, abandoned farmlands, thickly grown floodplains, marshy grasslands and swamp forests. The history of the area spans from the Mound builders and historic tribes, to early Ohio settlement and the standing 1867 Old Bethel Church, to the creation of the East Fork Lake.

Camping is in the parking area on the south side of lake. Entrance to parking lot is first left on Elclick Rd., 450' past park office.

Bring your own food and water. Pit toilet available. No electric.

Contact: BTA, stc@buckeyetrail.org

April 14 Volksmarch, Pemberville Section. Maumee Valley Volkssporters in Maumee are hosting an event at Farnsworth and Bendview Metroparks west of Waterville. We are planning 5km, 10km, and 15km distances (all are out-and-backs) all on the BT.

Chuckwagon Reservations

For meal reservations for the chuckwagon at work parties (where available), contact Chuck Wagon Master, Jay Holwick at:

holwick@columbus.rr.com
740-743-3813

These walks are free and open to the public. If anyone wants to receive an IVV stamp in their walk books, there will be a charge of \$3.

Register at Peddler's Alley, 205 Farnsworth Rd. in Waterville 9:00 am-noon. All must finish by 4:00 pm. After registration, there is a 1-mile drive to the Roche de Boeuf Shelterhouse where the walk actually starts. There will be a checkpoint at the 10km turnaround point that will have water and light snacks available. Walkers/hikers are encouraged to carry water with them.

More info on the event: ava.org, click on Find Walking Events (left side of page), click on Walking Events (center of page), click on OH and Traditional Events and then scroll the Calendar of Events.

Contact: Craig Gauger, 419-893-0540 or ggauger@hotmail.com

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, 513-321-1539, 513-600-4719 or socialmedia@buckeyetrail.org

April 26–29 Buckeye TrailFest, King's Domain. *Come!* All the Buckeye TrailFest information is available on the Buckeye TrailFest website at www.buckeyetrailfest.org and see our ad on page 8.

MAY

May 5–12 MAC Spring Hiking Trip, Williamsburg and Loveland Sections. Spring backpack trip will start in East Fork State Park and end at BT's Southern Terminus at Eden Park.

We will meet Saturday May 5 at the East Fork campground and will start the backpack trip the following morning, May 6, at 9:00 am. Day 1: Hike 7.0 miles from Williamsburg point 9 to point 13; overnight area #3. Day 2: Hike 5.2 miles from Williamsburg point 13 to point 15; overnight area #2. Day 3: Hike 8.9 miles from Williamsburg point 15 to point 16; overnight area #1. Day 4: Hike 10.0 miles from Williamsburg point 16 to point 21 and Clermont Sportsman. Day 5: Hike 13.5 miles from Williamsburg point 21 to point 29 and Jim Terrill Park. Day 6 (Friday): Hike 12.9 miles from Williamsburg point 29 to the Loveland point 1, BT's Southern Terminus at Eden Park. We will return to East Fork campground to clean up at and then go out for a group dinner. We stay overnight at East Fork campground and go home Saturday May 12. There will be no need for water filters on this trip.

There is a \$20.00 fee to cover camping on May 5 and May 12. Fee deadline is April 12. If you want to hike and not camp there is no fee.

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

May 10–13 Backpacking Trip, Old Man's Cave Section. Leave at 11:00 am May 10. Meet at point 14 (Rocky Fork Road) on the Old Man's Cave Section. This will be a 4-day trip along one of the more scenic sections of the Buckeye Trail. Day 1: Hike 8 miles from our start along the BT a few miles north of Old Man's Cave, then set up camp at the Old Man's Cave campground. Day 2: We'll hike through Old Man's Cave, Cedar Falls and Ash Cave along the Grandma Gatewood section of the BT, then head to BTA property at Pretty Run. There is a camping area there with a fire ring, benches and room for plenty of tents (no privy). Day 3: We'll hike to Tar Hollow and camp at the state park campground. Day 4: We'll end at U.S. 50 near Londonderry. Total mileage: About 47.

For this trip you will need to make shuttle arrangements for both the drop-off and pick-up points. Of course you will need to provide your own gear and food as well.

There will be a small camping fee on the first and third nights.

Contact: Darryl Smith, 513-321-1539 (evenings) or preds81@yahoo.com

May 19–23 BTA Work Party, Stockport, Belle Valley Sections. *Chuck Wagon Event* Continue building trail along Onion Run between Stockport points 5 and 6 (June 2006 map). Come out and join the crew as we improve the BT in American Electric Power's best known symbols of environmental outdoor recreation, the company's 60,000-acre reclamation project known as ReCreation Land.

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

Contact: Jay Holwick, holwick@columbus.rr.com or 740-743-3813 for food

Contact: BTA, stc@buckeyetrail.org

JUNE

June 2–3 Maintenance Work Weekend, Tar Hollow, Scioto Trail Section. *National Trails Day* Maintain and improve the Buckeye Trail in the Tar Hollow State Park and Forest Camp at Tar Hollow. Bring your own food.

Contact: BTA, stc@buckeyetrail.org

June 9 BTA Board Meeting at Command Alkon. Starts 10:00 am. Contact: president@buckeyetrail.org

June 16–20 BTA Work Party, West Branch State Park, Mogadore Section. Build and improve existing Buckeye Trail. Come out and lend a hand on this ambitious multi-year project to extend the Buckeye Trail all the way around Michael J. Kirwan Reservoir in the Park.

Camp at West Branch State Park Horse Camp on the north side of the lake. Bring your own food.

Contact: BTA, stc@buckeyetrail.org

June 16–20 Maintenance Work Weekend, Whipple Section. Maintain and improve the Buckeye Trail in the Wayne National Forest. Camping: TBD. Bring your own food.

Contact: BTA, stc@buckeyetrail.org

June 30–July 1 Maintenance Weekend, Old Man's Cave Section. Reroute a section of the Bill Miller Trail in the Old Man's Cave Section

Camp on BTA's Pretty Run property. Food provided by the Guy brothers. Please let Byron Guy know if you plan to attend: oldmanscave@buckeyetrail.org

Contact: BTA, stc@buckeyetrail.org

JULY

July 21 BTA Picnic, BTA Barn

AUGUST

August 24–26 BTA Board Retreat at the BTA Barn. Starts 10:00 am August 24

Contact: president@buckeyetrail.org

SEPTEMBER

September 8–12 BTA Work Party, BTA Barn. *Chuck Wagon Event*.

Contact: Jay Holwick, holwick@columbus.rr.com or 740-743-3813 for food.

Contact: BTA, stc@buckeyetrail.org

September 8–12 BTA Work Party, BTA Barn. 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 Tappan Lake at the BTA Century Barn

Camp on the shore of Tappan Lake at the restored BTA Century Barn. Food: Meals will be provided from the BTA Barn Kitchen.

Contact: Jay Holwick, holwick@columbus.rr.com or 740-743-3813 for food

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, 513-398-9527 or ilovehiking3@cinci.rr.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.

Camp at Cave Lake Campground.

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. 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 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

Contact: Jay Holwick, holwick@columbus.rr.com or 740-743-3813 for food

Contact: BTA, stc@buckeyetrail.org

October 24–28 Maintenance Work, Whipple and Road Fork Sections. Improving existing Buckeye Trail throughout the Marietta unit of the Wayne National Forest.

Camping: TBD. Bring your own food.

Contact: BTA, stc@buckeyetrail.org

NOVEMBER

November 3–4 Maintenance Work Weekend. Location to be determined.

Contact: BTA, stc@buckeyetrail.org

DECEMBER

December 8 BTA Board Meeting at Command Alkon. Starts 10:00 am. Contact: president@buckeyetrail.org

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

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

Mailing labels are generated 3 weeks before the *Trailblazers* are mailed, so send in your change of address right away!

Email your change of address to:
membership@buckeyetrail.org

BTA Barn Directions

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

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



On the Trail . . .

While the calendar year began in the midst of winter on January 1st, the arrival of Spring seems to be a more appropriate beginning for wildlife and many outdoor enthusiasts. The cold may be dragging on, but the skunk cabbage will be heating

up the snow soon, the peepers will be peeping, the redbuds budding and the wildflowers blooming. According to my family, the robins will be coming out of their burrows, the hummingbirds will be riding north on the backs of Canada Geese, and morel mushrooms will be popping out of the ground at such force they could break your ankle.

I hope you took my advice and have scheduled time for yourself and family out on your favorite part of the Trail this year. If you have not, your Buckeye Trail Association has a wealth of activities planned for this season that we would love for you to join. There are hikes, short and long, celebrations, and volunteer events all around our 1,444 miles most requiring no prior experience, just a willingness to try.

Our volunteer work parties kick off this year on March 24 for a week at the BTA Century Barn on the shores of Tappan Lake near Deersville. The Barn is a great place to get away and enjoy the camaraderie of the BTA. The Barn is nearing completion of its restoration, and as a BTA member you have the perk of using this gem as a base for your BT adventure.

The BTA's annual event centered on our Annual Meeting has been rebranded as Buckeye TrailFest, and there are many hardworking volunteers building upon the great event you have experienced in the past including hikes, workshops, speakers and social activities. We look forward to seeing you April 26-29 nestled in between the Fort Ancient earthworks and the Little Miami Scenic River, right on the Buckeye Trail near Lebanon in southwest Ohio.

The BTA has always been driven by its membership, and since 1959 you have always come through. Even though the BTA does not receive funding from the State of Ohio for the Association's operations, we are affected by the state budget nonetheless. You remember our success at preserving the 190-acre Pretty Run property, in part thanks to you and your donations, but impossible without the successful Clean Ohio Trails Fund grant program as well. We followed up on that success with another application in 2011 for a nearby property with existing Buckeye Trail, North Country Trail and American Discovery Trail. Even though Ohioans overwhelmingly voted to support the Clean Ohio Fund, there was no funding for the program last year. We

have reapplied for the same project this year in the hope that the program will be funded. Check with your state representative and ask them what they can do to help fund this important program for trail development, green space preservation, farmland preservation and brownfield restoration.

Limited funding to ODNR also puts stresses on the Buckeye Trail Association. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources is one of the oldest and best partners to BTA, but with fewer and fewer resources they have fewer staff to manage our state parks, and fewer funds for the backlog of park maintenance projects. Both of these limitations affect the Buckeye Trail experience. Get to know your local state park staff and what you can do for them; they are in need of volunteers, and they are in need of increased revenue from visitors as well. ODNR has been restructuring to adapt to their changing environment and we need be there with them as partners if they consider altering the management of each of the state parks, forests, wildlife areas and nature preserves that the BT passes through.

There is a lot going on these days, the BTA is as vibrant as ever. Thanks to your generous support *we have met our BTA Member Challenge, and then some*, as you will read here in the *Trailblazer*. Membership is steadily increasing, the *Trailblazer* continues to receive positive reviews for the hard work of our volunteer editors, our Winter hikes in Hocking Hills, Findley, Hueston Woods, and Burr Oak State Parks were all well attended. Over the past year there has been an increased interest in day hiking, section and thru-hiking the BT, all to be highlighted at Buckeye TrailFest. Thanks to BTA members, volunteers and partners like you the future for Ohio's Buckeye Trail is looking brighter and brighter.

Enjoy Spring in Ohio on the Buckeye Trail . . . and watch out for those morels.

See you on the Trail,

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



Bits & Pieces

2nd Annual BTA Olympics

Where: Buckeye Trail Barn (see BTA Schedule of Events page or www.buckeyetrail.org for directions)

When: July 21-22 during BTA's Annual Picnic

Who: Open to All BTA Members and Families

Photo: 8"x10" or 5"x7" photos, no matting or framing necessary. Categories: Animals, People, Structures, Nature, Anything on the Buckeye Trail and Miscellaneous.

Drawing: Can be in any medium. Finger-painting counts so don't forget the little ones.

Essay and Poetry: 1 page typed or printed. Categories: Nature, Buckeye Trail, How Would I Make the World a Better Place and Miscellaneous.

Please put your name, email or phone number, age and category on back of entry. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Age groups will be 0-5, 6-10, 11-15, 16-20 and 21-up. Deadline for entries is July 1. All entries should be mailed to Debbie Zampini, 72 Wayne Lane, Chardon, OH 44024. Please do not email entries.

Baking: Contest on Saturday after dinner. Ribbons for 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

Kayak and Canoe Race: Saturday afternoon.

Last year's BTA Olympics were a great success. In 2012, we are hoping for more entries. These are informal contests; enter as many categories with as many entries as you wish. Check www.buckeyetrail.org under Upcoming Events for updates on the BTA Picnic and BTA Olympics.

Sun Shades for Sale

They will spread the word about the Buckeye Trail AND protect the interior of your vehicle. They are nylon, fold down to a quarter of the size and stay secure with an elastic band (included). When the band is taken off, sun shade pops open.

Sun shades sell for \$20.00 with \$2.75 shipping for each one ordered. Make check payable to Debbie Zampini and mail to 72 Wayne Lane, Chardon, OH 44024. For a large order of 10 or more, call me at 440-567-1894. All profits will be donated to the BTA 10K Fund.



BuckeyeTrailFest.org

BTA Scholarship Deadline April 15

The Scholarship Committee is again offering its \$500 scholarships to one or more persons interested in pursuing outdoor careers. Many colleges have courses of study that qualify. See www.buckeyetrail.org/scholarship for more information about the BTA Scholarship and the application process, fields of study and past recipients. The committee selects its recipients based on the quality of their applications. The deadline for applications is April 15.

We Did It!

Buckeye Trail Association Member Challenge

will recall that an anonymous member challenged us to raise \$10,000 from BTA members to match their \$10,000 donation. The BTA membership met and exceeded the goal, contributing just over \$24,000! Our main source was nearly 170 individual donations from members but also includes several grassroots fundraising efforts by BTA Board Members during speaking engagements, garage sales, donating the proceeds of special sales, and a donation for the Buckeye Trail Crew's time and hard work on private land. With our challenge our total comes to \$34,000!

It is humbling and encouraging to see the outpouring of support for the Buckeye Trail Association, for work that our volunteers have accomplished since 1959, how we are serving today, and for the faith in an impactful future. Thank you for your generous support of the Buckeye Trail Association in our efforts to build, maintain, protect and promote the use of Ohio's Buckeye Trail. We couldn't do it without having such devoted members like yourself.



BuckeyeTrailFest.org

HURRY!
Pre-Registration
Ends April 12, 2012

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

April 26–29, 2012
King's Domain Conference Center
Lebanon, 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, North Country 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

The Buckeye TrailFest is sponsored by The Buckeye Trail Association, www.BuckeyeTrail.org

Got Spring Fever? Ready to Get Outside?

Come To The First Annual Buckeye TrailFest. We have lots of great hikes, programs and presentations planned that will interest hikers, trail maintainers, and Buckeye Trail enthusiasts. The event is being held in southwest Ohio at the beautifully located King's Domain Conference Center just outside Lebanon Ohio. The program is highlighted by evening speakers which include on Thursday – A Year To Wander the World by Mike Fanelli; Friday – Thru Hiking The Buckeye Trail by Andy Niekamp; and Saturday – The Indians of Fort Ancient by Jack Blosser.

Day Programming will include Scouting And The Buckeye Trail, a Long Distance BT Hiker Discussion Panel, Use Hiking to Achieve Your Weight Loss Goals, Backcountry Fast and Light Cooking, Fundamentals of Lightweight Backpacking, Make Your Own Alcohol Stove, Trail Maintenance 101, Trail Building 101, Buckeye Trail Association Barn Presentation, Meet and Greet the BTA Board Candidates,” and “Hiking the Miami and Erie Canal Corridor.”

So, you do not want to just sit and listen to speakers! Then you can “Get Dirty and “Get Involved” by participating in the field trips that are planned for Trail Building and Trail Maintenance, Story Telling at Fort Ancient, and an Indoor Scavenger Hunt at Fort Ancient. There are also exhibits by Five Rivers MetroPark and Twin Valley Trail.

If you were wanting to “Get Hiking,” you have some wonderful hikes to pick from! There will be experts leading a Hopewell and Fort Ancient Cultures hike, a Wild Flower Identification hike, a Fossil Identification hike, a Bird Watching and Mist Netting hike, and a Tree Identification hike. And in addition to these there will be a variety of hikes of different lengths and difficulty on the nearby Buckeye Trail and North Country Trail scheduled from Thursday afternoon through Sunday morning. This will be a great time to can “Get Connected” and meet other people with the same interest that you have. Never hike alone again!

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. Dayton and Cincinnati are less than an hour drive and provides attractions including the Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati Zoo, National Museum of the Air Force, Dayton Aviation National Historic Park, and the National Underground Railroad Museum.

The planning committee also wants you to “Get Involved” by attending the Buckeye Trail Association business meeting that will be held on Sunday morning. Learn how you can help.

There are several lodging options to choose from at Buckeye TrailFest including cabins, dorm rooms, trailer camping and tent camping. All lodging options on the grounds of King's Domain are within walking distance of the conference center. If you prefer, there are also several hotels or motels nearby. There will be meals available or you can bring your own food.

So ... **GET HIKING** ... **GET DIRTY** ... **GET INVOLVED** ... and **GET CONNECTED**.

We will see you there!

GET HIKING

Join us for led and self led hikes on the Buckeye Trail, North Country 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 INVOLVED

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



GET CONNECTED

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

EVENING PRESENTATIONS

Thursday – *A Year To Wander the World* by Mike Fanelli

Friday – *Thru Hiking The Buckeye Trail* by Andy Niekamp

Friday – *Story Telling–Grandma Gatewood: Ohio's Legendary Hiker* by Bette Lou Higgins

Saturday – *The Indians of Fort Ancient* by Jack Blosser

HIKES

Caesar Creek Wildflower Hike

Buckeye Trail - Eden Park to Milford Spur

Caesar Creek Hike

Ancient Peoples and Places

Tree Identification Hike

Buckeye Trail Hike at Caesar Creek State Park

Fort Ancient - Native American Interpretive Hike

Caesar Creek Birding Hike

Little Miami River Valley

Extravaganza Hike

Caesar Creek State Nature Preserve Hike

PROGRAMS

Scouting and the Buckeye Trail Trail Maintenance 101

Trail Building 101

BTA Barn Presentation

Meet and Greet the BTA Board Candidates

Make Your Own Alcohol Stove Fundamentals of Lightweight Backpacking

Long Distance BT Hiker Panel

Use Hiking to Achieve Your Weight Loss Goals

Backcountry Fast and Light Cooking

Hiking the Miami and Erie

Canal Corridor

Planning a 40-50 Mile Backpack

Trip on the BT

Buckeye Trail Association

Annual Meeting

Buckeye Trail Association

Board Meeting

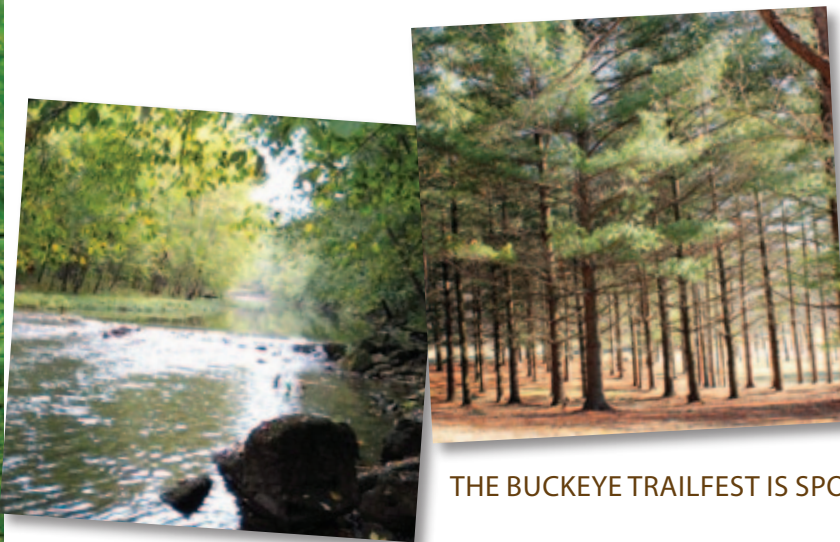
PLUS Much More!

Lodging & Meal Options ...

... dorm rooms, pop up camper, camping and tent camping.

All lodging options on the grounds of King's Domain are within walking distance of the conference center.

If you prefer, there are several nearby hotels or motels. Meals are available for a fee or you can bring your own food or dine in nearby Lebanon.



THE BUCKEYE TRAILFEST IS SPONSORED BY:



DaytonHikers.org



Live To Hike ... Hike To Live



OHIO-KENTUCKY-INDIANA
TRAILBLAZERS

Jim & Janet Bolton - Kettering



Buckeye Trail Association

Awards and Recognition Nominations

I would like to nominate _____ for the following award (check one):

AWARDS

____ **BOB PATON AWARD (Meritorious Service)**
Honors members who have contributed exceptionally meritorious services to the Association for at least fifteen (15) years. Such services may pertain to trail maintenance, trail utilization and/or administrative or management functions. Recipients must be living at the time of nomination.

____ **PRESIDENT'S AWARD (Volunteer of the Year)**
All active members of the Association are eligible for this award. The nominee shall have either shown exceptional commitment to an assignment(s), or have made some major contribution of special benefit to the Association during the past year. Nominees who would be eligible for a certificate of appreciation can be considered for the President's award.

____ **BILL MILLER AWARD (Conservation)**
Honors any person or group responsible for actions that have notably preserved or restored the natural ecology or beauty of a locality by the Trail, or have brought under control a major threat to utility of the Trail in some locality.

____ **SUPER STAR (Superior Service over Time)**
Awarded to person(s) who have exhibited superior service in appointed or volunteer tasks.

RECOGNITIONS

____ **TRUSTEE EMERITUS (Board Members Only)**
This is the only recognition that is set aside for members of the Board of Trustees. The nominee should have accumulated at least (10) years as Board Member and must have demonstrated consistent commitment and continued service to the Board, the Association, and the Trail, through exceptional diligence at their assignments and at least one notable achievement to their credit.

____ **2000 KM**
For hiking the entire trail on foot and completed in the year 2011 for this year's award.

____ **CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**
This is presented to any individual, city, agency, business, or organization that has demonstrated exemplary cooperation and diligence to perpetuate and improve the Trail and Association, and must have helped in some significant way to aid the Association attain an important objective.

____ **STAR PERFORMANCE (Leadership Excellence)**
Presented to person(s) who have exhibited leadership in appointed or volunteer tasks.

____ **TRAIL ADOPTER AWARD**
Presented to person(s) who have exhibited superior service to their adopted segment of the Buckeye Trail. These individuals maintain their segment so that it is always ready and a pleasure to hike. They maintain their records and report hours, travel, and any problems to their supervisors, or State Trail Coordinator when needed.

Please write a brief statement of your reason for nominating this person or group. Include name, address and phone numbers for both nominee and nominator. If either has an e-mail address, please include it also, in case we have any questions.

All nominations must be postmarked by April 2, 2012. This nomination form can also be found on the Buckeye Trailfest web site, buckeyetrailfest.org, or send nomination form to Mary Hamilton, hamilton.3310@roadrunner.com or 717 E. Third St., Dover, OH, 44622.

Nominations for BTA Board of Directors

Candidates on the ballot for the BTA Board of Directors are Jason Sarver, John Krouse, Elizabeth Bender, Adrian Vanko, Deven Atkinson and Debbie Zampini. Deven and Debbie are currently serving and have decided to run for another term. Board elections will be held at the TrailFest April 27-29.

The function of the Board of Directors, as stated in the bylaws is "to determine administrative policies, manage property and business of the Association, provide sound fiscal and long-range planning and control, and direct the financial affairs of the Association." Trustees also serve as officers or committee chairman or members, and are expected to attend regularly scheduled meetings or those called by the President. Terms of office are 3 years, limited to 3 consecutive terms, but can be reelected after leaving the Board for 2 years.

Five trustees' terms expire this year: Chris McIntyre, John Rethman, Gary Williams, Deven Atkinson and Debbie Zampini. Thanks to all five for their service to the BTA!

Anyone who wishes to serve on the BTA Board, or who would like to nominate someone for the position, please contact Jeffrey Yoest at jeffyoest@columbus.rr.com or 614-895-0808.

NEW! QR Codes on BTA Maps

Steve Miller

The BTA Cartography Team recognizes that smartphones are becoming more common everyday, even in the pockets of hikers. Now you, the tech-savvy 21st century hiker, can use your smartphone for a better Buckeye Trail hike.

The BTA has incorporated QR Codes on the back cover of new section maps. QR codes are those square marks you may have seen in advertisements and in newspapers and magazines; they can contain a variety of information. On Buckeye Trail section maps, the code contains a link to the BTA website, taking the user directly to the page with Trail Alerts for that particular section. Most smartphones have an app that can read the QR code and automatically open the desired webpage.

Currently the Akron, Caesar Creek, Shawnee, Bedford and Scioto Trail maps contain QR Codes. As each new map is issued or reprinted, the code will be added. You may try out a code on the sample.



Linking the Four Corners of Ohio

The Buckeye Trail (BT) is a continuous hiking trail linking the four corners of Ohio. The trail is planned for hikers. However, BTA frequently uses trails managed by federal, state and local agencies who include many other muscle-powered activities. It is mapped in sections. Each section is about 50 miles long.

Founded over 50 years ago, Buckeye Trail Association, Inc. (BTA) organized itself as a private, not-for-profit corps of volunteers to plan, build and maintain the BT. Membership is open to all. Join BTA to add your support to the trail.

The trail is identified by blue blazes, 2" wide by 6" high, on trees or poles. A single blaze marks the trail where the route is fairly straight or obvious, while a double blaze marks a turn with the upper blaze offset to indicate the new direction. A double blaze with no offset simply means pay attention—the trail route may not be obvious.



Buckeye Trail Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 254, Worthington, Ohio 43085
www.buckeyetrail.org
info@buckeyetrail.org

For changes to the trail since this map was published, consult Trail Alerts at www.buckeyetrail.org or scan the QR Code above.

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Hiking Season is Here!

Get your wicking T-shirts and latest maps from the Buckeye Trail Store.



Buckeye Trail Section Maps

Get the maps for the places where you want to hike this summer.

Member Price \$5.00



Wicking T-Shirts.

White with Blue Blaze
or
Gray with BT Logo and map on back.

Member Price \$15.00



All items available at the Buckeye Trail Online Store at www.buckeyetrail.org

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

Barb Crompton (*Blue Blaze Bugsie*)

Walking was not always “my thing”. In January of 2007 I was invited to be in my brother’s wedding. As excited as I was to be asked, I was feeling very self-conscious about myself. I was not happy about my age (at 40 I was, by far, the oldest in the bridal party) or my size (20 and 198 lbs.). Needless to say there wasn’t much I could do about my age so I started working on the latter. I had other physical issues that had been keeping me from walking any distance without assistance, but I was determined to change all of that. I started walking a few houses at a time, then down the block, farther and farther unassisted and as I continued to eat healthier. I gained more and more energy until September 2009 I’d been walking three days and 20 miles a week, lost 50 lbs. and had dropped to an 8! Urged on by my successful first hike I decided that instead of just walking around my neighborhood I could let the BT be part of my health maintenance program! So I decided to get right back on trail and with the mystery eliminated about where to start, I drove straight to Vaughn Road. Completely convinced this section would lead me back to my car I headed out. *Lesson #9: Never Assume Anything.* Need I say more?

I crossed Vaughn Road into the meadow, headed over the railroad tracks and this time I see the BT sign I’d missed that would have taken me right to where I ended last time, Snowville Road. The blazes took me right back into the cool dark forest where I remained for most of the hike, which was fine with me on this warm September day. This hike, point one on the Akron section map, started out difficult with very active climbs up and down what appeared to be a mountain and then deep into a ravine, which then managed to get only harder at the other end but for an entirely different reason.

As I head up and down and back and forth, climbing over huge newly fallen trees and navigating around/through small lakes from recent rains, it dawned on me for the first time just how much effort goes into making and maintaining these trails. *Lesson #10: Don’t Forget To Be Grateful!* I have yet to see anyone working while I hike to say it, but “Thank You” for all your hard work and effort! I have really cherished the many beautiful walks I have taken and I know it is because of their hard work that I can do so! My impression is that they appreciate you being their eyes and ears so if you take a moment to contact the BT folks to let them in what section you saw something they can arrange to get it fixed up sooner, same thing for blue blaze confusion.

I had been doing so many switchbacks on this hike that the creeks, trees and rocks all started looking the same until I started feeling that I must have accidentally gotten turned around. When I finally got on level ground and on a straightaway path it narrowed down to nothing and then dead-ended into a tree clearly marked to turn left, but there was no apparent path . . . in either direction. Really? It ends right here? I have to go back THAT way? After a spell of walking back and forth the way I’d just come, rechecking the blazes for clues and returning to the dead-end tree, I decided to push on through the weeds, first to the right until it was completely impassable, and then to the left. Still no blazes in sight I started looking at the backs of the trees as I walked hoping to catch a blue blaze going the other way, which I finally did. *Lesson #11: Hind Sight IS 20/20!* Most blazes are painted on trees, sometimes those trees fall over and suddenly you are without a trail. But if you turn around, the clues might be just behind you painted on another tree. Within moments I felt concrete beneath my feet! I had to kneel down and touch it to prove it to myself, but sure enough completely out of the blue and plain as day a narrow paved ribbon snuck out from beneath the weeds and started running before me leading me through thick forest. I just never know what to expect on the BT, which is why I have come to love it so much!

To be continued . . .



Barb Crompton

A bit of pavement through the woods is between Akron points 1 and 2 in the Cuyahoga Valley.



Barb Crompton

A footbridge near point 2 in the Akron section. The bridge is well-built and sturdy, even if it takes a bit of balancing to get across it.

COMING EVENTS 2012

March 17—Black Swamp
Council's University of
Scouting at Apollo Career
Center

March 31—Greater Cleveland
Council's University of
Scouting at Polaris Career
Center

April 28—Miami Valley
Council's University of
Scouting

May 19—Order of the Arrow
Conclave at Camp Birch

November 3—Erie Shores'
University of Scouting

November—Heart of Ohio
University of Scouting

BT EAGLE SCOUTS

Ryan Bland 2010

Alex Bowman 2010

Josh Cox 2007

Brandon Rose 2009

Camp Asbury

Parker Cole 2011

Josh Budin 2008

Daniel Budin 2010

Scouts Follow the Blue

Bruce "Poppie" Purdy, Buckeye Trail Association Scouting Liaison

A SCOUT'S EDUCATION ABOUT THE BUCKEYE TRAIL

The Boy Scouts of America encourages kids at age 7 when they enter as Tiger Cubs to "Go Outdoors". An activity for these boys may be to look for spi-

der webs, nests, holes and other homes in nature. The following year, Cub Scouts learn the essentials of going outdoors and the principles of "Leave No Trace". These scouts may study a historical site then take a hike there. Webelos Scouts will have several opportunities to take hikes to achieve activity badges. Cub Scouts at all levels from Tiger to Webelos can earn the Outdoor Activity Award.

At age 11, a Webelos Scout crosses the bridge into Boy Scouts. During the first year in scouting he should advance to the rank of first class, having explained and demonstrated knowledge of hiking and the outdoors. As the scout works upward in the ranks, he must complete 12 hours of service projects.

As the scout follows the "Blue Blazes" from Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity and/or Venturing Scout, and on to Eagle Scout, he will be able to earn many hiking awards. The Buckeye Trail offers the scout an opportunity to hike Ohio on his trail to Eagle Scout.



Troop 176 from Cleveland; hiking in the Brecksville Reservation Oct 2008. Photo: Charles Nusbaum



Eagle Scout Project of Brandon Rose, St Marys Section. Photo: Poppie

A CANAL EDUCATION

During my recent hike through the St. Marys Section, Brandon Rose was my teacher on the what, why and how of canal construction. Brandon's 2009 Eagle Scout project of eight signs along the Miami-Erie Canal through New Bremen taught me; each sign has different information about the Canal. Troop 95 helped Brandon with the project along with Neal Brady and Tom Fledderjohann. American Legion Post 241 sponsored Brandon. Today Brandon is the Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 95 and working on his Bachelor degree in Construction Engineering Technology at the University of Toledo.

Blazes On Their Trail to Eagle

NEW BSA BROCHURE

With the help from BTA member Darlene Karoly, a new handout has been designed for distribution to Boy Scouts. A scout-specific informational brochure was needed to encourage scouts to hike and perform service projects on the Buckeye Trail.

The scout brochure will be distributed at scout shows and training. It will inform scouts of advancement opportunities on the Buckeye Trail. We thank the Harper Engraving in Columbus for donating the brochure printing cost to the BTA and BSA. Brochures will be available for the May Order of Arrow Conclave in Findley.

Many scout troops hike the Buckeye Trail each year and many are working with BTA members to maintain the BT. Recently Troop 315 in northwest Ohio cleared a canal lock and built a campsite for thru-hikers. Scouts can earn advancement credit on their "Trail to Eagle." They can also earn merit badges while hiking the Buckeye.

SCOUTING PROJECTS ON THE BUCKEYE TRAIL

As Scouting Liaison, I am attempting to identify the Eagle and Gold Scout Projects on the Buckeye Trail such as the Girl Scout Gold Project near New Bremen and the Boy Scout Eagle Project in West Branch State Park. Please inform me at scouting@buckeyetrail.org if you know of past or present scout projects on the Buckeye Trail. Suggest that a scout write an article for the *Trailblazer* about their experience working or hiking on the BT.



FUTURE BTA MEMBERS?

For boys or girls, scouting is a great way to get interested in stewardship of the outdoors. And that could mean a partner in Buckeye Trail Association's mission. There's a scout group near you that needs your help and expertise to guide kids into the outdoors. Consider donating your time.

Hike Ohio



Trail Heroes of 2011

Jim Sprague

Volunteer Name	Adopters				Trail Crew			
	Visits	Work Time	Total Time	Distance	Visits	Work Time	Total Time	Distance
Adams, Tim					1	7	8	50
Adamson, Chris					2	10.25	10.25	0
Adamson, Rick	1	5	8	120	9	68	91	1024
Alexander, Morgan					1	4	4	0
Armstrong, Noah					1	7.75	7.75	0
Atkinson, Deven					1	7.75	12.75	115
B., Hannah					1	4	4	0
Baldwin, Erik	1	4	5.5	55				
Bartlett, Preston	2	0	124	2080				
Bashaw, Andrew					1	1	1	0
Bashaw, Claudia					1	1	1	0
Bayer, Steve					3	23.75	27.75	0
Behm, Olivia					1	4	4	0
Bellinger, Dan	1	4	0	0				
Bender, Elizabeth					1	8	9	30
Binkley, Richard					4	25.33	29.83	250
Binng, Jack					1	7.75	7.75	0
Blake, Chuck					2	6.5	9	80
Boulder, Jessica					1	4	4	0
Brown, Dave					1	6.75	6.75	0
Brown, Jim					6	36.5	42.5	320
Brown, Jim					4	21.75	25.75	98
Brown, Keyonta					1	3	4	40
Bullock, Nathan					1	7.75	7.75	0
Burke, Will					1	4	7	150
Burkholder, Nancy					3	24.5	29.5	480
Butler, Bob					1	7	7	0
Butler, Jeff					1	3.5	3.5	0
Callahan, Char	1	0	5.5	0				
Camp, Sabryn					1	4	4	0
Connor, Jim	1	3	3.5	30				
Connor, Jon	1	3	3.5	30				
Cook, Andrew	1	0	7.5	0				
Cook, Patti	2	0	74.3	567				
Cooper, Darshon					3	13	15	70
Cope, Grant	1	0	12	0				
Cowan, Nathan					1	2.5	3.25	40
Cvijecrinovc, Danijela					1	5	5	0
Cyeti, Danijela					1	1.5	1.5	0
Davis, David	1	0	2	0				
DeBaal, Liz					5	31.25	38.59	282
Deemer, Allen					2	14.5	14.5	0
Devlin, Phyllis	13	40.25	53.25	350				
Devor, Alex					1	3.5	3.5	0
Dewberry, Pete					2	10.5	10.5	0
Dill, Garry	1	5.5	8	210	14	96.08	115.08	870
Dolske, John					1	6	6	0
Downard, Charlie					3	18.5	20	60
Drescher, Erich					7	45.75	71.75	1325
Ensor, Woody	84	0	71	815				
Ferrell, Lisa	1	0	4	0				
Ferrell, Ray	1	0	147	1149	1	8.5	9	25
Fitzpatrick, John					1	6.75	6.75	0
Flesher, Natasha					2	12	20	0
Flesher, Russ					3	20	31	430
Frey, Richard	1	0	3.75	0				
Funk, Matt					5	31.25	32.91	50
Fyn, Amy					7	45.75	71.75	500
Garn, Earl	7	37.25	130.5	376	19	132.66	153.41	771
Geglin, Wayne					1	6.5	8	70
Geho, Jan	1	0	9.5	0				
Gierth, Tom	1	4	0	0				
Gilkey, Jim					16	110.41	131.66	1080
Green, Gary	1	0	2	0				

Volunteer Name	Adopters				Trail Crew			
	Visits	Work Time	Total Time	Distance	Visits	Work Time	Total Time	Distance
Guy, Alex					1	7	8.5	100
Guy, Byron					8	51.5	57.5	0
Guy, Jamie					8	51.5	57.5	230
Hager, Mike					2	13	18	0
Hamilton, Mary					8	46	55	396
Hayes, Mary					2	11	11	0
Hayes, Pat	4	21	60.3	1239	17	114.25	133.25	1296
Henry, Byron					16	96.91	110.41	945
Henry, Charles					5	34	34	140
Henry, Sandy					3	20	26.5	0
Hess, Mark					1	7.75	7.75	0
Hess, Riley					1	7.75	7.75	0
Hess, Tyler					1	7.75	7.75	0
Hinrichs, Tom					1	3.5	3.5	0
Hogan, Clark					1	3.83	4.16	25
Holbrook, Zoey					1	4	4	0
Holwick, Jay					14	88.25	97.25	414
Hopkins, Kayla					1	4	4	0
Horn, Lowell					1	7.75	7.75	0
Hulls, Herb	7	43.25	117.5	235	16	121.66	129.41	450
Hulls, Susie	1	6	8	0	13	92.16	99.16	300
Huntington, Chris					1	2.5	3.25	40
Imhoff, Paul					2	13	18	182
Ives, Randy	4	8.25	12.25	200				
Ives, Randy	3	6.75	9.75	100				
Jindra, Bill					4	28.75	37.75	320
Jordan, Kyle					1	8	8.33	10
Kent, Kara					1	4	4	0
Kent Roosevelt HS*	1	305	366	20				
Keserich, Todd	1	4	0	0				
Konen, Joe	1	4	5.5	55				
Krueger, Jack					3	20	20.5	30
Krueger, Joe					3	22.5	23	30
Kuegi, Ann					1	6	6	0
Kuegi, Bart					1	6	6	0
Kuegi, Jesse					1	6	6	0
Kuegi, Kevin					1	6	6	0
Kurtz, Barb	1	0	52	0				
Kurtz, Bob	1	0	52	888				
Lane, Miles					2	6.5	6.5	0
Latza, Steve	1	5	0	0	5	31	36	176
Laubacher, Don	1	4	4.5	10				
Lawrence, Ryan	1	0	9.75	165				
Layman, Elmo					5	31.5	43	498
LeVasseur, Doug					4	29.5	35.5	160
LeVasseur, Ethel-Marie	1	0	28	0				
Lindahl, Eric	1	0	6	0				
Lindahl, Pat	1	0	6	0				
Litt, Bob	1	8	0	0	3	16.75	20.75	200
Lutz, Richard					8	46	55.33	440
Lynch, Jackie					1	8	9	25
Lynch, Mike					1	8	9	0
Matthews, Steve					1	8	9	45
McCahon, Dave					2	15	21	300
McIntyre, Chris	2	5.25	7.5	149	2	14	15.5	90
McNahls, Dylan					1	7.75	7.75	0
McQuaid, Liz	1	0	4.5	0				
Morgan, Richard					1	3.5	3.5	0
Morrison, Bob					1	3.83	4.33	30
Morton, Larry	6	12.92	20.23	253				
Morton, Sophia	6	12.92	20.23	0				
Mozden, Ken					1	8	9	50
Murphy, Tim	1	0	6.5	0				
Myers, Roger					3	24.25	29.25	250
O'Brien, Eamon					1	2.5	5	130
O'Leary, Denny					1	8	9	30
O'Malley, Maggie					2	6.5	6.5	0
Pacovsky, Chris					2	14	15	60

(continued on next page)

Trail Heroes of 2011 (continued)

Volunteer Name	Adopters				Trail Crew			
	Visits	Work Time	Total Time	Distance	Visits	Work Time	Total Time	Distance
Peck, Katherine					1	6.75	8.08	0
Pendleton, Scott	9	31.25	36.75	216				
Perry, Jerri	1	0	4	0				
Phillips, Joe	1	0	8	0				
Polman, Brad	1	4	4.67	20				
Purdy, Poppie					3	16	29	700
Reed, Melissa					7	45.33	49.33	234
Rethman, John					4	26	33.5	290
Rice, Tanya					1	4	4	0
Robe, Quincy	6	22.5	30	329				
Ruckle, Del					10	61.25	75.25	432
Runk, Jim	9	41.75	88	1357	31	202.16	243.16	2154
Runk, Jimmy	1	4.5	7.5	121				
Rutter, Tom					1	7	8.5	60
Schaefer, Deb					2	10.5	12.5	100
Schetter, Joe	1	0	28	6				
Schilling, Dustin					1	7.75	7.75	0
Schirripa, Tim					1	2.5	5	130
Schmitz, Larry					2	16	16	220
Schultz, Bill	3	15	27	540	5	32.25	36.25	420
Shideler, Darren					1	8.5	9.83	0
Simenc, Tim	1	4	0	0				
Smee, George	1	4	0	0				
Smee, Tina	1	4	0	0				
Smith, Karen					4	25.75	29.75	180
Smith, Makenzie					1	4	4	0
Smith, Rachel					1	7.75	7.75	0
Smith, Spencer					1	2.5	2.5	0
Smith, Todd					3	22.5	22.5	0
Sootsman, Linda					2	15	21	270
Sootsman, Ron					2	15	21	270
Spaulding, Jennifer					3	13	15	40
Spaulding, Tim					3	13	15	40
Spencer, CW					1	7.5	8.5	30
Sprague, Jim	26	125.75	358.92	1823	13	92.58	131.58	1816
Stover, Susan					11	74.91	87.41	795
Thiel, Mark					1	6	6	0
Tieh, John					1	6	6	0
Tiel, Gregg					1	6	6	0
Van Dyne, Daryl					1	7.75	7.75	0
Weidenhamer, Les					2	16	18	120
Whitworth, Pete	1	4	5	0	1	3.75	3.75	0
Wical, Dale	19	52.65	62.25	594				
Wilson, Ben					1	3.5	3.5	0
Wilson, Dave					1	3.5	3.5	0
Wimmer, Gene					5	30	32	90
Wisniewski, Greg					2	13.5	13.92	25
Woodard, Luke					1	2.5	3.5	0
Wuebker, Charlotte					2	13	13	0
Wuebker, Jim					2	13	13	0
Wuebker, Nicholas					2	6.5	6.5	0
Yoest, Jeff	4	32	47	610	1	7.83	7.83	0
Zampini, Debbie	1	0	540	6967	2	5.5	12.5	0
Zangmeister, Marie					7	42	42	164
Zuey, Jacob					1	6	6	0
Total	257	897.74	2718.4	21679	483	3071.43	3619.75	24182

*61 Students and Teachers from Kent Roosevelt High School worked a day at West Branch State Park

2012 MLK Day Hike at Hueston Woods State Park

Pat Hayes

With the help of three hiking friends, I flagged the 11.5-mile route around Acton Lake on a rainy Wednesday before our January 16 hike. My big hopes were (in this order): the rain would stop, the temperature would drop and the ground would freeze. My wish(es) was granted, and in the days preceding our hike, temps reached into the teens and we had snow. The forecast for our hike day, however, was highs in 40s with rain in the late afternoon. If everyone could finish the hike while the ground was still frozen and before the rain started, we would have a successful day. Luckily, the last of the hikers made it back to the lodge just as it started to drizzle.

Our yearly winter hike around Acton Lake at Hueston Woods State Park highlights the American Discovery Trail. ADT's Northern Route passes along the western edge of Acton Lake on its way from Oxford, Ohio to Richmond, Indiana.

My wife Mary and I arrived at the park lodge around 8:00 am and had breakfast with several hikers who also arrived early. I was pleased to see hikers from all over southwest Ohio show up for the hike. Just before 9:00 am we gathered in the lodge's main lobby so

I could explain the plan for the hike and to get the group photo. It was gratifying to see so many hikers show up for this annual event on the day commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

As the hike progressed, the temperature reached 44° but the trails remained frozen enough to keep from becoming muddy. Everyone I spoke to said it was a most enjoyable day and they look forward to next year's hike. Thanks to John Rethman for providing the bean soup, chili and corn muffins for lunch. John and Mary Hayes served the hot lunch to the hikers as they came through. Chris McIntyre and I set up the tables and chairs and the BTA and ADTS displays. Thanks to Mary for the brownies, apples, oranges and drinks. I provided transportation from the park office back to the lodge for those hikers who chose to hike partway around the lake; the rest of the hikers finished the loop and hiked back to the lodge. A special thank you to Park Manager Mark Lockhart for allowing us to use the kitchen facilities and dining area of the Hueston Room in the park office building.



Pat Hayes

Soup and a Good Walk Reward Hikers

About 60 hikers embraced the winter at the annual MLK Day hike on the American Discovery Trail at Hueston Woods State Park.

Buckeye on the AT—What Can We Learn?

Darryl R. Smith

My Labor Day weekend was spent backpacking a small part of the Appalachian Trail (1.6% to be precise) on a trip from Interstate 40 to Hot Springs, North Carolina. What does this have to do with the Buckeye Trail or the Buckeye Trail Association? Read on, fellow hiker, and hopefully the purpose for this article will be revealed by the time you've read my little sojourn on the granddaddy of long trails.

I'd always wanted to backpack a part of the Appalachian Trail to see if I wanted to hike more of it, or consider a thru-hike. I'd done a 15-mile day hike on the AT in Maryland, and while that was a challenge at the time, the toughest climb was only 700 feet. Labor Day weekend gave me a chance to do a 35-mile stretch of the AT along the Tennessee-North Carolina border, a stretch that may not have been the most challenging, but wouldn't be an easier section either. It included a climb of Snowbird Mountain, 2800 feet above the starting point. This 35-mile section gave me a good weekend distance with several mountains to ascend, plus a visit to Max Patch. I invited a few hiking friends, convinced my better half to shuttle us, and left Cincinnati Friday morning for Tennessee.

After a good night's sleep and breakfast, we headed to our trailhead, to where I-40 crosses over the AT. After saying goodbye to our shuttle drivers, we started climbing Snowbird Mountain. This would be the toughest climb of my life, and after a few miles I didn't think I would make it. In the first mile I slightly twisted my ankle, by two miles I was bonking (temps were in the mid-90s) and considering turning around and calling a shuttle to come get me, and by three miles I had been stung by yellow jackets. But I plodded on SLOWLY, with numerous stops, to the summit of Snowbird. Alas, no cooling snow was to be found, nor any views of the surrounding mountains; instead we had an exposed area of scrub before the shade on the other side of the peak. After lunch and some much-deserved rest, the 1300-foot descent to our first night's destination, Groundhog Creek Shelter, was tough on the legs. Luckily there were plenty of tenting spots nearby, as I did not relish sharing a shelter with mice and smelly hikers. After filtering water from a spring and eating dinner, climbing into the sauna that was my tent made me think that smelly hikers and mice might not be so bad, but as the shadows grew and cooled the hollow to a more bearable range, I was able to doze off.

After a quick breakfast we were off. Some steep climbs again, but not nearly as long as the climb up Snowbird. At times we actually had some short flat stretches. We kept getting closer to Max Patch, an open area about a mile long that offers 360° views from its peak. I had dreaded the thought of hiking through Max Patch the day before, thinking that the temps and blazing sun would make the one-mile distance a desert march. But God loves hikers and now we were blessed with overcast skies and a cool breeze. Max Patch is stellar, and we took an extended lunch to enjoy the winds and views. Then the rains started, at first slowly and then turning into a downpour. The pelting rain followed us as we climbed toward the summit of Walnut Mountain and the shelter that awaited on the other side of the peak. Pelting rain is not usually something to relish, but after the heat and humidity of the day before, the rain cooled us and washed a bit of our hiker's

stench away. Walnut Mountain Shelter is known for black bear encounters, but none of us wanted to set up nor tear down tents in the rain. So the five of us took our chances and were blessed by the absence of both bear and mouse. Spending a night in a shelter known for bear encounters with a bunch of snoring hikers is something all backpackers should experience at least once! Even after hiking over 13 miles, I could just not stay asleep very long.

Getting up early to start our last day, I wanted to get moving sooner than later. We had over 13 miles to go, and there was the promise of hot showers and cold beer in Hot Springs. We climbed Bluff Mountain; not sure where the name Bluff comes from, but I think it is from the false summits along the way. Every time I thought I was getting close to the top, the trail kept climbing more, bluffing me in a way. Bluff Mountain was not the hardest climb of the weekend, but a worthy one. Finally we crested, then climbed down over 2000 feet. The trail though is nice and not steep, and with the on-and-off rain showers the temperatures stayed cool (relatively speaking). We hiked mostly downhill to Hot Springs, where I felt at my best and was flying down the last mountain. We strolled into Hot Springs, and head for the Iron Horse Tavern and Inn (also where I was staying that night—that Jacuzzi felt SO good). I took a quick walk to Bluff Mountain Outfitters (tons of gear, books, clothes, trail food). We showered and headed for some tasty pizza at Smoky Mountain Diner. Soak in the Jacuzzi, and early to bed. In the morning, headed home.

On the trip we met several backpackers. Many were young, (late teens or 20s), and some are in their 40s and 50s. We encountered many day hikers near Max Patch, with families and youth groups dominating the crowd composition. In talking to some backpackers, I found it disturbing that they had never heard of the Buckeye Trail. Maybe one day they'll hike our trail, but if they do, they will expect something similar to the AT.

So, what are the lessons learned? Why am I talking about the AT in a Buckeye Trail publication? To make several points about where our focus as an organization should be and how our Trail is perceived—or worse yet, not even heard of—outside of Ohio.

We need to really push for a section of the BT for folks to backpack, in a similar backwoods experience like the AT. A 50- or 100-mile section would get us started. The Trail through this section would have to be mostly off-road, offer some sites of interest, have shelters or camp areas near stable water sources with privies and bear cables (black bears are being spotted more in Ohio, so we might as well be prepared and have areas set up properly from the start), and have a true trail town either along the way or at either end. The trail town should have an outfitter, clean places to stay (hotels, inns or campgrounds), and a good restaurant or pub (a lot of hikers like a cold beer after several days on the trail). There are areas that could fit this AT-like trail experience for Buckeye Trail backpackers.

This 50- or 100-mile section needs to have a trail data sheet or booklet created, one that would list water sources, campsites and features, and track the mileage between each spot. The booklet would also list services such as other places to stay, eat and resupply. It would include trail angel and shuttle driver info.

We do have a section that is almost 50 miles that will work for our first long section. I will be backpacking next spring from north of Old Man's Cave to US 50 near Londonderry. I plan on taking copious notes and GPS data to work up into some sort of trail data. First night will be spent at the Hocking Hills campground, second night near the cabin at Pretty Run, and the third night at the Tar Hollow campground. The area near Pretty Run could probably use a privy built, but I do believe the cabin area is on private property so getting that structure in place may be an issue. Some of this trip will be on back roads, so it still doesn't "qualify" (in my feeble mind at least) for a true backpacking section, but it does have campsites and scenery. I'll write about my trip upon completion for a future issue of the newsletter.

Okay, I hear some of you saying "but our trail experience is different from the AT," and you are completely right. The BT, while striving to have a long section catered to backpackers, can fulfill different experiences for different desires. We have plenty of sections of the BT that give folks the chance to stroll a few miles or do day hikes highlighting Ohio's small town charm and scenic areas. But in chatting with backpackers, most do not understand the small town experience that the BT can offer; they want to have an experience away from civilization.

We need to start looking at our membership in terms of demographics. While it is very important to cater to all folks who want to join the BTA, we need to be looking specifically to recruit two classes of hikers: the empty-nesters and the 20-somethings. The first group wants to do more activities now that their children are older, and backpacking the BT could give them some great outdoor experiences. These folks have the financial stability to support the BT via membership and trail towns through purchases.

The second group will be the larger users of the trail. They want to get out, see the world, spend time outdoors, and being younger they have the physical ability to use the Trail more actively and consistently. While not as financially viable as the empty-nesters, they can become lifelong supporters of the BT if they have good experiences in their 20s.

A few weeks after my weekend on the Appalachian Trail, I took a quick overnight backpacking trip to Lake Vesuvius near Portsmouth. On this trip were five other backpackers and the topic of the Buckeye Trail came up while packing up gear on Sunday morning. One backpacker said, "If the trail had a section catered to backpackers I would hike it and become a member of the Buckeye Trail Association." That says it all. Here was an experienced backpacker, lives in Ohio, and is not a member because we haven't created a backpacking experience, the kind that he expects and receives from trails like the AT that offer a week's worth of mileage for the backpacking community. We need to create that 100-mile section, off-road, with details for places to resupply, get water and camp each night. If we can get that data together, make it readily available to potential backpackers, and keep the trail, campsites, and shelters in great condition, we will drive more users to our Trail, from Ohio and other states, and we will add more members to our ranks.

I hope that you find that the need for a true backpacking section on the Buckeye Trail does exist, and that you will talk to your section supervisors about how you can assist making a part of the Buckeye Trail desirable to backpackers who want a long trail experience. This is indeed a case of "if we build it (and make it known to all), they will come."

Barn Talk

Mary Hamilton

The BTA Barn was winterized in late September, so until spring breaks there is no use of toilets, showers or the water heater at the Barn.

March 24-28 is a Barn Work Party to finish the three upper rooms that have been started. All skill levels of help will be needed, so those who aren't necessarily proficient in construction will certainly be welcome. We will put up walls and wiring, finish floors and install the remaining bat boxes. If enough workers show, we will install plywood flooring for the third floor. This floor will become the ceiling for the



second floor, keeping debris from falling into the sleeping rooms. Anybody coming for the work party is strongly encouraged to bring tools. Food for this

work party will be provided beginning with dinner on Friday night. If you are attending this work party please contact

Mary Hamilton at hamilton.3310@roadrunner.com so that food can be planned. Everyone is welcome to join us for these productive five days.

More BTA Photo Contest Winners

2nd Place (Category: On the Buckeye Trail)

A flooded section of trail in West Branch State Park in the Mogadore section.



Andy Niekamp

3rd Place (Category: On the Buckeye Trail)

A colorful painted turtle hides in his shell in the Mogadore section.



Andy Niekamp



Debbie Zampini

3rd Place (Category: Structures)

Ruins can be oddly appealing as they're reclaimed by a green woods.



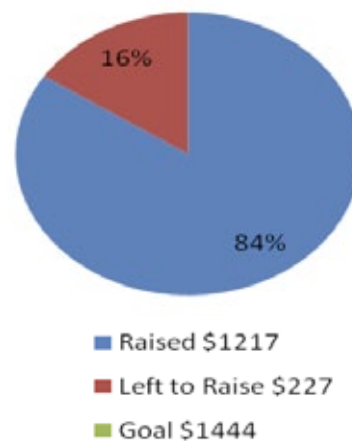
Bob Kurtz

2nd Place (Category: Structures)

A monument under a brilliant blue sky.

Buckeye Trail Picture Quilt

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Buckeye Trail Picture Quilt Raffle so far. We are sooooo close to reaching our goal of raising \$1444.00 for the BTA's Trail Preservation Fund! Total funds raised to date are \$1217.00. The raffle continues until we reach the \$1444.00 goal. If you haven't purchased your tickets yet, please fill out the form below and mail it to the BTA at the address on the form. A receipt will be promptly returned to you.



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

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

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

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

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



End of Trail

Dana Zintek

The Buckeye Trail Circuit Hike patch is awarded to any person who has completed the Buckeye Trail. This issue's finisher is:

HIKER	DATE STARTED	DATE FINISHED	MILEAGE OF BT WHEN HIKED*
John F. Fetzer	8/4/2005	11/20/2011	1436.4*

*mileages vary because of reroutes and improvements



John Fetzer is a native of Painesville. He had been a serious runner for 25 years, completing 29 marathons. But the years of running took a toll on his body and he needed a new activity. He started hiking the Buckeye Trail with his sister at the northern terminus at Mentor Headlands State Park. They had trouble getting together to hike, as his sister lived in Bellefontaine; together they completed 200 miles in three years. So in 2009, John started hiking by himself, and progress was still too slow for him at only 300 miles the first year.

Retirement in 2009, with his wife Jan retiring in 2010, opened the door to John completing the Buckeye Trail. Now he could devote much more time to hiking. John could hike over two days, and he and his wife could make a fun weekend of it. Jan would drop him off, then sightsee or read until their prearranged pick-up time. By hiking 25-30 miles nearly ever week, he progressed quickly. He reached the halfway point in September 2010, then completed the Buckeye Trail on November 20, 2011.

John's favorite parts of the Buckeye Trail were along the Maumee River in the Pemberville and Defiance sections, and along the Little Miami River in the Loveland section. He also liked the off-road hiking in the many state parks. Many times the Trail was hilly and very demanding, and he always felt a sense of accomplishment after one of these hikes. John found the BT relatively easy to follow. He wrote that the section maps are a must for anyone wishing to hike the entire BT. Another suggestion is to contact the county engineer's office in each county to be hiked and obtain a good county road map; he found the maps to be invaluable getting to many of the remote trailheads. Many of the residents that he passed, particularly in remote areas, were friendly and helpful.

John extended special thanks to his wife Jan for her spousal support; without her help, he wrote, he would not have completed the Buckeye Trail.

In honor of her brother's hike, John's first hiking partner Susan Fetzer made a donation to the BTA. She wrote that she and John recommend hiking the Buckeye whenever they can work it into a conversation.

John Fetzer Celebrates His Hike of the Buckeye Trail

John completed his Circuit Hike of the Buckeye Trail at the southern terminus in Eden Park in November 2011.



Welcome New Members!

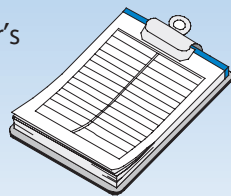
Bev and Jerry Starcher



Bill Adams, New Lexington	<i>gift from Herb and Susie Hulls</i>	Bob Morecki, Willoughby Hills	
Tim Adams, New Lexington	<i>gift from Herb and Susie Hulls</i>	Mike Murphy, Edison	<i>gift from Carri Jagger</i>
Cindy Bashaw and Jill Zocolo, Canton	<i>gift from Don Bashaw and Family</i>	Tom and Connie Myers, St. Charles, IL	
Hazel Bashaw, Canton	<i>gift from Don Bashaw and Family</i>	Trent Neely, Westerville	<i>gift from Travis Neeley and Family</i>
Cindy Bates, Akron	<i>gift from Robert and Connie Pond</i>	Michael Neely, Columbus	<i>gift from Travis Neeley and Family</i>
Michael Beers, New Albany	<i>gift from John A Bowers</i>	Northeast Ohio Hiking Club, Parma Hts.	
Mark Benacquista, Chagrin Falls		Ohio Volkssport Assoc., Fairborn	
Earl Berning, Botkins		K. Mark Phillips and Family, McConnelsville	<i>gift from Robert and Amy Grove</i>
Joe Brehm, Trimble	<i>gift from John Winnenburg and Family</i>	Chester Rainey and Family, Middletown	
Edward Cable, Fort Wayne, IN		Bob and Sue Riebel, Fairfield	
Dick and Bev Cleverly, Dayton		Kirk Rogers and Family, Chagrin Falls	
Brad and Barbara Dibble, Risingsun	<i>gift from Roderick Dibble</i>	Tom Rohr, Ashland	
Dean Eliason, Richfield		Beth Roy, Kingston	
Paul Fernandez, Midland, MI	<i>gift from Catherine Vernon</i>	Rob and Kerrie Ryan, Columbus	<i>gift from Don Bashaw and Family</i>
Russell Flesher and Family		Deborah Schaefer and Family, Frazeyburg	
Crystal Forrider, Columbus	<i>gift from Jerry Forrider</i>	Trish Schelter, Mentor	<i>gift from Jan Geho</i>
Rob Fulton, Vandalia	<i>gift from Patrick Hayes</i>	Sharon and Mike Schnell, New Bremen	
Larry and Joyce Gerstner, Rockbridge		Trudy Senesi, St Catherines, ON, Canada	
Mark Hart, Orwell	<i>gift from Norman Gillmore</i>	Mike Smith, Leetonia	<i>gift from Troy Homrighausen</i>
Mary Haskins, Elyria	<i>gift from Sue Ely Krueger and Family</i>	Robert B. Stephenson, Kettering	
Christopher Heitzel, Kent		Joel Timmons, Dayton	
Denise Hill, Cincinnati		Charles H. Tubbs, Canton	
Brian Humphrey, Mentor	<i>gift from Bill and Andrea McGovern</i>	Charles Twigg, Tallmadge	
Cathy Kempton, Fredericktown	<i>gift from Carol Rand</i>	George Tyo, Williamsburg	
Joe and Kathy Kleinhenz, Kirtland	<i>gift from Robert and Barbara Kurtz</i>	Julie Tyson, Middletown	
Daniel Kusko, Gahanna		Rebecca Wenden, Worthington	<i>gift from Elaine Newlon</i>
Chad Lawrence, Newcomerstown	<i>gift from Ryan Lawrence</i>	Western Reserve Trail Running, Cleveland	<i>gift from Joe Jurczyk</i>
Bryan Litsinberger, Blufton, SC	<i>gift from James Gilkey</i>	Kaye Willi and Family, Worthington	
Fred Losi and Family, Brecksville		David J Wilson and Family, Macedonia	<i>gift from John H. Wilson</i>
Sarah Lucic, Danbury, CT	<i>gift from Sue and Pat Lucic</i>	Pamela Wilz, Cleves	
Glen E. McCool, Covington		Jeffrey Young, Amherst	
Margaret McDevitt, Willoughby		Ted Zangmeister, Alexandria	<i>gift from Marie Zangmeister</i>

Maintainer's Log

The BTA web site has a Maintainer's web page. It has some basic info about maintaining, requests volunteers, and has a download for the maintainer's annual log.



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

Discount on Blaze Paint

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

WHERE? Any Sherwin-Williams store in Ohio

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

REALLY? 10% Discount and you pay no tax

Highlights of the BTA Board Meeting— December 10, 2011

Ruth Brown, Secretary

BUCKEYE TRAILFEST PLANS— ANDY NIEKAMP

- The Buckeye TrailFest will be held from April 26-29 at King's Domain near Lebanon and Fort Ancient. The goal is to make this event, which will be open to BTA members as well as the general public, the premiere trail festival in Ohio.

TRAIL BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE REPORT— JIM RUNK

- The sections of the BT through Strait Creek Nature Preserve and from Napoleon to Grand Rapids were blazed and opened.
- The section through AEP Lands will be completed in 2012. 18 people completed the trail work in 3½ days.

TRAIL PRESERVATION— DEBBIE ZAMPINI

- Parts of the BT in the Norwalk section that will be moved off-road. This will happen sometime in 2013 when the parts of the North Coast Inland Trail (NCIT) will be connected. The Firelands Rails To Trails (FRTTI) is the section of the NCIT in Huron County. The BTA will have an organizational membership with the FRTTI.

CARTOGRAPHY TEAM REPORT— RICHARD LUTZ

- The Norwalk and Burton section maps had been reprinted. The next new printed maps that will be coming are the Caesar Creek and Shawnee section maps. Richard thanked Pat Hayes and John Rethman for helping with the GPS work in the Caesar Creek section.

COMPUTER SERVICES— STEVE MILLER

- QR Codes will start appearing on the backs of BT section maps beginning with the next maps which will be the Shawnee and Caesar Creek maps. The codes will then appear on all maps as they are revised. When the QR code on a map is scanned on a phone the Trail Alerts page from the BTA Web Site will be loaded for that particular section.

BTA Funds Report

TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND

11/1/2011–1/31/2012

Dana Zintek and Lisa Daiber
Deborah L. Zampini
Norman Gillmore
Lester Gicei
Don Beattie
Adrian Vanko
Paul and Donna Floyd
Vince Rucci
Pat and Mary Hayes

GENERAL FUND

10/1/2011–12/31/2011

Donald Aitken
Spencer Allen
Daniel Anania
Donald and Dorothy Anson
Deven Atkinson
Wesley Bacon
George Bagasarian
Sylvia Bahr
David Baker
Jeffrey Barton
Don Beattie
Ray Beer
Mel Beers
Douglas and Laura Bell
Floyd and Estelle Benner
Diane Berkheimer
Anastasia Birosh
Thomas Bishop
Betty Bowers
Neal & Allison Brady
Jeffrey Briner
Robert Burris
Donald Byrckett
Dave Campfield
Jim Carl
Carroll County OHS
William Carroll
Donald Chubb
Patty Cook
Russell Corban
James Crabtree
Verl Dasher
Charles Daub
Elizabeth DeBraul
Allen Deemer
Jeanne DeLaney
L.A. Deninger
Donald Desch
Phyllis Devlin
Minor Dickason
Garry Dill
Michael Dodge
Timothy Essig
Mike Fanelli
Joyce and Carlos Fernandez
Ray Ferrell
John Fetzer
Tony Fiscarelli to honor BT
trail work of Robert E Merkle
JM Fix

Kathleen Fix
Patrick Flinn
Gerald Forrider
Robert Fritschie
Susan Garber
Beverly Garrett
James Gilkey
Pete Grimm
Marijan Grogoza
Mary Ruth Green
Robert Grove
Jackie Hale

Mary and Kathy Hamilton
Harvey Harris
Pat and May Hayes
Dale Holwick Jr
Patrice Hoskings
Herb and Susie Hulls
Holly Henry in honor of Bob
Simon's completing the trail

James Immelt
Dorothy Ipavec
John Jameson
Chester Jenkins
Robert Johnson
Lynn Jones
Joe Jursyk
Thomas King
Paul Knoop Jr.
Louisa Kreider
Joe Krueger
Dick Kudner
Ryan Lawrence
Bayard Liesch
Laura Letton
Bob Litt

Robert Lorenzetti
Bill Masica
Marie and Maurice Maddock
John Martin
Randall Martz
Barbara Mathews
Terry and Nancy McCann
Dennis McCurdy
M Lynn McDonough
Chris McIntyre
Robert Merkle
Steven Mershon
Sally Miner
Carol Miracle
Don Mong

Leonard Monnin from his
family for Christmas
Robert Morrison Jr.
Peter Mortensen
Douglas and Laura Morton
Larry and Sophia Morton in
Memory of Bill Uvegas

Douglas Mory
Sharon Mullins
Scott Murphy
Timothy Murphy
Brian Myers
Connie Myers
Travis Neely
John Nichols

M/M William Nichols
Andy Niekamp
Brian Noel
Oakwood Arbor
John Oberholtzer
Francois Parent
Bernard Parry
Linda Paul
Fred Payton
Connie and Bob Pond
Philip Potter
Dorothy Pritchard
Melissa Reed
Earl Reisinger Jr
Kenneth Rhoads
Richard Rice
Jim and Vivian Runk
Richard Schmidt
William Schultz
Virginia Scott
Trudy Sensesi
David Shanks
Bob Simmons
Karen Smith
Kent Spieth
R G Steeneck
Mark Stender
Jean Schmelzer
Linda Sharp
Judy Smith
Karen Smith
Karl Smith
Jim Sprague
Grace Thornhill
Clifford Thorniley
John Paul Tolson
John Tonti
Laurie Toth
Frank Trautman
Richard Troha
Lee Tucker
Larry Turner
Robert Ulrich
Mario Vargas
Rodney Vest
Glen Whipple
Dale Wical
Eugene Wilson
M/M John Wilson
JM Wagner
Richard Wagoner
Jeff Yoest
Coco Zampini
Deb Zampini
Thomas Ziemba
Dana Zintek

BARN FUND
10/1/2011–12/31/2011

Phyllis Devlin

SCHOLARSHIP FUND
10/1/2011–12/31/2011

A Call for BTA Volunteers

We are basically an all-volunteer organization with most of the effort going toward the building and maintaining of the Buckeye Trail. I know that we never forget the folks who work more behind the scenes (including the editor of the *Trailblazer*) but since becoming the volunteer coordinator, I have come to realize that we do not really ask for help from all the people who have skills we desperately need but who do not have the physical ability and/or time to participate in trail-building or maintaining. I do not pretend to know what skills are out there but if you will tell me what you can and like to do I will find a job for you. We need people to prepare and give presentations on the Trail, photographers to take pictures for those presentations, people to build paint kits, grant writers, and many other things that I cannot think of sitting here.

Contact me by e-mail volunteer@buckeyetrail.org or mail: Garry Dill, 923 Augusta Glen Drive, Columbus, OH 43235

Allow me some time to work on it (remember I am a volunteer too) and I am sure I can find a job for you.

BRAMBLE #61

by Dana Zintek

1. Public telephone
2. Parking
3. Showers

Bramble: TO BREAK TRAIL

**WINNER: PETE REPKO
FROM PAINESVILLE**

From Debbie Zampini, who is standing for reelection to the BTA Board of Directors

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION FOR BTA BOARD

It has been an experience being a member of the Buckeye Trail Board for the last three years. I am running for another three-year term. I have been involved with the BTA since 2003; thank you Mel Beers for bringing me on board with my first section of Buckeye Trail to maintain.

Since 2003 and my first few miles of Buckeye Trail to take maintain, I stepped into the position of Bedford Section Supervisor. In 2006 I was awarded the Superstar award. I was elected as a Trustee on the Board at the elections at the Annual Meeting in 2009. Since that time, I have been heading up the Traveling Buckeyes Trail Crew, am Chair for the Trail Preservation Committee and Belle Valley Section Supervisor. In 2010 voted in as Vice-President of the Board and elected again in 2011, when I was presented with my second Superstar award. I am part of the Trail Management Team.

I am always looking for ways to promote the Buckeye Trail. In 2011, I started the Annual BTA Olympics Photo, Poetry, Essay and Poetry contests. I work hard to learn and grow in ways that will allow me to serve the Buckeye Trail better. With your votes at the Buckeye TrailFest board meeting, I hope to continue being part of a hard-working group, your BTA Board.



Member of
EarthShare
Ohio

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

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

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

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

www.earthshareohio.org

Buckeye Trail Association

P.O. Box 254
Worthington, Ohio 43085

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

BRAMBLE #62

by Dana Zintek

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

For a chance to win the book
Points Unknown: A Century of Great Exploration,
edited by David Roberts

Send your answers to:

Dana Zintek
2369 Suncrest Drive
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

Answers must be postmarked by May 1, 2012.

1. 1 of 24

W H A S E E N



2. Stagecoach stop
(Burton)

R I N D I N E R



3. Atom formerly was here
(Troy)

Q U I P A

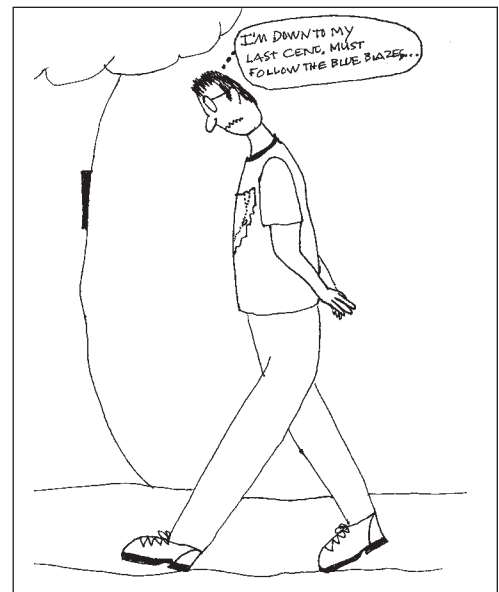


4. Z.S. bridges this creek
(Massillon)

N O T O C T O N



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



Where did the bankrupt
archaeologist hike?

