

# Trailblazer



FOUNDED 1959  
SUMMER 2012 VOLUME 45 NO. 2



## 2012 Buckeye TrailFest Wows Ohio Hikers

BTA's first annual Buckeye TrailFest was an oh-so-impressive success! Great management, wonderful setting and glorious weather made for a hiking, learning, getting-to-know-other-friendly-people weekend.



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



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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.*

Fourteen years ago I arrived at the time that we all know is coming: RETIREMENT. All kinds of thoughts come at that time. Will we have enough money? What will I do? Since I was married with grown children and grandchildren, will my wife and I drive each other crazy? (She had her own activities and interests and most of them were not mine and I had no interest in accompanying her to the grocery store or bridge club.) Like many of us I had a bucket list and looked forward to working my way through it. To be honest, I had no hobbies and few friends that had not been associated with work.

We started in on the bucket list and made serious inroads in the first two years. We RVed our way to Alaska and the Maritimes and spent some time in the winter in Florida. We visited family (none were close) and all were busy with their own lives. All of these things were fun, we had enough money but significant amounts of time were still not occupied for me and I was still not interested in getting involved in my wife's activities. One of the things on the bucket list was to get involved with the Buckeye Trail, so I decided to attend a work party. A couple of emails and a phone call or two and I discovered that there was one that was close to my family farm near Bainbridge. I had little camping gear and other than the Boy Scouts and Army basic training, no experience. I went, I worked, I made some new friends and I had a good time. I also discovered that there is a lot of ego gratification in putting trail on the ground -- especially if it is done right. I went home bought a tent and a daypack and returned for another work party. What is more fun that a cold beer around a campfire after a day's work and a good meal? Pretty soon I knew a lot of the regulars and they knew me. Fortunately their expectations were low as to my work output so all was well.

I then wanted to have a piece of trail to call my own, so I became a maintainer and eventually a section supervisor. At some point during this first two- or three-year period, I realized that I had made real friends with many of the folks in this group and that we were sharing our good times and our bad times and that we cared about each other and what we were doing together. New people joined and others drifted away but it was always a very convivial group.

An additional benefit of my work with the BTA has been that I get to see and learn a lot about other parts of the state. I am a native Ohioan, but there was much of it, I realized, that I hadn't seen. Canal towpaths, strange rivers and streams, old forts, new (to me) state parks, AEP Recreation Lands, and Muskingum Water Conservancy District and many other sites all became familiar.

Now age and physical limitations are forcing me to reduce and modify my activities but have not reduced the real delight I feel in seeing my BTA friends whenever I can. Thanks to all of you for giving my retirement a purpose and filling this period of my life with wonderful associations and memories.

*Garry Dill,  
Volunteer Coordinator*



## Trailblazer

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**Awards & Recognition**

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**BTA Century Barn**

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# Do You Want to Lose 12 of the Buckeye Trail's Best Miles?

That's the length of the Buckeye Trail in Burr Oak State Park, built and maintained by the BTA for 30 years. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation is seriously considering developing a 25-mile ATV trail system inside Burr Oak. This would be the first time ATVs are allowed in any Ohio State Park, and ODNR doesn't have a plan to share or a period of public comment planned. This system would intersect the Buckeye Trail, the North Country National Scenic Trail, American Discovery Trail, Burr Oak Backpack Loop Trail, the equestrian trail system, and day hiking trails such as those that lead visitors to Buckeye Cave. The proposal would cut right through a network of trails that when connected with the Wayne National Forest's Wildcat Hollow Trail create one of Ohio's few 40+ mile backpacking destinations. It would cross the floodplain of East Branch of Sunday Creek that feeds the lake, one of the few clean streams in the region not impacted by historic coal mining.

Public opinion does matter in the eyes of public officials. Protect 12 of the best miles of the Buckeye Trail that we helped to create and have taken care of for so long. Share your thoughts with the BTA, share your thoughts with your elected officials, and write a letter to ODNR:

Glen Cobb

Acting Chief of Division of Parks and Recreation

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

2045 Morse Rd, C-3

Columbus, OH 43229-6693

For more detailed information on the issue please visit [www.buckeyetrail.org](http://www.buckeyetrail.org).



Is this Burr  
Oak's Future?



Or this? ↓



# Schedule of Hikes & Events



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

## JUNE

**June 9 BTA Board Meeting at Command Alkon.** 10:00 am. Contact: Melissa Reed, [president@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:president@buckeyetrail.org)

**June 10 BTA Miami Rivers Chapter Event, Clifton Gorge, John Bryan, Glen Helen.** 9:30 am. *All members are welcome.* We will start at the Jackson Street parking lot in Clifton, hike through Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve, John Bryan State Park, and Glen Helen, and return via some other interesting and lesser-hiked trails, creating an 11-mile event while enjoying many natural and historic sites. If folks are not up to 11 miles, hike can be shortened to 6 miles.

Bring plenty of water, wear sturdy boots and bring a lunch to eat at Glen Helen Nature Center. Post-hike will be at Peach's in Yellow Springs.

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

**June 16 BTA Miami Rivers Chapter Event, Mt. Airy Forest.** *All members are welcome.* 8:45 am. Like exploring? The trails in Mt. Airy West offer a challenge and a sense of adventure. Join us for a morning hike starting from McFarland Woods and that will wind in and out of ravines, go along ridge tops and lead us in several compass headings. Hike 6 miles, and we should see some interesting terrain along the way.

Meet at 8:45 AM in the McFarland Woods parking lot. Bring water and a snack, and sturdy shoes or boots. Post-hike will be at Walt's BBQ on Colerain.

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

**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](mailto: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](mailto:stc@buckeyetrail.org)

**June 23 Backpacking Program, Lake Metro Parks.** 1:00 pm-4:00 pm. Environmental Learning Center, 7250 Alexander Road, Concord Township. *More information to come on [www.buckeyetrail.org](http://www.buckeyetrail.org).*

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

**June 22-24 3rd Annual E.G.G.S. Hike, Burr Oak State Park, Wayne National Forest.** The weekend starts Friday night with a family-friendly campout at Burr Oak SP where you can learn more about the Emma Grandma Gatewood Solstice (E.G.G.S.) Hike. The hike will start at 3:00 pm Saturday 6/23 and end at 3:00 pm Sunday 6/24. This is an endurance hike consisting of a 40+ miles of trail that will need to be completed in 24 hours. Hikers are to be self-sufficient; there will be no trail support for participants.

See the E.G.G.S. page at [www.buckeyetrail.org/eggs.html](http://www.buckeyetrail.org/eggs.html) for important details.

Contact: Byron Guy, [oldmanscave@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:oldmanscave@buckeyetrail.org)

**June 30-July 1 Maintenance Weekend, Old Mans Cave Section.** Reroute a section of the Bill Miller Trail in the Old Mans Cave Section. Camp on BTA's Pretty Run property.

Food provided by the Guy brothers. *\*Reservations Required For Food\** Contact: Byron Guy, [oldmanscave@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:oldmanscave@buckeyetrail.org) for food.

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

## JULY

**July 21 BTA Picnic and 2nd Annual Olympics, BTA Barn.** *More information to come on [www.buckeyetrail.org](http://www.buckeyetrail.org).*

## AUGUST

**August 25-26 BTA Board Retreat, BTA Barn.** 10:00 am. Contact: Melissa Reed, [president@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:president@buckeyetrail.org)

## SEPTEMBER

**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 8-15 Fall Hiking Trip.** Keep this date open for the hike. Details to follow on [www.buckeyetrail.org](http://www.buckeyetrail.org).

**September 22-23 BTA Miami Rivers Chapter Event, Intro Backpacking, Caesar Creek State Park.** *All members are welcome.*

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.

We will meet at the Wellman Meadows trailhead, and hike 7 miles to the Day Lodge Group Camp. Along the way we will see the Pioneer Village and Crawdad Falls. On September 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, [preds81@yahoo.com](mailto:preds81@yahoo.com), 513-321-1539

**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. Bring your own food.

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

## OCTOBER

**October 13 Miami Rivers Chapter Event, Fort Ancient Area Hike.** *All members are welcome.* 9:15 am. Near Fort Ancient State Historic site, there are trails that can be combined into 8- and 10-mile loops. Enjoy some

## 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

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. 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, preds81@yahoo.com, 513-321-1539

### 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, 740-743-3813 for food.

Contact: BTA, stc@buckeyetrail.org

### October 20 BTA Miami Rivers Chapter Event, Intro Backpacking, Shawnee State Forest. All members are welcome. 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 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, preds81@yahoo.com, 513-321-1539

**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

## NOVEMBER

**November 3-4 Maintenance Work Weekend.** Location to be determined. Details to follow on [www.buckeyetrail.org](http://www.buckeyetrail.org).

Contact: BTA, stc@buckeyetrail.org

## DECEMBER

**December 8 BTA Board Meeting at Command Alkon.** 10:00 am. Contact: Melissa Reed, president@buckeyetrail.org

## 2013

**April 25-28 2013 BTA TrailFest. Save the Date!** TrailFest in Northeast Ohio, hosted by the Bedford and Burton Sections. Details to follow in coming *Trailblazers* and [www.buckeyetrail.org](http://www.buckeyetrail.org).



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- CHECK OUT OUR EVENT AND PRESENTATION SCHEDULE
- CALL FOR INFORMATION AND TRAIL SUPPORT
- TOP QUALITY GEAR AND APPAREL SOLUTIONS
- LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED BY EXPERIENCED ENTHUSIAST

## 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 . . .

Coming off of the first annual Buckeye TrailFest, the future of the Buckeye Trail seems bright. Thanks to the hard work of a devoted group of BTA volunteers we successfully hosted our largest annual gathering to date. You will see more details of the event here in the Trailblazer, but the take home message from Buckeye TrailFest was a new and renewed interest in all things Buckeye Trail. It was inspiring to see all of the activity, the fun,

the hikes, and especially the people.

There are many things to celebrate this season on and around Ohio's Buckeye Trail. The Ohio State House of Representatives and Governor Kasich have both publicly recognized the Buckeye Trail, the Governor taking a step further declaring April 26th, 2012 Buckeye Trail Day to honor the 45th anniversary of the designation of the BT as the State Trail of Ohio. Buckeye Trail membership has been steadily increasing thanks to the hard work of our membership volunteers. The BTA has re-launched our website with a new look and a few new features. Our *Trailblazer* magazine continues to receive great reviews from members and partners. The BTA signed up our very first workplace through EarthShare Ohio for employee payroll deductions, *Add Ohio*. Our Cartography Team has developed a new *Hiker on the GO* map series that highlights destination loop trails along the BT. With the success of our 2011 Member Challenge we are able to open a fund at the Columbus Foundation devoted to the long-term sustainability of the BTA. There is growing interest in southwest Ohio to form a new chapter of the BTA, tentatively name the Miami Rivers Chapter that would increase the local presence of the BTA. Our Buckeye Trail Crew continues to travel the state building and improving the BT with the potential of completing another multi-year project this May, over 20 miles in the AEP ReCreation Lands in Morgan and Noble Counties.

While there are many accomplishments and projects to celebrate, there are also several concerns. Most of the success we have been having is due to the increased investment of our existing volunteer staff and Trustees. Our volunteers are what make the BTA; while we try to show our appreciation as much as possible we are always competing for their time with life's other priorities. The more success the BTA enjoys, the greater the need we have for more volunteers to lighten the load, and many more volunteers for longer term administrative needs are desired. If you would like to lend your time and skills to the mission and

vision of the Buckeye Trail please reach out to assist with some challenging yet rewarding volunteer work.

The BTA continues to succeed in negotiating for more of the BT to be relocated off of road walks and onto newly developed hiking trail and yet we are at risk of losing up to 12 miles of some of our best trail at Burr Oak State Park. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Recreation is planning on altering the park to include up to 25 miles of ATV trails that would cross, run along and be developed within the corridor of the shared BT, North Country National Scenic Trail and American Discovery Trail, as well as equestrian trails on the west side of Burr Oak Lake. This is a grave concern for the BTA. As most of you are well aware ATV use is incompatible, competitive and antagonistic to the vision of a primitive hiking trail. We are doing our best to stand up for Ohio's State Trail and our partners, not to mention the years of work the BTA has invested in building and maintaining the trail at Burr Oak. More information on how you can help protect the BT is available within the *Trailblazer* (see page 3) and on our website.

We have much to celebrate and enjoy, and yet we cannot take anything for granted. This time of year may be the busiest for hiking the BT and volunteering, thank you for both! As you pass by each blue blaze painted by your local volunteer trail adopter take a moment to appreciate our 53 year history, our status as the State Trail of Ohio and the route of our national trail partners. As you reach up to touch that blaze consider the amount of effort ahead to connect off road hiking trail segments together, to increase the use and awareness of the BT, and to protect what we have now. There is a growing community of Buckeye Trail enthusiasts; though you may enjoy the solitude by that blaze you are not alone on the Buckeye Trail. We have a lot of work to do together, but don't forget to celebrate our accomplishments and share your moments on the BT with others.

See you on the Trail,

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



# Bits & Pieces

## HELP WANTED!

### BTA NEEDS A VOLUNTEER WITH ACCOUNTING EXPERIENCE

BTA is growing and our bookkeeping and billing needs are growing as well. We need a person with an accounting background to assist the BTA Treasurer. This could be done from your home if you have e-mail. BTA always needs trail builders and maintainers, but this position needs someone with different talents. If you are interested in this critical position, please contact Garry Dill, BTA volunteer coordinator, [volunteer@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:volunteer@buckeyetrail.org).

## TrailFest Lost and Found

One pair of ladies' jeans, plus one medium size grey zippered hooded sweatshirt. Found in the women's bathhouse in the camping area at the TrailFest 2012. If this is yours, contact Mary Hamilton at [hamilton3310@roadrunner.com](mailto:hamilton3310@roadrunner.com) or 330-602-4071; Mary will mail it to you.

## BTA Picture Quilt Raffle

Thank you to everyone who supported the BTA Picture Quilt Raffle. Our goal of raising \$1 for every mile of the Buckeye Trail (1444) was surpassed at the 2012 TrailFest. The final total raised was \$1552.

The proud winner of the BTA Quilt is Adrian Vanko, a BTA member for over 25 years and a current BTA Trustee. The winning ticket was drawn by visitor Linda Paul of Earth Share Ohio at the TrailFest. Congratulations to Adrian and thanks to everyone who vied for a chance at the Quilt!

*TrailFest 2013  
Northeast Ohio  
April 25-28*

*BTA Annual  
Picnic &  
Olympics  
Buckeye Trail  
Barn  
July 21-22*



## 2nd Annual BTA Olympics

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

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

**Who:** Open to All BTA Members and Families

### CONTESTS:

**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](http://www.buckeyetrail.org) under Upcoming Events for updates on the BTA Picnic and BTA Olympics.



# 1st Annual Buckeye TrailFest

*Todd Collins*

2012's Buckeye TrailFest was held April 26-29 at King's Domain Conference Center near Lebanon in southwest Ohio. TrailFest featured activities, presentations and workshops along with plenty of opportunities to network and socialize. King's Domain is on a hillside near the Buckeye Trail and Fort Ancient and close to a number of parks and ample hiking.

Keynote speakers included Mike Fanelli who presented "A Year to Wander the World," Andy "Captain Blue" Neikamp, who talked about his thru-hike of the BT last year, Bette Lou Higgins interpreting the history of Grandma Gatewood, and Jack Blosser from Fort Ancient who taught us about "The Indians of Fort Ancient".

Hikes included Caesar Creek State Park, Fort Ancient, birding and tree identification, Halls Creek Nature Preserve, and many hikes along our own Buckeye Trail! Workshops and hands-on sessions ranged from chainsaw safety to trail maintenance, to alcohol stoves, to the popular paracord survival bracelet (a bracelet you wear out hiking and if you need cord—say to lash something—and you can unravel your bracelet to have 10 to 15 feet of cord) table that seemed to be going all weekend.

Other speakers held sessions throughout the weekend: cooking, scouting, the BTA Barn, lightweight backpacking and even yoga. There were also speakers who talked of adventures on and off the Buckeye Trail, including "My First 42 Miles on the Appalachian Trail", "Hiking to Achieve Weight Loss Goals", and "Walking the Alps—1300 miles in 170 days". In total there were 46 different scheduled activities.

This event was also the Buckeye Trail Association Annual Meeting. Sessions were held with BT thru-hikers, board candidates, and Sunday morning was dedicated to BTA business, planning and awards.

Saturday night was the end of the silent auction, right after a well-attended wine and cheese reception that included music from the Mountain Dulcimer Society of Dayton. Later that evening a live auction helped raise additional money for the BTA. Three guided trips were on the block, as well as a Mystery Box, and the bidding was fast, furious and fun. Together the auctions raised close to \$4400.

Ice cream from southwest Ohio's Graeters and cake were served on Saturday evening by the Buckeye Trail thru-hikers.

The facility allowed camping on-site, as well as offering cabins and dormitory rooms. A number of people opted to tent camp, along with some car campers, RVs and even a car-top tent setup. Outside of some rain on Saturday the weather allowed for good camping and event participation.

The festival attracted 165 registered participants and set a recent history attendance record for a BTA event. Planning is already underway for the 2nd Annual Buckeye TrailFest and there will be plenty of volunteer opportunities to help with next year's event. The question is, can we top 2012? If we spread the word and work together, BTA can build on the groundwork that has already been done to keep this going year after year. Based on positive and positive comment, TrailFest is something BTA members would like to see every year!



*Diane Berkheimer, Don Jacobs, Darlene Karoly, Jennifer Morris, Karen Martin, Laura Letton, Pat Farrell, Preston Bartlett, Rob Evans, Todd Collins, and many more whose names we do not have.*







# BTA Awards Presented at TrailFest

## PRESIDENT'S AWARD

**Kathy Hamilton:** BTA project manager for the NCTA 2011 Annual Meeting. Kathy accomplished this feat by saying "Not one item was forgotten." Kathy led her team to provide a successful NCTA 2011 Annual Meeting. The challenge was to bring "trail people" to the city and provide an outdoor experience. Kathy was able to win over every doubting attendee.

## SUPER STAR AWARDS

**Byron and Sandy Henry:** Superior section maintainers dedicated to maintaining their trail segment in the New Straitsville section to the highest standards, and consistently keeping their section supervisor advised of trail conditions.

**Andy Niekamp:** Has raised awareness of the Buckeye Trail through his presentations of his thru-hike adventure on the BT. He sold t-shirts and gained memberships during these presentations with the monies going to the BTA as a part of the BT Challenge. He also did an excellent job of chairing the 2012 TrailFest.

**Darlene Karoly:** Designed the sparkling new BTA website at [www.buckeyetrail.org](http://www.buckeyetrail.org). Darlene has also been instrumental in the production of many of BTA's brochures, and also produced the guidebook for the 2012 TrailFest.

**Bruce "Poppie" Purdy:** For assuming the BTA Scouting liaison position, defining needs for advancing the program and actively involving scouts in the trail.

## STAR AWARDS

**Patti Cook:** Burton Section Supervisor has immediately made contact with her adopters, checked out the area, always made sure brochure boxes were filled. She works with residents along the roadways blazed by the BTA by keeping the roadways cleaned. She also works with the village of Burton on Buckeye Trail matters.

**Melissa Shaw:** BTA member of the NCTA annual meeting planning committee. As a member of the team, she never stopped smiling, and always asked "What needs to be done?", and then did it.

## CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

To Members of the Planning Committee for the NCTA Annual Meeting:

Andrew Bashaw	Brent Anslinger
Melissa Shaw	Amy Anslinger
Jeff Yoest	Kathy Hamilton
Liz McQuaid	Pat Hayes
Mary Hayes	Byron Guy

Boy Scout Pack 652 for making 6 bat boxes for the barn

## TRAIL ADOPTER AWARD

**Debbie Zampini:** Section supervisor of Bedford and Belle Valley sections. She leads the Traveling Buckeyes on work weekends around Ohio to perform extra trail maintenance. She is also working to establish Traveling Buckeyes groups in various locations around the state. She also serves as Vice President of the BTA Board of Directors.

## 250 HOURS OF SERVICE HONOR ROLL

Jim Gilkey	Susan Stover
Del Runckle	Jeff Yoest

A one-inch gold bar engraved with their name and date will then be placed on the plaque on display at the BTA barn.

## CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

**Andy "Captain Blue" Niekamp** received the Certificate of Completion of the 1400 miles of the BT.



### 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 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!*

# 2013 Buckeye TrailFest is April 25–28!

The 2013 Buckeye TrailFest will be showing off Lake and Geauga Counties. Penitentiary Glen Reservation in Kirtland will be reserving their entire facility to the Buckeye Trail Association Friday April 26, where we'll enjoy a cookout with all the fixings and a campfire afterward. After dinner, you will have your choice of hikes: either a rugged Gorge hike led by two volunteer naturalists, a hike on the trails to learn the history of the reservation, or your own self-guided hike. Tour the Kevin P. Clinton Wildlife Center and see rescued animals on the mend or in permanent residence, Kura the Red Fox and Artie the blind Great Blue Heron, just to name a few. Other planned events are in the works for the evening.

We will have bird hikes led by Lake Metroparks naturalists, interpretative hikes led by Lake Metroparks and Geauga Park naturalists and some led by Buckeye Trail hike leaders. There will be hikes of different lengths and terrain. We have over 110 miles of Buckeye Trail in our corner of the state, and we will cover as much as we can.

One of the activities already arranged is a tour of the Mormon settlement in Kirtland, founded by Joseph Smith in 1831. Tour the Kirtland Temple, then Chapin Forest (a Lake Metroparks reservation), with one of the local quarries that supplied the sandstone to build the Temple. See the tool marks where workers hand-cut the stone. You will know the full history by the end of this tour. Transportation will be provided by Lake Metroparks.

Holden Arboretum in Kirtland is a must-see and has its Arbor Day program that weekend. You don't want to miss walking here on your own or on a guided tour.

The Herb Society of America is located in Kirtland, founded in 1933 to expand the knowledge of herbs and their uses. We will attend a class at their 1841 building, learn about herbs and the history of the house and surrounding area.

The Geauga County Maple Festival will be happening at the same time at the square in Chardon. If you have never had a maple stir, now is your chance. We Chardonites consider the Maple Festival our kick-off to spring. You never know, we don't put our snow shovels away until mid May!

Check out these web sites to see some of what happens in Northeast Ohio: [www.holdenarb.org](http://www.holdenarb.org), [www.lakemetroparks.com](http://www.lakemetroparks.com), [www.geaugaparkdistrict.org](http://www.geaugaparkdistrict.org), [www.mormon.org](http://www.mormon.org), [www.maplefestival.com](http://www.maplefestival.com), [www.herbsociety.org](http://www.herbsociety.org). Did I mention wine? You'll be within 30 minutes of at least 15 wineries.

Campground arrangements are in the works: we plan to have a "family camping area", an "early to bed, early to rise" area and a "late nighters" area. We can't please everyone, but we can sure try. Stay tuned and mark your calendars for the Second Annual Buckeye TrailFest April 26-28, 2013.

To help get Buckeye TrailFest 2013 organized, we need volunteers for hikes, publicity, signs, campground host, photographer and anything not mentioned you would like to volunteer for. Program, speaker and hike suggestions are all welcome. Please help us make 2013 another great TrailFest! Contact Debbie Zampini, TrailFest Chairperson, at [half-marathoner@hotmail.com](mailto:half-marathoner@hotmail.com) or 440-567-1894. Look for an updated [www.bucketetrailfest.org](http://www.bucketetrailfest.org) website soon.

**THANK YOU  
TO THE "FRIENDS  
OF THE  
BUCKEYE TRAILFEST"**

Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Trailblazers  
Cincinnati Area Backpackers Meetup  
Tri-State Hiking Club.com  
Cincinnati Adventures & Volunteering  
Central Ohio Hikers & Backpackers  
Northeast Ohio Hiking Club  
Jim & Janet Bolton  
Cadiz Animal Clinic

*Calling all Hikers!*

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

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

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

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

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or  
Gray with BT Logo and  
map on back.

**Member Price \$15.00**



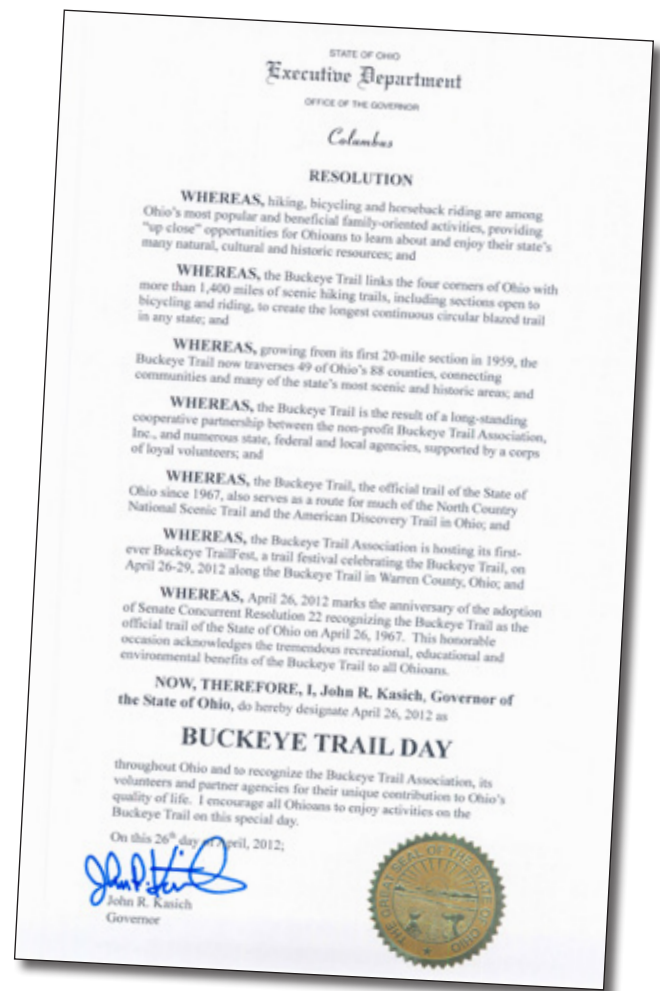
All items available at the Buckeye Trail Online Store at [www.buckeyetrail.org](http://www.buckeyetrail.org)

# April 26, 2012 Designated Buckeye Trail Day

Governor John Kasich designated April 26, 2012 as Buckeye Trail Day throughout Ohio. The honor recognizes that the “Buckeye Trail links the four corners of Ohio with more than 1400 miles of scenic hiking trails.” The resolution states that “hiking, bicycling and horseback riding are among Ohio’s most popular and beneficial family-oriented activities, providing “up close” opportunities for Ohioans to learn about and enjoy their state’s many natural cultural and historic resources.”

The BT is acknowledged to be “the result of a long-standing cooperative partnership between the non-profit Buckeye Trail Association and state, federal and local agencies, **supported by a group of loyal volunteers.**”

April 26, 2012 marks the anniversary of the adoption of Senate Concurrent Resolution 22 recognizing the Buckeye Trail as the official trail of the State of Ohio on April 26, 1967. This honorable occasion acknowledges the tremendous recreational, educational and environmental benefits of the Buckeye Trail to all Ohioans.



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

Barb Crompton (*Blue Blaze Bugle*)

During my hunt for the trail on my first hike I read about a Buckeye Trail kiosk at Deer Lick Cave. I must have missed the kiosk, but there was a sign explaining the BT and at that point marks the convergence of three sections: Akron, Bedford and Medina. Officially I started the Bedford section today, but, alas, I didn't know it and without an actual BT map I got turned around right off the bat. With all this wandering around I've had plenty of time to come up with "clever" sayings for myself. Today's was, "The problem with traveling the road less traveled by is that sometimes you get lost." Hubby contested, "You get to know the path less traveled by, because you travel it twice!" **Lesson #12** Listen to good advice the first time you hear it . . . get the BT maps!

Leaving Deer Lick I headed east then north down into a valley and then up out of it toward Riverview Road. I was able to get all caught up in the early fall scenery taking photos of newly turned leaves that had fallen onto beds of moss, interesting plants with delicate strands poking out from within with little pearl-like flowers strung on them and trees with funny holes bored low on their trunks.

At the corner of Chippewa Creek and Riverview Roads, wondering the best way back to my car, all these kids kept pouring

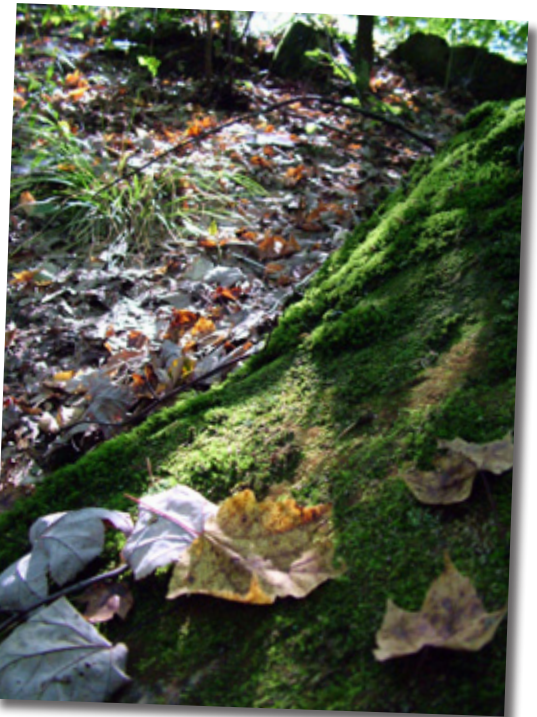
out from a hidden trail. I approached and asked one of them if he knew where he was, no, he was just following the crowd to a picnic. Walking up the line looking for an adult, one of the kids stopped and asked if I knew where their lunch was. Laughing, I told him no because I didn't know where I was! A few more kids came up to me staring intently at the bite valve and tubing from my Camelbak and inquired, "Is that one of those water backpacks?" Since it is tucked into a bigger hiking backpack it must have seemed ridiculously huge to them so I showed them how all of that worked. Finally an adult ran into me, a one-time BT hiker, who knew exactly where we all were, but couldn't recall where the BT went from here. I ended up walking with him and the last of the 7th graders to the Plateau Picnic Area, and from there, after saying my goodbyes, I kept heading back toward Deer Lick and my car asking joggers and walkers along the way for directions.

This was a short uneventful hike, thank heavens! I was wearing new boots and these long run-arounds over the last week were beginning to take their toll on my feet. **Lesson #13:** Never wear new shoes on long outings! Three hours later I got back to the car and decided to check out the next hike's section. I drove

back to and turned up Chippewa Creek Road and there behind this tall line of trees was the Brecksville RR Depot for the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railway! Now I know where all those 7th graders were coming from: they had come by train and were pouring out of the depot. As I parked the car in the station lot, Bill, an elderly gentleman, approached me asking if I was a park ranger. Dressed in dark green pants and orange scouting shirt, I thought I kind of looked like a park employee, but laughed that someone else actually thought so, too! He excitedly told me that he rode the CVSR and that before today had never been on a train of any type in his life! After we were done chatting it reminded me of my dad's advice: **Lesson #14:** If you listen for a while you're going to hear an interesting story. After looking over the lonely yellow station building I crossed the wrought iron Station Road Bridge to the towpath



Station Road Bridge in the Bedford section. At the request of the National Park Service, the Buckeye Trail is not blazed on the canal towpath, so watch for directions on signs! . . . and always carry a map



Barb Crompton

Sun-dappled woods in (or at least near) the Bedford section of the in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The moss adds color to the always-autumnal-colored duff.

Barb Crompton

I'd biked with the Scouts earlier this year. Although there were signs indicating the BT, I could find no blazes. I learned later that not all parks/paths permit blazing,



Deer Lick Cave is a rock overhang cave near the junction of the Akron, Bedford and Medina sections of the Buckeye Trail. The kiosk marking the three-way intersection was gone for years, and then replaced last year.

but that usually there will be some sign indicating which way to go. **Lesson #15:** Be flexible. Be open to things not being the way you expect them. Curious to know where the next blaze would appear, I got back in the car and followed the Ohio & Erie Canalway signs until I was back down alongside the towpath on Canal Road. I actually knew where I was there and there were blazes aplenty. Although I still did not have a clue which way was what, at least I knew that my next walk would find me along the canal that was steeped in local and national history. I was really excited at what I would learn next to pass along to the Scouts.

# Bill Johnson GUIDED TOURS USA • Europe • Canada

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## Barn Talk

Mary Hamilton

In Spring 2012 Andy Niekamp and about 20 people spent a weekend at the barn. Unfortunately, they endured a broken filter on the water system resulting in no running water. All survived. Since that time, the problem has been fixed.

In March, we held a 4½-day work party. Three dorms in the Barn were finished: walls were erected, lights, fans and doors installed and two bunks assembled. New steps to that side of the Barn and safety rails were installed. Outside, four poles were placed to install eight bat boxes at the Barn. At this date, two of the boxes have been put up. We need a piece of heavy equipment to install the others, as they need a high lift to raise them.

The septic tanks are now ready for the summer activities and the fall work party.



Approximately 317 hours were donated to complete the above projects. Barn workers said they did their work in memory of late Barn Coordinator Russ Johnson.

Mike Johnson, Russ's son, has left a canoe at the Barn for use by those staying at the Barn. We will have to get a water craft

sticker for this year.

A reminder to members of the July 21-22 BTA Annual Picnic at the Barn. The actual meal will be on Saturday 7/21 about 4:00 pm, but come any time during the weekend and stay the night to enjoy swimming, hiking, biking, fishing, or just to relax.

## COMING EVENTS 2012

November 3—Erie Shores'  
University of Scouting

November—Heart of Ohio  
University of Scouting

## BT EAGLE SCOUTS

Ben Gotthardt 2012

Ryan Bland 2010

Alex Bowman 2010

Josh Cox 2007

Brandon Rose 2009

Camp Asbury

Parker Cole 2011

Josh Budin 2008

Daniel Budin 2010

## BTA PRESENCE AT SCOUTING SHOW

Steve Hughes, Jeffrey Gifford and Bruce "Poppie" Purdy manned a BTA Scouting booth at the Baden Powell Institute in Middleburg Heights March 31. Over 150 adult Scout leaders attended. I presented a class to leaders ideas covering planning hikes and work projects on the Buckeye Trail, and ideas for helping Scouts earn advancement on their "Trail to Eagle". Other presentations are scheduled around Ohio.

## SCOUTING PROJECT? CONTACT THE BTA

If you know of a Scouting project, please contact the Buckeye Trail's Scouting Liaison at [scouting@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:scouting@buckeyetrail.org). BTA's Scouting Liaison office is working with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. We'd love to hear from you!

## MYSTERY SCOUT PROJECT

This is an Eagle project completed in 2011 at Whipps Ledges in the Hinckley Reservation. Do you know the Scout who completed this walkway? If you do, contact Poppie, [scouting@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:scouting@buckeyetrail.org).



Bruce "Poppie" Purdy

# Scouts Follow the Blue

Bruce "Poppie" Purdy, Buckeye Trail Association Scouting Liaison

## EAGLE SCOUT, THEN AND NOW

Alex Bowman

Though I have long forgotten their names, I will always remember the two men who inspired me in scouting and life. The first was the husband of my den mother: he was an engineer who often talked to us about having hobbies including collecting, having learned this from Albert Einstein (whom he had known). I went home that day and started a coin collection.

The second was my den leader in Webelos. Prior to this time, my den leaders had been the mothers of the Cub Scouts. When we advanced in scouting, we had a male leader who taught us outdoor skills to prepare us for scouting. We learned knot tying and camping skills necessary for the Tenderfoot badge in scouting.

My grandson is now 10 years old and Webelos age. The BSA has long insisted that the Cub Scouts are not a younger version of the Boy Scouts. Webelos use much of the same terminology as the older Scouts and can even wear the Boy Scout uniform instead of the Cub Scout blue shirt. They no longer use the Tenderfoot book I did when I was in the Webelos den in 1960. In 1960 our time with the Webelos den was 17% of the three-year Cub Scout program. My grandson will spend 33% of his time with his Webelos den.

The name WeBeLoS (for the ranks of Wolf, Bear, Lion Scout) dates back to start of Cub Scouts in 1930. It was the name of the made-up "tribe" to which the boys belonged. After the Lion rank was dropped in 1967, the name stands for "We'll Be Loyal Scouts."

Cub Scouts encourage parents to work closely with their sons as they earn advancements. As Cub Scouts progress they earn beads; with those beads, they receive the rank badge. Webelos mirror the Scouts more by earning activity badges prior to earning the Webelos rank. The Scouts choose badges according to their interests, with only a couple that are mandatory.

While Cub Scouts camp only as a pack with their parents, Webelos camp as much as possible to give them opportunities to earn the Outdoorsman, Naturalist, Forestry and Readyman badges. Most councils have a one- or two-night camp every summer.

Webelos start out in a den, then the den becomes a patrol. The adult den leader starts to turn control of the "patrol" over to the youth "patrol" leader, skills they will use in youth led troops in the Boy Scouts.

I look forward to walking the trails with my grandson's new Webelos den. Hopefully someday, a Scout leader will remember me as his Webelos den leader and prepare their son's or grandson's den to "Hike Ohio" on the Buckeye Trail.



Bruce "Poppie" Purdy

A future Scout leader, or a future inspiration to another boy?



# Blazes On Their Trail to Eagle

## EAGLE SCOUT, THEN AND NOW

Alex Bowman

On June 12, 2010 I did my Eagle Scout Project. After exploring many options, I decided to do something on the Buckeye Trail. After discussing it with BTA Maintenance Supervisor Jim Sprague, I decided to build ten benches and place them on the Buckeye Trail near Defiance. I started by organizing a group and getting exact bench locations.

The appointed weekend, the Scouts I worked with and I built all the benches at the camp along the Auglaize River where we were staying. The benches we planned to place close to the road we built at camp and carried to their destinations. The benches we would place farther from the road we carried to their locations in pieces and assembled there. We built the benches from a blueprint that we found on the internet. Each bench took roughly 45 minutes to build because we had to cut the wood to the correct length, as well as assemble.

Once the benches were built, it took us roughly five hours to set them in their chosen places. Some of the places the whole group went together; others we split up into two groups so we could get the job done more efficiently. We secured the benches with a chain to an iron rod buried underground to prevent theft. Several months later, my father and I placed plaques on each bench. At that time all of the benches were still where we placed them. Sixteen people assisted me with the project, totaling 176 man-hours.

Since completing the project, I graduated high school and finished my freshman year at Ohio State University. My goal is to be a pilot; I have enjoyed aviation for as long as I can remember. I have earned my Private Pilot Certificate and am presently working to earn the Instrument Rating. Becoming an Eagle Scout truly helped shape who I am and prepared me for my future.



Bruce "Poppie" Purdy

One of ten benches provided by Eagle Scout Alex Bowman along the Auglaize River

## EAGLE BRIDGE PROJECT AT WEST BRANCH STATE PARK



Bruce "Poppie" Purdy



Kim Kupp

Ben Gottard supervised construction of this bridge spanning a marshy area at West Branch State Park in Portage County. In the photo above at right, Ben is presented with the 2011 Buckeye Trail Eagle Grant by Bruce "Poppie" Purdy. West Branch State Park is in the Buckeye Trail's Mogadore section. It is home to nearly 10 miles of the Buckeye Trail. West Branch is also where the Trail Crew is in a multi-year project to build even more off-road Buckeye Trail. Thank you, Ben, for thinking of the Buckeye Trail Association for your Eagle project!

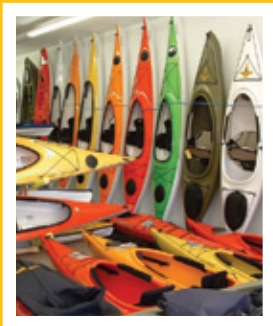
# Become a Library Patron

You can adopt a trail section to maintain, and now you can adopt a library! We want to put the *Trailblazer* in your local library! Why? It is important to let as many people as possible know about the Buckeye Trail and the BTA. Our top-notch *Trailblazer* on the shelf is sure to be noticed.

But we need your help!

Libraries today have very limited budgets to acquire new material. The Buckeye Trail Association also has a limited budget. So we are asking you to sponsor your local library (and others if you wish) as a Buckeye Trail Library Patron. For \$10.00 (our cost), you can provide *Trailblazer* to your library for the coming year. We will send the library a card announcing your gift with their first copy.

Please go to <http://library.buckeyetrail.org> to see how you can help us get the word out!



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# Welcome New Members!



Bev and Jerry Starcher

Firelands Rails to Trails, Norwalk  
Ohio Horseman's Council, Fredericktown  
Darleen Adkins, Hamilton  
Wes Bacon, Huber Heights  
Timothy and Monique Barnett, Ashland  
Timothy Barry, Vandalia  
David Bells, *Gift from Larry Bells*, Maineville  
Andrea Bhatia, Beavercreek  
Manav Bhatia, Beavercreek  
Christina Bloom, Lebanon  
Barry Bloom, Lebanon  
Thomas Blower, Athens  
Nancy Brame, McArthur  
Bonnie Briggs, Lynx  
Robert Butler and Family, Frazeyburg  
Sandy Colgate, Miamisburg  
Todd Collins, Kettering  
Doug Crandall, Westerville  
Erik Dahlstrom, Five Rivers MetroParks,  
Dayton  
Randy Diefenthal, Fairport Harbor  
Dianne Doss, Urbana  
Jennifer Durkin, Washington, DC  
Yvonne Entingh, Bellbrook  
Rob Evans, Xenia  
Joshua Ferguson, Piedmont  
Brian Fink, Sylvania  
Eileen Gerson, Fairborn  
Jilberto Gonzalez, Clinton  
Elia Himes, Dayton  
Keith Hood and Family, Lancaster  
Suzan Hooper, West Liberty  
Carol Imboden, Ashville  
Virginia Jacobs, Mount Orab

Michael Jacobs, Mount Orab  
Ted Jacobson, Athens  
Marc and Ruth Jewell, Kettering  
Heather Johnson, Loveland  
Kay Kravcisin, Mantua  
Jeffery Mann, Fairview Park  
Karen Martin, Milford  
Barbara Matthews, West Carrollton  
Stephen Meyer, Mentor  
Litsa Mortensen, Covington, KY  
John Nemcik and Family, Bloomdale  
Gary Newman and Family, Chillicothe  
Sonia Oberlander, Kettering  
Chuck Okorowski, Sidney  
Michelle Ortman, Springfield  
Jesus and Shannon Osorio, Aurora  
Jeri Perry, Hopewell  
Tim Perry, Hopewell  
Mary Reed, Athens  
Brian Reus, Auburn, IN  
JoAnne Schindler, Willowick  
Peter and Gudrun Seifert, Middletown  
Dan Selle, Painesville  
Nancy Shepherd, West Salem  
Judy Smith, Waynesville  
Jim and Pat Spain, Freeport  
Michael Stokes, Massillon  
Renae Treon, Kettering  
Warren Turley and Family, Dublin  
K. Dale Vest, Millersport  
Vicky Vonolle and Family, Morrow  
Margaret Winningham and Family, Dayton  
Robert Wood and Family, Sunbury

# BTA Funds Report

## TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND

02/01/2012-04/30/2012

Daniel Woodard

## GENERAL FUND

1/01/2012-3/31/2012

Janet Allen

Rita Amstadt

Kevin and Mary Jo Bowman

M. Willard Briggs

Terry Calcutt

John Childers

Miner Dickason

Garry Dill

Maria Dimengo

Cecil and JoAnne Dobbins

Ellen Fitch

Susan Fitch, *in honor of*

*John Fitch's circuit hike completion*

Tom Gilbert

Mary Ruth Green

Marion Harper

Jim Hoops

Gail Johnson

Kenneth Katona

Kroger Community Rewards

David Martien

Andy Niecamp

Malena Phillips

Pfizer Foundation,

*matching gift of Laura*

*Dill and Dan Morton*

George Reed

Kent Spieth

Robert Thomas

Fred Tritschler

Bob and Alberta Urbanic

Patricia Vance

Windy Hills Farm

## BARN

1/1/2012-3/31/2012

Mary Hamilton

## SCHOLARSHIP

1/1/2012-3/31/2012

## Discount on Blaze Paint

**WHAT** Either Sweeping Blue 2408 or Yuma Green 2090  
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**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



## 32nd Annual Buckeye Trail Winter Hike

How's this photo for a cool-down? Over 100 people hiked at Findley State Park in BT's Medina section on February 4. The Friends of Findley State Park hosted hikes, then served bean soup and corn bread under a new pavilion at the park.

## 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/adapters.html>

Lindy McDonough



## Wright-Patt Open House Highlights Ohio Outdoors

Pat Hayes manned BTA's exhibit at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base's Outdoor Recreation Open House on April 13. The open house provides an opportunity for the base's military and civilian workers to see what is available in the Miami Valley region for all types of outdoor pursuits. This is the fourth year that the BTA has been represented at the event.



## 2011's Annual Soup Sampler Hike in Northeast Ohio

This Soup Sampler Hike has been a tradition for Lynn Jones and her late husband Andy for many years. It wasn't as cold and snowy as some years, but the hiking and the soup were great.

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## 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)



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

## Highlights of the BTA Board Meeting— March 10, 2012

### TREASURER'S REPORT— CONNIE POND

- Since the BTA is growing the treasurer's office is in need of someone with bookkeeping or accounting experience to assist. This person would deal with applications for money (ESO), reporting to board and government agencies, budgeting stuff (in accounting language, this is write-up), along with completing an IRS 990.

### SPECIAL REPORT ON BURR OAK ISSUES—ANDREW BASHAW

- A lengthy letter has been sent to Glen Cobb, Acting Chief of Division Parks and Recreation at Ohio Department of Natural Resources, regarding the BTA's deep concern about the proposal to develop Burr Oak State Park into an ATV-focused park. The goal is to stay in communication with ODNR.

### SCOUTING REPORT— BRUCE "POPPIE" PURDY

- BTA scouting brochures designed by Darlene Karoly and Poppie that will be used at scout shows.

### GIS AND CARTOGRAPHY TEAM REPORT—RICHARD LUTZ

- Drafts of the Trail Town Maps for Milford, Brecksville, and Shawnee were distributed.
- The cartography team agreed to provide the trail line in GPX and km file format for free online.

### MILLENNIAL BARN REPORT— MARY HAMILTON

- Projects for 2012: walls, wiring, fans and lights in the last three dorm rooms; lights in the display room; repair of the upper culvert on the trail to the pond.

### MEMBERS ACTIVITY COMMITTEE (MAC)—JOHN RETHMAN

- The fall trip will be from September 8-15.

## Highlights of the BTA Board Meeting— April 29, 2012

### NEW BUSINESS

- Byron Guy stressed the importance of getting others linked with the BTA Website. Adrian Vanko stated the importance of having reciprocal links.
- Steve Miller requested a budget increase to purchase hardware for permanent records storage on a server offsite. After some discussion approval was given.

## Highlights of the Annual Business Meeting— April 29, 2012

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT— ANDREW BASHAW

- Clean Ohio Trail Funds hadn't been available during 2011, but \$6,000,000 is available in 2012.
- The possibility of ATV development in Burr Oak State Park
- So far more than \$35,000 had been donated to the Member Challenge Fund.
- Trail projects that have been completed included Strait Creek on Nature Conservancy property in the Sinking Springs section along with 20 miles of trail along the Miami Erie Canal Towpath in northwest Ohio. During 2012 the trail project in AEP Lands in southeastern Ohio will be completed.
- The Buckeye Trail project at West Branch State Park in northeastern Ohio is ongoing.
- Approval had just been given to move 14 miles of trail in southern Adams County to connect to Shawnee State Forest. This project will be started in the spring of 2013.
- Three Hiker To Go maps, including Fort Ancient, Burr Oak and Hocking Hills had been produced.
- The BTA Website had been updated.
- Andrew thanked the TrailFest Committee for all of their work and stated that he had heard many comments about how the Trailblazer looked very professional. Andrew's focus in 2012 will be fundraising and financial management.

- Richard Lutz is an AmeriCorps volunteer working with the BTA under Andrew. Richard works with Rory Robinson from the Cuyahoga Valley National Park to upgrade the BTA volunteer program. He is also working on forming BTA chapters.

### TRAIL MANAGEMENT— PAT HAYES

- As the interim chairman of the Trail Management Team, Pat stated that the main priority is to find someone to take the position of State Trail Coordinator.

### NEW BUSINESS

- Rory Robinson reported that the Cuyahoga Valley National Park is in the process of making a Comprehensive Trail Management Plan. Public meetings to get input will be held in June and July.

### OLD BUSINESS

- Connie Pond introduced Linda Paul from EarthShare, which provides people the alternative to give to environmental organizations through their workplace giving. In turn the BTA receives funds through EarthShare. If anyone knows of a possible company, they should get the name of the company to Linda.
- When people shop at Krogers they are encouraged to use their Kroger Plus Card as the BTA receives donations through the Kroger Community Rewards Program.

### TRAIL CREW AWARDS— JIM SPRAGUE

- **30 Hours of Service:** Chris Adamson, Liz DeBaal, Charlie Downard, Matt Funk, Paul Imhoff, Jack Krueger, Steve Latta, Linda Miller, Bob Morrison and Jim Otto.
- **Patches for 100 Hours of Service:** Jim Brown, Nancy Burkholder, Erich Drescher, Amy Fyn, Byron Guy, Jamie Guy, Carl Hall, Byron Henry, Bill Jindra, Joe Krueger, Richard Lutz and Brian Myers.
- **250 Hours of Service:** Jim Gilky, Del Ruckle, Susan Stover and Jeff Yoest.
- **500 Hours of Service:** John Rethman.
- **1,000 Hours of Service:** Pat Hayes and Jay Holwick.

### ELECTION RESULTS

The five people elected to the board to serve a three-year term ending in 2015 were Elizabeth Bender, John Knouse, Deven Atkinson, Adrian Vanko, and Debbie Zampini.

## 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](mailto: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.

## GOOD-BYE FROM THE BRAMBLE #62

by Dana Zintek

1. Shawnee
2. Rider Inn
3. Piqua
4. Conotton

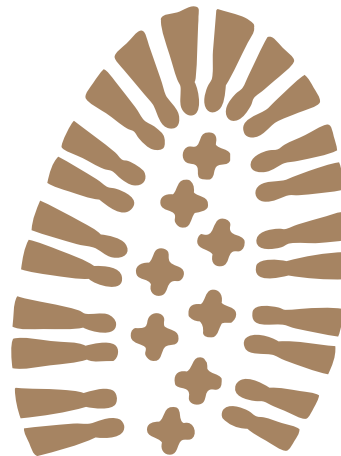
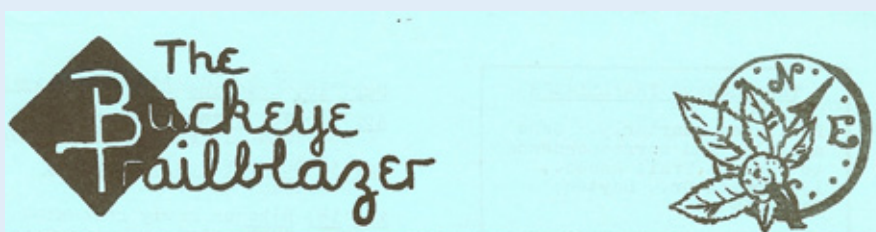
Bramble: THE ROAD TO RUIN  
WINNER: ANDREA BARTEL FROM NORTH OLMSTED

## BTeasers

**Q** When did the *Trailblazer* change from this older masthead to a new masthead and who was responsible for the new design?



**A** The January 1985 issue of the *Trailblazer* carried the new masthead (Volume 18, No. 1) created by BTA member Milford Bowen of New Knoxville, OH.



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## Report Your Volunteer Hours Online!

We now have a new way to report those ever important volunteer hours.

Every year there are volunteers who don't report their hard earned hours. These reports help the program maintain and apply for additional funds.

Please take a few minutes to check out the online system.

This online reporting tool is available at  
[buckeyetrail.org/volunteerhours.html](http://buckeyetrail.org/volunteerhours.html)