

Trailblazer



FOUNDED 1959
SUMMER 2013 VOLUME 46 NO. 2

Buckeye TrailFest 2013

At our cookout at Penitentiary Glenn Reservation on Friday evening of the Buckeye TrailFest, Lake Metropark staff, Wendy Petting let us know on all the tables were little canvases and Sharpies of all colors. We were asked to draw what Earth Day meant to us. Wendy and staff will be making a large collage on a wall at the visitor center

with the canvases not only created by Buckeye TrailFest participants but also many created thru other programs and events.



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BTA Scholarship News

Elmo Layman

We were privileged this year to have two outstanding applicants for the BTA scholarships. The first is **Maria Dimengo**, who lives in the Cleveland area and is completing her masters degree in nonprofit management at Case Western Reserve. Maria is writing grants for nonprofit organizations that are working in conservation projects, developing strategies for them to sustain themselves into the future. We wish her well in her career.

Our other scholarship winner is **Matthew McLain** from Oxford, Ohio. He is completing his master's degree program at Ohio University. His degree work is in environmental education; he hopes to work for the US Forest Service. Matt will be working this summer with youth in the Student Conservation Association on a project in California. Matt has had two unique experiences: in 2010 he thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail and in 2012 he thru-canoeed the Mississippi River. Matt stated on his scholarship application that he views trails as a major way to protect our natural landscape and help others interact with nature in an ever-detached world. We also wish Matt success in his chosen field.



**SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:
MARIA DIMENGO AND
MATTHEW MCLAIN**



Trailblazer

Published Quarterly by the
Buckeye Trail Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 254
Worthington, Ohio 43085
Circulation: 1,200

Lisa Daiber
Editor

Darlene Karoly
Production

DEADLINES

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

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Disclaimer: The articles and all information in this publication have been prepared with utmost care. However, neither the Buckeye Trail Association nor the Editor can guarantee accuracy or completeness of information. Opinions expressed in the articles, columns and paid advertising are not necessarily those of the BTA.

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John Knouse, *Darryl Smith, Adrian Vanko*

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Election Results

It would be fitting to thank the four outgoing trustees for their years of service and to congratulate the re-elected and new trustees. Patrick Hayes and Byron Henry were re-elected. Franchot Ballinger, Dan Crandall and LizDeBaal were elected to three-year terms. Scott Kamph was appointed for a term of two years to fill the seat vacated by Elizabeth Bender. Here is some biographical information about the four new trustees.

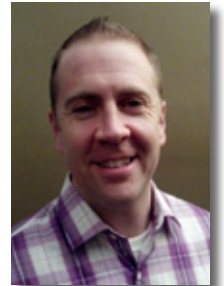
Franchot Ballinger, Cincinnati, OH

"I retired from the University of Cincinnati at the beginning of 2004 after a 37 year career teaching English. Since 2005 I have been a spiritual care volunteer at a Hospice of Cincinnati in-patient unit. I have been a Cincinnati Nature Center volunteer for 30 years. My wife, Henrietta, and I became life-time BTA members in 2005."



Dan Crandall, Cleveland, OH

Dan is currently the Cleveland Metroparks Manager of Visitor Services. Last year, Dan created a new Metroparks Kids Club encouraging kids to make a connection with nature through activities, exploration and special events. Dan is also an accomplished runner, and has participated in 5ks, half-marathons, triathlons and the Cleveland Marathon. "I believe my background and work experience with Cleveland Metroparks and being able to handle multiple tasks simultaneously make me a great candidate for the BTA Board of Trustees. I have a proven track record for creating and implementing new ideas and I take pride in the finished product. I appreciate the nomination and look forward to serving on the board."



Liz DeBaal, Holland, OH

"I just moved to the Toledo area to work for Owens-Illinois. I've worked in the glass industry for 11 years. I've been a member of the BTA for two years and participated in several Buckeye Trail Crew work parties each year. I went on my first three-day backpacking trip on the BT last summer. I first got involved in trail building in 2009 with the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA) in Wisconsin. I served as Chapter Coordinator for my local IATA chapter in 2010. I enjoy the camaraderie and sense of purpose in the BTA, and work parties are lots of fun! I would like to play a larger role in the growth and development of the organization to build and promote the Buckeye Trail."



Scott A. Kamph, Oberlin, OH

Scott is a recently retired Air Traffic Controller, has a B.A. in Business Administration, and has served as a Volunteer Fireman and EMT, and a private pilot. Scott has been active with the Boy Scouts of America since 1998, currently serving as a Committee Member and Troop Treasurer. "I enjoy being outdoors, camping, hiking, boat-ing and fishing. I have hiked or biked 50+ miles of the BT over the years. Now that I am retired, I will be able to devote more time to the BTA. I worked on three Buckeye Trail Crew work parties in 2012 and really enjoyed building and maintaining trail and look forward to more events this year. By being on the BTA Board, it would provide a larger perspective on the Association's discussions and decisions."



Schedule of Hikes & Events



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

JUNE

June 1 NATIONAL TRAILS DAY, Buckeye Trail at Lockington Dam and Miami-Erie Canal. St. Marys Section.

Starts: 10:00 AM. A brief presentation by Neal Brady, Executive Director of Miami-Erie Canal Corridor Association (MECCA) and others at the site of Lock 1 South (St. Marys section point 1). After presentation, hike the BT and scale the 69-foot face of Lockington Dam. Hike continues on BT to the Miami-Erie Canal towpath. Along the towpath, you will see remaining abutments of a former railroad overpass; cross a bridge built by BTA; a canal culvert, definitely worth exploring; an original canal stone mile-marker, and continue to Stangel Road before returning to Lockington Reserve Park.

Total hiking distance: Approximately 6 miles.

Camping: Arrive early Friday evening; Primitive camping is available at Lockington Reserve Park (pit toilets, picnic shelter, etc.).

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

Directions: St. Marys section point 2 for parking. (camping, if needed). St. Marys point 1 for start of hike.

Contact: Preston Bartlett at stmarys@buckeyetrail.org, Neal Brady, meccadirector@nktelco.net

June 1-2 BTA Work Party, Independence Dam Shelter, Defiance Section.

Contact: Trail Management Team, stc@buckeyetrail.org

June 8 BTA Board Meeting at Command Alkon. Starts 10:00 AM. Contact: Melissa Reed, president@buckeyetrail.org

June 15-19 BTA Work Party Week, Edge of Appalachia, West Union Section.

Location: Edge of Appalachia in West Union Section.

Description: Work week to build new trail in the Edge of Appalachia in the West Union Section. This is the first phase of a long-term project to build 10-15 miles of off road trail in southern Ohio.

Camping: TBD

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

Contact: Trail Management Team, stc@buckeyetrail.org

June 22-23 BTA Work Party, West Branch State Park, Mogadore Section.

Description: Build trail, may put in a culvert, boardwalk and bridge.

Camping: West Branch State Park Horse Camp Area, the north side of the lake.

Directions: From Rock Spring Rd. turn east onto Copeland Rd. In 0.5 miles turn left (N) onto unnamed road leading to horse camps in 2.25 miles. Campground GPS coordinates: Lat 41° 8.999'N Lon 81° 6.751'W. Showers will be available at the main campgrounds for anyone helping us. THE GATE to the Horse Camp area will NOT be open until 6:00 PM on Friday. Please time your arrival.

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

Directions: 2013 Buckeye Trail Crew Work Parties, Google Maps

Contact: Steve Latza, green.boonie@gmail.com

June 22-23 Emma "Grandma" Gatewood Solstice (EGGS) Hike, New Straitsville Section. Hike all day in Burr Oak State Park.

Contact: Byron Guy, oldmancave@buckeyetrail.org

June 29-30 BTA Work Party, US-35 Trail Rebuild Work Party, Scioto Trail Section.

Description: Reestablish trail in logged-out area between Scioto Trail points 12-13 (March 2010 map) (between hikers' culvert under US-35 and Hang Glide Hill). Saturday, we leave camp for the work site at 8:00 AM and quit work at 3:00 PM. Sunday, we leave camp for the work site at 8:00 AM and work until noon.

Camping: Abandoned air strip in Scioto Trail State Forest. A shower and port-a-john will be provided

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

Contact: Trail Management Team, stc@buckeyetrail.org

JULY

July 13-14 BTA Work Party, West Branch State Park, Mogadore Section.

Description: Building trail; may put in a culvert, a boardwalk and bridge.

Camping: West Branch State Park Horse Camp Area on the north side of the lake.

Directions: From Rock Spring Rd. turn east onto Copeland Rd. In 0.5 miles turn left (N) onto unnamed road leading to horse camps in 2.25 miles. Campground GPS coordinates: Lat 41° 8.999'N Lon 81° 6.751'W. Showers will be available at the main campgrounds for anyone helping us. THE GATE to the Horse Camp area will NOT be open until 6:00PM on Friday. Please time your arrival.

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

Directions: 2013 Buckeye Trail Crew Work Parties, Google Maps

Contact: Steve Latza, green.boonie@gmail.com

July 13-14 BTA Work Party, Pretty Run, Old Mans Cave Section.

Description: We will be performing general trail maintenance on the BTA property at Pretty Run in Vinton County. Boots and work gloves are recommended. Saturday, work will start at 8:00 AM and quit at 3:00 PM. Sunday, work will start at 8:00 AM and quit at noon.

Camping: Camping will be on the Pretty Run property. A portable shower will be available.

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

Contact: Trail Management Team, stc@buckeyetrail.org

July 14-18 Gospel Road Work Camp, Bowerston Section.

Description: The Gospel Road of the Catholic Diocese hosts a work camp on the Buckeye Trail near the BTA Barn. The plans are for at least 25 seniors and adults to be out at the barn to work. Clear trail to the park is cleared. We will leave camp at 8:00 AM for work sites. Tools will be supplied by the BTA. Another project: Clendening and perhaps Piedmont.

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

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.

Camping: Near Tappan Lake at the BTA Century Barn. Sleep with the bats in the Barn or bring a tent or small camper.

Contact Mary Hamilton, hamilton3310@roadrunner.com, for FREE meal reservation provided by the BTA Barn Kitchen.

Contact: Trail Management Team, stc@buckeyetrail.org

July 20 BTA Picnic, BTA Barn, Bowerston Section. Contact: Mary Hamilton, hamilton3310@roadrunner.com

AUGUST

August 23–25 BTA Board Retreat, BTA Barn, Bowerston Section. Contact: Melissa Reed, president@buckeyetrail.org

August 24–25 BTA Work Party, West Branch State Park, Mogadore Section. Description: We will mainly be building new trail; perhaps install culvert, boardwalk, bridge.

Camping: West Branch State Park Horse Camp Area on the north side of the lake.

Directions: From Rock Spring Rd. turn east onto Copeland Rd. In 0.5 miles turn left (N) onto unnamed road leading to horse camps in 2.25 miles. Campground GPS coordinates: Lat 41° 8.999'N Lon 81° 6.751'W. Showers will be available at the main campgrounds for anyone helping us. THE GATE to the Horse Camp area will NOT be open until 6:00 PM on Friday. Please time your arrival.

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

Directions: 2013 Buckeye Trail Crew Work Parties, Google Maps

Contact: Steve Latza, green.boonie@gmail.com.

August 31–September-2

BTA Work Party, Pretty Run/Tar Hollow, Old Mans Cave Section. Description: We will be constructing a backpacking shelter on the Pretty Run property in Vinton County as well as constructing a BT foot bridge near the maintenance building on Tar Hollow State Forest property. Saturday-Sunday we will start work at 8:00 AM and quit at 3:00 PM. Monday: start work at 8:00 AM and quit at noon.

Camping: Pretty Run property, portable shower will be available.

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

Contact: Trail Management Team, stc@buckeyetrail.org

SEPTEMBER

September 14–18 BTA Work Party Week, West Branch State Park, Mogadore Section. *BTA Chuck Wagon Event* Description: Build new and maintaining existing Buckeye Trail in West Branch State Park. We will leave camp at 8:00 AM for work site.

Camping: West Branch State Park Horse Camp Area on the north side of the lake.

Directions: From Rock Spring Rd. turn east onto Copeland Rd. In 0.5 miles turn left (N) onto unnamed road leading to horse camps in 2.25 miles. Campground GPS coordinates: Lat 41° 8.999'N Lon 81° 6.751'W

Contact: Jay Holwick, holwick@columbus.rr.com for FREE meal reservation for first 20 volunteers.

Contact: Trail Management Team, stc@buckeyetrail.org

September 28–29 BTA Work Party, Next to Serpent Mound, Sinking Spring Section.

Description: Construct a backpacking shelter on property adjacent to Serpent Mound State Memorial. Saturday: Work will start at 8:00 AM and quit at 3:00 PM. Sunday: Work will start at 8:00 AM and quit at noon.

Camping: Camping will be at the work site.

Meals: Bring your own food and water

Contact: Trail Management Team, stc@buckeyetrail.org

OCTOBER

October 12–13 BTA Work Party, Burr Oak State Park, New Straitsville Section.

BTA Chuck Wagon Event

Description: Improve existing BT throughout the New Straitsville Section. We will leave camp for work site at 8:30 AM.

Camping: Burr Oak State Park Group Campground near Boat Dock 3. From OH-78 on the east side of Burr Oak Lake, take C-14 (Mountville Rd.) west toward the lake and the group campground.

Contact: Jay Holwick, holwick@columbus.rr.com, for FREE meal reservation.

Contact: Trail Management Team, stc@buckeyetrail.org

October 20 44th Annual Walk With Nature, Memorial Park, St. Marys, Ohio.

Along the Miami-Erie Canal Towpath Trail (BT/NCT). Registration for the "Walk with Nature" and "Road to Fitness" will be in Memorial Park in downtown St. Marys.

Description: Noon-5:00 PM, the "Walk with Nature" is a pleasant, level walk along the Miami-Erie Canal Towpath and can begin or end at several points. The length of the walk can be 3.3 miles-10 miles. Buses are available

for transport to and from starting and stopping points. The Towpath extends north from St. Marys, Memorial Park to 40-acre pond and on to Lock 14.

Note: Last year this hiking event had over 1,300 participants.

Note: Inquire about being transported out to one of the ending points of the hike and hike back into town. By doing so, you will not have to wait for transportation back from the end of the hike.

Directions: Downtown St. Marys.

Contact: Preston Bartlett, stmarys@buckeyetrail.org, or St. Marys Area Chamber of Commerce, stmo@bright.net, 419-394-4611.

October 26–30 BTA Work Party Week, Cuyahoga Valley State Park, Akron Section.

Description: We will be working in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park to improve trail in wet areas by building puncheon boardwalk and a bridge. Work will start at 8:30 AM and quit at 3:30 PM.

Camping: TBD

Meals: Bring your own food and water

Contact: Trail Management Team, stc@buckeyetrail.org

NOVEMBER

November 9–10 BTA Work Party, Hocking Hills State Park, Old Mans Cave Section. Description: We will be working in Hocking Hills State Park to reroute the BT near the SR-664 the entrance to the park. (OMC point 19, November 2010 map). Saturday: Start work 8:30 AM and quit at 3:30 PM. Sunday: Start work at 8:30 AM and quit at 12:30 PM on

Camping: TBD

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

Contact: Trail Management Team, stc@buckeyetrail.org

DECEMBER

December 14 BTA Board Meeting.

Location: Command Alkon in Columbus, 10:00 AM. Contact: Melissa Reed, 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

Little Loop Tales

Stories from those who have completed the Little Loop

Debbie Zampini

STEVE HUGHES: Completed 9/23/2012

RANDAL ROBERTS: Completed 8/25/2012

Took 41 hikes, 3 years, 9 months, 18 days, average speed to be 39.7 feet per hour. Just go to show you, don't worry about how long it might take, just get out and do it.

CAROL MESSENGER, AL MESSENGER, PAUL LENZ (AT HIKER FROM PA): Completed 6/20/2010

MATTHEW DEXTER EDMONDS: Completed in 2011

Thoughts from Matthew: "If we're going uphill, we must be on the Buckeye Trail."

Best Hiker Town: Deersville.

Best Hike: "Last hike I was on".

Congratulations! Next patch, the rest of the trail!



BTA Little Loop Patches Available

Have you hiked BTA's Little Loop but did not get a patch? Is the Little Loop in your future plans? Here is incentive to get it done! Contact Debbie Zampini, half-marathoner@hotmail.com with date of completion and maybe a photo to receive your patch at no charge. Please put "Little Loop Patch" in the subject line.

Happy hiking!

Have You Hiked the Whole Buckeye Trail?

What is it? A patch for any hiker who has completed the entire Buckeye Trail.

How do I get a patch? By hiking the Buckeye Trail, of course. After finishing the Buckeye Trail, contact me at the address below and I'll send you a questionnaire or download a form at <http://www.buckeyetrail.org/circuithike.html>. Fill it out and a patch will be sent to you in 10 business days.

Can I get more than one patch? The first patch is free; any extra patches are \$3.00 each.

Who is eligible for a patch? Any person who has completed the Buckeye Trail any time in the Buckeye Trail's history. As long as you finished the entire Buckeye Trail, no matter what its length was when you finished.

We want to know. Just fill out the questionnaire. BTA is interested in people who have hiked the whole Trail.

Dana Zintek, zintronics@aol.com, 330-928-8931



Bits & Pieces

The Trailblazer Needs Your Help!

Please join the Trailblazer staff. Edit or layout 4 issues per year. You'll get the first look at what's happening on Ohio's Buckeye Trail!

Please contact trailblazer@buckeyetrail.org or graphics@buckeyetrail.org for more information.



*North
Country Trail
Association's 2013
Annual Conference
August 12-17
Slippery Rock
University*



*BTA Annual Picnic
Buckeye Trail Barn
July 20*

*June 22-23
Emma "Grandma"
Gatewood Solstice
(EGGS) Hike*





BuckeyeTrailFest.org

Buckeye TrailFest 2013

Deb Zampini, Chairperson 2013 BTF

What do you say when a great event comes to an end? Yahoo, let's get ready for 2014! Buckeye TrailFest 2013 was a great success!

I want to thank all who gave of their time to make this event happen, the VOLUNTEERS: at the site, behind the scenes, all the instructors and program leaders, the speakers, camp staff and all the Lake Metroparks staff and volunteers. A special thank you to the Lake Erie Live Steamers for sharing their passion with us.

It was a pleasure to chair this event, sad to have it end, but rather than ramble on, pictures speak louder than words. Thank you all!

Deb Zampini, Dina Rossi, and many more whose names we do not have.







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!

Get Ready for Buckeye TrailFest 2014!

Buckeye TrailFest 2014 will be at Camp Akita on the fringes of the Hocking Hills in northwest Hocking County. This is an exceptional camp facility with great accommodations convenient to many local trail venues.

We will feature a great variety of outings in the Old Man's Cave, New Straitsville and Shawnee sections of the Buckeye Trail. You'll have the opportunity to explore Burr Oak and Strouds Run and State Parks, Hocking Hills, Pretty Run Preserve, Clear Creek Metro Park, Crane Hollow Nature Preserve, and into the Shawnee area and Wayne National Forest. We're also hoping to be able to feature a rappelling session in the rock climbing area (with comprehensive belays!!). We expect to have a special session for bird-watchers as well.

Look for the opportunity to have a wide-ranging introduction to all phases of trail planning, construction and maintenance, as well as a wide variety of camping and hiking workshops. We plan to have an in-depth workshop on wilderness first aid, too.

Overnight arrangements will accommodate everyone, no matter what your desires, from a beautifully furnished indoor room, to a cabin, to RV camping, to primitive camping including both early bird and night owl areas.

Check out the on-line Athens Outdoor Guide for much of what is available in the area, at: <http://www.athenstrails.org/Outdoorguide/aaorgindex.html>

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

We need outing leaders, publicists, workshop presenters, campground hosts, photographers, signage, coordinating the silent and not-so-silent auctions, and for a great many other tasks. Suggestions are very welcome for keynote speakers, so send them in.

Contact: John Knouse, Buckeye TrailFest 2014 Chair, 502.608.2394, knousejohn@gmail.com

The Great Oak

Paul E. Knoop, Jr.

For many years I had admired the great white oak that grew on a hillside above a small stream. The tree was nearly four feet in diameter, beautiful and rugged. Many decades prior, lightning had struck it and split the trunk lengthwise allowing organisms to enter and decompose the interior until it became completely hollow. The hollow oak tree was especially impressive as one could climb inside and stand upright. It was cool in the tree and semi-dark and a musty, woodsy odor permeated the air. It was a good feeling to be inside the great oak. Just recently, the tree's hollow trunk could no longer support the massive weight of its upper branches and it came crashing down. The great oak lived 250 years, weathering hot summers, cold winters, insect attack, fire and storm. A brief chronology of events in natural history transpiring during the great oak's lifetime follows:

- 1743 – The oak emerges from an acorn in a forest wilderness
- 1749 – Pennsylvania pays bounty on 640,000 gray squirrels
- 1750 – 95% of Ohio is still forest covered
- 1761 – In Ohio, Major John Rogers writes in his journal, "We traveled 11 miles and encamped, having killed in our march this day 3 bears and 2 elk."
- 1790 – The first U.S. census records a population of 3,929,214
- 1803 – The last wild bison in Ohio is shot in Lawrence County
- 1807 – Cedar waxwings sell for 25 cents a dozen in Philadelphia meat markets
- 1838 – The last mountain lion is reported seen in Ohio
- 1850 – 90% of Ohio is still forest covered
- 1854 – The sky is obscured by an immense flock of passenger pigeons over Columbus, Ohio
- 1860 – The U.S. population is 31,443,321
- 1873 – A Chicago company buys 600,000 dead prairie chickens at \$3.25 a dozen
- 1900 – 15% of Ohio is covered by forest. On March 24 the last passenger pigeon seen in the wild is killed in Sargents, Ohio
- 1914 – The last passenger pigeon on earth dies in the Cincinnati Zoo
- 1930 – The U. S. population is 122,775,046
- 1962 – Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* is published, inaugurating a new era of environmental concern
- 1973 – The U.S. Endangered Species Act becomes law
- 1980 – The U.S. population is 226,504,825
- 1990 – The U.S. Forest Service begins to cut the last 10% of old growth forest in the western United States
- 1998 – The Great Oak dies

Welcome New Members!

Bev and Jerry Starcher

Nora Rubinoff and Family, Cincinnati
Lisa Ruschman, Mentor
Patricia Rusinek and Family, Chardon
Miki Saito, Medina
Neil Sater, Oberlin
Laura Scaggs, Brunswick
Danielle Schwan, Painesville TWP
Akil Sharif, Dayton
Richard Sipes, Pickerington
Zach Smith and Family, Akron,
gift from Noreen Baldwin
Joyce Taylor, Kent
Jeff Thien and Family, Cincinnati
David Tietz, Mentor
Nick Valentine, Wadsworth
Nancy Vallen, Ashtabula
Ronald E. Vore Jr., Glouster
Stephen Walker, Niles
Robert J. Walter, Hillsboro
Lynda Warner, Mayfield Heights
Katina Watt and Family, Jewett
Angela White and Family, Hillsboro
Robert Wieser, Berea
Barbara Williamson, Fairlawn
John Williamson, Fairlawn
John Wiltshire, Arcanum
Daniel Woodard, Clayton
Wade Young, Akron



The Places We'll Go for a Friend

C. W. Spencer

We never know to what heights a friendship may take us ...

We were three days into our annual fall Buckeye Trail Association backpacking trip. Our fall hikes take us off the BT into new territories. This year John was leading our little band of explorers on the North Country Trail through the Allegheny Mountains of northern Pennsylvania.

This far into the journey, we explorers were noticeably tiring. The valleys and vistas were exquisite, but the terrain and temperature were taking their toll (not that age could have anything to do with it). Two days before, we had numbered seven, but Bob had to get a ride out due to some kidney issues, and since Andy came with him, they left together. Jim, an experienced hiker, was still with us but limping from a severe strain in his calf. As we marched in formation over the path, we anticipated reaching camp and resting our weary bones. Then Chris, our senior member, fell and broke a couple of his. I'm pretty sure this was not the trip John had planned.

Chris had been in the lead at the time. I was near enough to hear the sound of body striking boulder as Chris slipped crossing a small stream. He only had time to let out a quick "Whoop" before he found himself resting on his back in the water. I reached him first and noticed his injured foot, the one turned to the left while the rest of his leg faced the sky. I immediately suspected the culprits were his new shoes. Chris and I were always looking for ways to travel lighter, and he had been experimenting with some quick-drying, lightweight low-tops. They didn't have the tread his boots did, and they certainly had offered no support against the fall.

We needed to act quickly. Not knowing what to do first, we all tried our phones, fully aware that we hadn't had cell service since we began our hike three days before. Still with no service, we had to do something besides repeatedly peck 911, preferably something more productive. Chris was the calmest of all. He quietly suggested that we get him out of the cold water and up onto the flat bank. Good thinking. Not wanting to create a big fuss with bringing in rescuers, he proposed that we rig a carrier out of our jackets and hiking poles. We had already had some falls on this trail just carrying ourselves, so that option didn't sound like a feasible way to get to the road five miles down the trail. Good try anyway, Chris. After tossing around some other ideas, we came to the only viable alternative—climb the mountain to search for a cell signal.

John and I started up the hill while Jim and Dave stayed back to try to make Chris comfortable. He was already soaked from the stream and he was starting to turn pale. We kept trying our phones as we climbed, but with no success. In one place the hill got so steep we practically had to crawl. I looked up; we were running out of hill. Four-tenths of a mile after we began our ascent,

we reached the top. I still had no service, but John's phone finally displayed one bar. Even though we were completely focused on our mission, we couldn't help but notice the darkening skies and gusts of warm moist air swirling dust around us. I'm pretty sure this was not the weather John had ordered for the hike.

John tried 911 and somehow got through. The connection was so weak he could hear only every second or third word. He handed the phone to me while he looked for his maps. What I heard was not good: "... you ... need ... climb higher... hear ... coordinates ... storm ... damage..." Then more crackling.

As the smell of ozone blew in from the west, I gave John the phone and my translation of the conversation. He looked around and spotted a huge slag pile (we were near a forest service road). He climbed it, gaining maybe 15 more feet in altitude. That put him high enough to hear almost every word. Though it was far from a good connection, it was adequate for them to hone in on our coordinates. That was the good news. The bad news was that the ominous, zigzaggy lightning two ridges over was moving our way. They asked John if he could go any higher to improve the connection so they could get more details of our situation. I was shocked to see him looking up into the trees surrounding us. I was pretty sure that was not what they had in mind.

Fortunately the top of the slag pile proved high enough. Help came an hour or so later. Six vehicles wound their way up the mountain on the snaking service road. Pros and volunteers gathered to discuss their descent to pluck Chris from the abyss. Even while they drew up their plan, they eyed the skies warily, knowing there was already storm destruction in the next county. As they set up their rescue equipment, they continued to glance to the west. The rain had arrived, and the wind was beginning to drive it horizontally through the makeshift headquarters. The team had never made a rescue during a severe weather watch. They were concerned not only that the storm would score a direct hit on us, but also that Chris would become hypothermic from another soaking.

TRAIL RESCUE

Chris was rescued off a forested trail after a hiking injury and heroic efforts to alert authorities.



I led part of the rescue team down to Chris. Although in a great deal of pain and looking paler than the peeling bark of the surrounding sycamore trees, Chris had managed to coach Jim and Dave on the art of splinting. I figured he would find some way to utilize those jackets and hiking poles in his rescue. The team was duly impressed by that feat as they loaded Chris into their sturdy carrier. Six guys transported him up the mountain with the assistance of a cable and winch on the steepest part. The rescue was successful, and I thanked God that the brunt of the storm had bypassed us.

Three hours after his fall, Chris lay in a warm, dry bed in the hospital in a nearby town. John sat by him through the night as the doctors decided the best course of action. John celebrated his own birthday in the hospital (I didn't find out about that until the next day), but he didn't complain. The fact that Chris was high and dry was all the present he wanted.

Chris is rehabbing faithfully this spring, trying to make friends with the extra nuts and bolts in his tibia and fibula. We old guys are rethinking our mountain hiking trips. Could be that maybe we need a better communication system.

John and Chris have been forging their friendship on and off the trail for years. I saw on that trip what a real friendship it is: stepping up when your friend falls, being willing to take a hit, standing by until the situation is well in hand. It was quite a takeaway for me. I like to think that any of us would have done the same.

Yes, friendships have their sunny days and smooth trails, but sometimes we end up being a lightning rod. I'm pretty sure—no, actually I'm positive—John would have climbed to the treetops for Chris's rescue if necessary. It wouldn't surprise me at all if John buys Chris a pair of high-tops for his next birthday. And maybe Chris will get John a satellite phone. There's no use tempting lightning twice.

BTA Funds Report

Your contribution to any BTA fund is tax-deductible. All contributions of \$20 or more are acknowledged. We hope to include your name in the list of contributors in the Trailblazer.

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

Barb Crompton (*Blue Blaze Bugsie*)

Another beautiful, crisp and windy day. Today's trip left me not only with a sense of being "watched", and a reminder that in a world where we're led to believe that natural is controlled, I am just a guest. Exiting Bedford Reservation from the Taylor Road side the BT took me up over a railroad track then back onto a bridle trail that skirted houses and roads, keeping me just inside the shelter of trees. Immediately I had this sense that something was out there with me and upon close observation I discovered it was a herd of deer, which for most of the hike appeared to be following me...or maybe they thought the same thing about me? Almost any time I looked there was a group foraging just out of range, silently watching and chewing, but once acknowledged would flee off into the woods beyond my line of sight. Once under the I-480/271 overpass I entered the Bedford Metro Reserve and the lovely fall scenery full of dancing colors and the babbling of Tinkers Creek captured my attention begging for me to take a photo. I began taking photos of the creek as the sloping path led me down to it. As I turned to take the shot up-creek out of the corner of my eye I saw a figure huddled on the side of a tree, frozen there watching me, but it was too far away to see clearly. Cautiously I approached taking photos until I finally could make it out. Three feet up the tree was a huge knot that had been paint-enhanced to reveal a baby-sized bear clinging to it, down to marbles for eyes

and cross-tipped screws for nostrils. More tree art that literally made me catch my breath.

Leaving BMR I hoofed it up Richmond Road to the next bridle trail which I followed into South Chagrin Reservation, final destination, Squaw Rock. For a lifelong Cleveland west-sider, names like Richmond and Solon Road or Chagrin could've been as far away as the moon to me and I amused myself with the thought that I was getting to know the east side one step at a time. My lunch is only ever a backpack away, but not liking to stop during my hikes, lest I sit down and not want to get back up again, I wait until it becomes unbearable to finally reach for it, so of course I end up thinking about it a lot. At one point I started craving apples, which I did not pack today. I actually tilted my head back, closed my eyes and begged for a juicy apple! Not too long after my request an old, gnarly abandoned apple tree answered the call. It would have been an interesting spectacle to watch as I struggled to release apples from the tall tree, but I duly offered up my thanks as the sweet juiciness of the pear-like apple hit my tongue and sprayed my face as I bit into it. *Lesson #19:* Always enjoy the "fruits" of nature while you're out in it. There is nothing that compares; a sun-kissed apple straight off the tree is always a whole lot better than one picked from a drawer in the fridge.



Barb Crompton

A Long View through the Woods in BTA's Bedford Section



Support the Buckeye Trail While Supporting a Library

Nan Allen, BTA Library Patron Coordinator

I came out of the shadows of the woody bridle trail to see the bedazzled waters of the ironically-named Shadow Lake. The sun was shining brightly and in the cool breeze the rippling water reflected it like sparkling jewels. It is here that I finally gave into the urge to reach for lunch and as I sat on the deck. I enjoyed the company of a mallard couple as they bobbed and fluttered about in the search of their own fare.

I finally made it to Squaw Rock. It was only when I crept to the edge of the cliff and peered down to see the huge sandstone boulder made famous by its historic carvings that I realized I'd been here before and I wished my husband could have been there to see it with me. From my vantage point I couldn't make out exactly what I was looking at, and being far too tired to go all the way down to see it up close, I took a few photos from the ridge and then headed toward the car and my waiting hubby, whom I finally located beyond the parking lot further up-trail.

On the drive home he mentioned that he'd tried to locate me to walk the last mile together. He said with a wry grin that he'd run into this huge sandstone boulder by the river, but someone had carved it all up!

Would you like to donate a subscription of the *Trailblazer* to your local library? Libraries are always looking to expand their collections in economical ways. Becoming a Buckeye Trail Library Patron is a great way to support libraries and to let others know about the Buckeye Trail.

How does it work? For a \$10 donation the library of your choice will receive a year's subscription to the *Trailblazer* magazine. We will send the library a letter announcing your gift with their first copy. It's that easy. If you are unsure which library branches would benefit from your gift, please let us know. We'll gladly send you a list.

The *Trailblazer* staff has recently made some changes. If you have any questions about magazine donations, please feel free to contact us.

Go to <http://library.buckeyetrail.org> for further information and thank you for your support.



Barb Crompton

Bear Art in the Woods in Bedford Reservation

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Highlights of the BTA Board Meeting— March 9, 2013

Ruth Brown, BTA Secretary

TRAIL MANAGEMENT TEAM – PAT HAYES

- A hiker leader is needed to take over arranging the Martin Luther King Day winter hike at Hueston Woods State Park.
- Don Burrell will take over the position of being the American Discovery Trail Coordinator for Ohio and Kentucky. Dan is the Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator of OKI (Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana) Regional Council of Governments.

SHOWS AND EXHIBITS –

ANDREW BASHAW (IN PLACE OF BETSY BENDER)

- An important event for the BTA to have a presence at is the River Summit at the University of Dayton.
- BTA will have a display at the Medina County Parks Earth Day event.

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

- 22 BT section maps were now in digital format

AMERICORPS REPORT – RICHARD LUTZ

- The Second Annual Burr Oak Winter Hike on February 2 with over 100 people had been a success
- The Fourth Annual EGGS Hike will be at Burr Oak State Park on June 22-23
- A group from the Neland Avenue Christian Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan will be coming to Burr Oak State Park from June 10-14 to do trail work.

Highlights of the BTA Annual Business Meeting— April 28, 2013

Ruth Brown, BTA Secretary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – ANDREW BASHAW

- BTA membership increased since the 2012 Trailfest.
- Buckeye Trail is being developed in these areas:
 - Through Camp Tuscazoar,
 - Through AEP ReCreation Lands, where 26 miles have been completed after 20 years,
 - In West Branch State Park
 - 10-15 miles through the Edge of Appalachia Nature Preserve, eventually connecting with Shawnee State Forest for 30 miles of backpacking trail.

BTA BARN – MARY HAMILTON

- Upstairs in the Barn are now five dorm rooms with bunks, men’s and women’s restrooms and showers. Downstairs is a kitchen, bathroom, warming room and office.
- A trail connects the Barn with Tappan Lake.
- The annual BTA Membership Picnic will be at the Barn on July 20.

ELECTION RESULTS

- Five people were elected to the BTA Board to serve three-year terms ending in 2016:
 - Bryon Henry
 - Pat Hayes
 - Dan Crandall
 - Liz DeBaal
 - Franchot Ballinger.

Highlights of the BTA Board Meeting— April 28, 2013

Ruth Brown, BTA Secretary

- Current officers had consented to continue serving another year:
 - President: Melissa Reed
 - Vice-President: Connie Pond
 - Secretary: Ruth Brown
 - Treasurer: Deb Zampini
- Scott Kamph was nominated to fill out the two year term of Betsy Bender, who had resigned from her position as a Board Trustee.

BTeasers

Pat Hayes

Q When was the first *Trailblazer* issued, who created the first *Trailblazer* masthead and what was the significance of the images?

A The first BTA newsletter designated as the *Buckeye Trailblazer* was issued July, 1968 as Volume 1 No. 3. Numbers 1 and 2 were published as Buckeye Trail Association, Inc. Newsletters. The *Trailblazer* masthead was created by Miss Patricia Johnston of Columbus. It combined the idea of pioneering with the compass, the Buckeye tree, and trailblazing and used the official BTA symbol effectively. This masthead was used for each issue until its last use for the October 1984 volume 17 no. 5 issue.





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- 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.

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