

Trailblazer



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Pennsylvania Club takes a Trip to Southern Ohio Trails

John Stehle

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Members of the Butler, PA Outdoor Club, an affiliate of the North Country Trail Association, spent a weekend in October exploring some very interesting and beautiful areas along the NCT and BT in southern Ohio. As the fall was near its peak in color, and with the Indian summer weather, we had a delightful time.

After stopping for lunch at a local farm, we visited the Hopewell Mound Group near Chillicothe, run by the National Park Service. The site is laid out very well, and we really felt like we were walking back over 2000 years, as we moved through the hills where earlier people lived, and the mound city on the plain where they participated in ritual events. The National Park Service does a great job bringing this to life.

We then drove a few miles to Serpent Mound (point 18, Sinking Spring Section), run by the Ohio Historical Society and the Arc of Appalachia Preserve System. Shaped like a serpent, it is the largest animal effigy mound in the world. There is a tower that visitors can climb to see the 1,348 foot serpent image in one impressive view. We then followed the trail which let us examine the mound up close.

To make the site even more special is the fact that the North Country Trail passes through the grounds. We all took the opportunity to walk about a half mile to the nearest road crossing, adding a little more to our NCT miles. The short trail goes through some pleasant meadows, around ancient mounds and through some woods. We also stopped at the Seip Earthworks, a large ceremonial mound, also run by the NPS.

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Tammy Veloski

Club members enjoy the scenery at Ash Cave in Hocking Hills State Park

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PENNSYLVANIA CLUB TAKES A TRIP TO SOUTHERN OHIO TRAILS

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Tammy Veloski

Serpent Mound, the largest animal effigy mound in the world.

The next day took us to another fantastic NCT venue in Ohio, Hocking Hills State Park (Old Man's Cave Section, points 19-22). The NCT, which in this part of Ohio is also the Buckeye Trail, runs for about six miles through a gorge carved by water out of a 150 foot thick seam of sandstone, known as the Blackhand. Starting at Ash Cave, the trail follows deep undercuts and steep cliffs. The sandstone has a rich texture, and because different layers are of varying hardness, water has eroded bizarre shapes into the rocks, which make you constantly want to reach for your camera.

The trail continues north from Ash Cave through the boulder strewn gorge then up to the top of the gorge, where we stopped to climb a fire tower before continuing to Cedar Falls. Here again were fantastic cliffs and waterfalls.

The trail itself is well crafted with a lot of stone masonry, and various styles of bridges made of metal, wood and stone, taking full advantage of the many delights this gorge has to offer. Moving north we entered into the Old Man's Cave section, with even more stone work, and ending in a long tunnel carved right through the stone to take us up to the visitors' center, which has a cool gift shop and an ice cream concession. Mmm, mmm.



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News and Notes from the Board of Trustees

Melissa Reed

The December 2013 Board of Trustees meeting was cancelled because of bad weather and we met instead on January 11 at the Dublin offices of one of our nonprofit partners, the Ohio Nature Conservancy. Executive Director Josh Knights welcomed us warmly and reminisced about visiting the trail we built at the Edge of Appalachia Preserve.

We welcomed back Herb Hulls, who was appointed to fill the seat vacated by Fran-
chot Ballinger. As our longest-serving past president, Herb is well acquainted with the operations of the Board and will be a valuable addition. At the same time, we reluctantly accepted Adrian Vanko's resignation because of illness and expect to see him back soon as an active member.

Vice President Connie Pond presented for adoption the schedule of our anticipated expenditures and income for 2014. Under her guidance the preliminary schedule was drafted by the Budget, Finance and Long-Range Planning Committee (BuFiLo) and discussed at the Board retreat in August 2013. The Board voted to accept the budget.

We received reports from our executive director, Andrew Bashaw, and from various committees responsible for organizational sustenance and trail creation and maintenance. The Board agreed to changes in membership categories proposed by Andrew. The changes, which include discontinuing the corporate category and implementing a discount for gift memberships, will require bylaw modifications to be presented for approval at the March 1 meeting. The meeting will be held at the Old Worthington Library.

This issue of the Trailblazer informs you of events and committee activities which the Board heard about at its January meeting. One of these events, TrailFest 2014, will include the annual general membership meeting, where Buckeye Trail staff and trustees will summarize and answer questions about the activities which we have undertaken on your behalf and on behalf of the general public as well. We look forward to seeing you and hearing your thoughts on how we're doing.

Nominations for Board of Trustees, 2014

The five trustees whose term expires this year are President Melissa Reed, Vice-President Connie Pond, Secretary Ruth Brown, Darryl Smith and Mark Henry. Thanks to all five for their service to the BTA!

Connie Pond and Darryl Smith have decided to run for another term. On the slate of candidates also offering their talents and commitment to the BTA are Jenny Koester, Kathy Hamilton, and Linda Paul. Elections will be held at the Annual meeting during TrailFest at Camp Akita in the Hocking Hills, April 24-27th. The Function of the Board of Directors, as stated in the Bylaws, is "to determine administrative policies, manage property and business of the Association, provide sound fiscal and long range planning and control, and direct the financial affairs of the Association." Trustees also serve as officers or committee chairmen or members, and are expected to attend regularly scheduled meetings or those called by the President. Terms of office are 3 years, limited to 3 consecutive terms, but can be reelected after leaving the Board for 2 years. Anyone who wishes to serve as a Trustee, or who would like to nominate someone for the same, please contact Jeffrey Yoest at jeffyoest@columbus.rr.com, or 614-895-0808.

On the Trail

Andrew Bashaw

Everyone should have a hiking buddy. Someone you can call who enjoys the outdoors as much as you do, and who makes the experience even better than hiking alone. There are a lot of hikers in Ohio, and many of them are members of hiking clubs, Meetup groups and trail organizations across the state. But who speaks for all these hikers, trail runners, backpackers, and others with compatible uses of primitive hiking trails in the State of Ohio? The question comes up when I meet with our partners in the Ohio Trails Partnership, state agencies headquartered in Columbus, and other partners with a statewide scope. While not specified in our mission, vision, articles of incorporation or constitution, many of our state partners assume the Buckeye Trail Association is THE voice for these user groups across the state. I keep this in mind when advocating for the Buckeye Trail. I am not just representing our membership and Buckeye Trail users; I am perceived to represent our hiking buddies off of the BT as well.

I have begun to ask other great hiking organizations in Ohio what we could do for them when I am placed in a position to represent hikers in general but I am just as interested in what we can do every day to support our hiking friends. The BTA membership list is filled with hikers who come from these other groups such as the Cleveland Hiking Club, Northeast Ohio Hiking Club, Dayton Hikers, Central Ohio Hikers and Backpackers, Columbus Outdoor Pursuits, North Country Trail Association, American Discovery Trail Society, Miami & Erie Canal Corridor Association, Firelands Rails to Trails, Ohio to Erie Trail, Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition and many more. I agree with the phrase “a rising tide lifts all ships”. Applied to hiking in Ohio, more trail opportunities for more hikers in more strong local and regional hiking and trail organizations is important to building a stronger, more vibrant network of friends who support trails across the State.

While I would love for all of the members of these great organizations to likewise become members and support the mission of the BTA, I also think it is important for members of the BTA to look to these organizations and join their activities as friends, members, and volunteers. Sharing members may be the best way our organizations can work together, and on a personal level, that's what counts. Along these lines your BTA Trustees have voted to reach out with a standard 20% discount on BTA membership to current members of other hiking and trail organizations in Ohio to make it easier to support two great organizations of your choice.



Andrew Bashaw

My initial casual conversations with a few other Ohio hiking organizations have revealed a few observations. There are already many things the BTA does that serve them even though our primary focus is on the Buckeye Trail. Our friends appreciate our work to preserve lands and construct off road trail for the BT, adding more hiking opportunities for everyone to use. Very few nonprofit recreation organizations build, maintain, and protect the resource they enjoy. That is something that makes the BTA special.

Our hiking friends appreciate that we provide new opportunities for trail users to give back through volunteerism. Managing a volunteer program that recruits and retains volunteers as well as developing an annual calendar packed full of satisfying volunteer events is a lot of work. Our friends also appreciate that we do our best to provide a voice for hikers to statewide agencies, such as our support for renewed Clean Ohio Trails Funding and against motorized trail development on hiking trails at Burr Oak State Park.

Could we do more, could we do better? Absolutely, but as always, we would need your help. To get a better picture of the growing outdoor enthusiasm in Ohio focused on hiking trails we need to highlight and promote the great things all of our friends are doing. If you are a member of one of these organizations you can help:

- Speak with the staff, volunteers and board of your other favorite trail group and encourage them to submit articles to the *Trailblazer* highlighting their events and accomplishments on or near the BT.
- Send your activities to the BTA Webmaster so we can show the immense amount of activity that is really going on around the state on or near the BT.

- Let us know if there are activities, hikes, or volunteer events that we can support and collaborate on in your part of Ohio.
- Bring your other favorite trail organization to events like Buckeye TrailFest and fly your flag high!
- Send me your thoughts and encourage us to attend your meetings for focused input. Odds are, any support the BTA can provide to our friends will ultimately benefit the BT as well.
- Also, let us know when we are doing a good job. There is no better motivation than positive encouragement!

Thank you for all you are doing to be a part of an active and vibrant hiking community across the State of Ohio! See you at Buckeye TrailFest, The Emma Grandma Gatewood Solstice (EGGS) Hike, the next Buckeye Trail Crew Work Party or your other favorite trail organization's event out on the Buckeye Trail!

Executive Director
Buckeye Trail Association

HIKING WITH FAITH: A Senior Dog's Journey on the North Country Trail

Amy Stull Kwiatkoski

Hi! My name is Faith, and I am an eight-year-old Husky-mix. My mom, Amy Stull Kwiatkoski, and I are hiking the NCT, to bring awareness to the plight of senior shelter dogs in America. We are hoping to become the first female and, more importantly, the first dog to thru-hike the entire trail in one hiking season! We are very excited to begin our journey on the Buckeye Trail!

I am being sponsored by Ruff Life Pet Outfitters in Petoskey, Michigan. Owner Gary Albert has given me an awesome new pack, booties and provided me with high-calorie, freeze-dried trail food. I will proudly be sporting a Ruff Life Pet Outfitter patch on my backpack, as well as a Hiking with Faith patch, that Gary is making especially for me!

As Amy and I hike the North Country Trail, we will be spreading the word about senior shelter dogs by chatting with people we meet in the cities and towns along the trail, notifying local media (news-papers, television and radio stations) and stopping into as many animal shelters as we can. With 40% of Americans living within a one-hour drive of the Trail, we hope our message reaches many caring people.

Our hike begins on March 1st in Ohio! Our first dogleg will take us to New York, then on to North Dakota. This is referred to as a "Flip Flop Hike." (Maybe my trail name should be Flip Flop Faith?) We will be hiking a total of 4,600 miles, with over 1,000 of them in Ohio!

I am a very friendly dog who would love to meet up and hike with other people and canines as we tramp through Ohio. Please visit www.hikingwithfaith.com to read my daily blog and check out our itinerary. Spread the word, and I hope to meet you on the trail!



Amy Stull Kwiatkoski

Amy and Faith, ready to hike the North Country Trail.

Schedule of Hikes & Events



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

MARCH

March 22-24

BTA Barn 3-Day Work Weekend, BTA Barn at Tappan Lake, Bowerston Section.

Description: Work party to help bat-proof the Century Barn. Start work at 8:30AM and quit at 3:30PM. Tools supplied by the BTA. Barn winterization measures will be removed before this event.

Camping: On grounds of BTA Barn at Tappan Lake. Bring tent or camper.

Meals: Provided by BTA Barn kitchen. Contact Mary Hamilton, hamilton3310@roadrunner.com, for FREE meal reservations.

Contact: Trail Management Team, stc@buckeyetrail.org

March 23

Mentor Marsh Nature Center Cleanup Day, Bedford Section. Mentor Marsh Nature Center, 5185 Corduroy Rd, Mentor, OH 44060.

Description: Maintenance work on the Buckeye Trail and Zimmerman Trail through the nature preserve. Becky Donaldson, naturalist at the Mentor Marsh, will provide a learning experience. Fun for all ages. Bring water, snack, and work gloves.

Contact: 440-257-0777 or rdonalds@cmnh.org to reserve a spot. BTA contact is Debbie Zampini, half-marathoner@hotmail.com.

APRIL

April 5-6

Buckeye Trail Circuit Hike, Loveland Section

Description: Details will follow. Watch the BTA website.

Contact: Jim Gilkey at 614-879-9912

April 12-13

BTA Work Party, Scioto Trail State Forest, Scioto Trail Section.

Description: Trail repairs and work at US 35, Hang Glide Hill (points 12 & 13 of 2010 section map), State Forest, and Blue Lick/Tar

Hollow area. Port-a-John will be provided. Saturday: Work will start at 8:00AM and quit at 3:00PM. Sunday: Start at 8:00AM and quit at Noon.

Camping: Camping will be at abandoned airstrip in Scioto Trail State Forest.

Meals: Bring your own food and water

Contact: Trail Management Team, stc@buckeyetrail.org

April 13, 2014

April Showers Hike

Location: Noble Township Hall, 16586 County Road 66A, St. Marys, OH.

Description: Enjoy the spring weather with 150+ local hikers for one of two 5km round-trip hikes along the level towpath of the old Miami and Erie Canal. (BT/NCT) This free, family- and dog-friendly event starts from the Noble Township Hall at 1:00 PM. Refreshments and restrooms will be available. Sponsored by Heritage Trails Park District, Grand Lake Health System, Miami and Erie Canal Corridor Association (MECCA)

Contact: Sam Bonifas at delphos@buckeyetrail.org, or Preston Bartlett or Dale Wical at stmarys@buckeyetrail.org.

April 19-23

BTA Trailfest Lead-in Hike, New Straitsville and Old Man's Cave Sections

Come explore the forest with BTA's intern, Chelsea Fleming, an Ecotourism student from Hocking College, on a 60-mile backpacking trip from Wildcat Hollow through Burr Oak SP to Buckeye TrailFest at Camp Akita. Hike 10+ miles per day for 5 days and hike on the newest miles of the BT! Limit of 15 people. There will be a small fee towards transportation and camping collected on-site. For more information, contact Chelsea Fleming at chelsica03@gmail.com.

April 14-22

BTA Trailfest Extended Lead-in Hike, Sinking Spring and Scioto Trail Sections

Mike (Scallion) Fanelli is planning a 150+ mile hike into Trailfest this year. He will leave on Monday, April 14 from Peebles and

welcomes 1-2 hardy/seasoned hikers to join him for the first 100 miles. (18-20 miles/day) Hike to Serpent Mound, Fort Hill, Pike SF, and Scioto Trail SF before other hikers join at Tar Hollow SP.

Contact: Mike Fanelli if you are interested - fanellimike@aol.com

April 21-24

BTA Trailfest Lead-in Hike, Scioto Trail and Old Man's Cave Sections

On April 21st, Mike (Scallion) Fanelli will welcome a larger group (5-8 additional hikers) to join in at Tar Hollow SP (firetower campground) for a more leisurely (10-15 miles/day) hike into Camp Akita by way of Hocking Hills. Plan to arrive at Trailfest on Thursday April 24th in late afternoon. Everyone will be responsible for their own tenting and meals.

Contact: Mike Fanelli if you are interested - fanellimike@aol.com

April 24-27

BTA Trailfest, Camp Akita in the Hocking Hills

Description: Visit the BTA Trailfest website for complete details

MAY

May 3-4

BTA Work Party, Pike Lake State Park/Forest, Scioto Trail Section.

Description: Work party at Pike Lake State Park & Forest to relocate the trail while work continues on the dam. Saturday: Work will start at 8:00AM and quit at 3:00PM. Sunday: Start at 8:00AM and quit at Noon.

Camping: TBD

Meals: Bring your own food and water

Contact: Trail Management Team, stc@buckeyetrail.org

May 10-11

Buckeye Trail Circuit Hike, Burton Section

Description: Details will follow. Watch the BTA website.

Contact: Jim Gilkey at 614-879-9912

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.

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

May 17-21

BTA Work Week, Wayne National Forest, Road Fork Section.

Description: Work party to clear downed trees and foliage growth from the BT/NCT trail in the Wayne National Forest in Monroe and Washington Counties between points 21 & 31 of the 2011 Road Fork map, for about 17.3 off-road miles. Work will start at 8:00AM and quit at 3:00PM.

Camping: Haight Run Campground on T407 near SR 26 and Tice Run Rd. Shower will be available.

Meals: Bring your own food and water

Contact: Trail Management Team, stc@buckeyetrail.org

JUNE

May 31-June 1

BTA Work Party, Pretty Run, Old Mans Cave Section.

Description: Trail maintenance at Pretty Run Preserve in Vinton Co, focusing on weed whacking, pruning, and chain sawing. Saturday: Work will start at 8:00AM and quit at 3:00PM. Sunday: Start at 8:00AM and quit at Noon. Bring a weed whacker if you have one.

Camping: BTA Pretty Run property.

Meals: Bring your own food and water

Contact: Trail Management Team, stc@buckeyetrail.org

June 7-8

National Trails Day Work Weekend, Wildcat Hollow, New Straitsville Section.

Description: Help prep along Wildcat Hollow Trail and trail system around lake in Burr Oak State Park for the June 2014 Emma "Grandma" Gatewood Solstice Hike. Celebrate National Trails Day along one of Ohio's longest backpacking destinations! Saturday: Meet at Wildcat Hollow Trailhead at 9:00AM and quit at 4:00PM. Sunday: Start at 9:00AM and quit at 1:00PM.

Camping: Group Campground near Boat Dock 3, Point 7 on Section Map.

Meals: Bring your own food and water

Contact: Trail Management Team, stc@buckeyetrail.org

June 7-11

BTA Work Week, AEP ReCreation Land, Belle Valley/Stockport Section. *BTA Chuck Wagon Event*

Description: Trail maintenance work (mowing, weed whacking, pruning, blazing, etc) and some trail rerouting. Work will start at 8:00AM and quit at 3:00PM each day.

Camping: Campground A, Hook Lake.

There will be room for small pop-up campers and tents. Pit toilets and drinking water available there, but NO hookups. Portable shower will be available.

Meals: Contact Jay Holwick, holwick@columbus.rr.com by June 4 for FREE meal reservation for first 20 volunteers.

Contact: Trail Management Team, stc@buckeyetrail.org

June 8

Mentor Marsh Nature Center Cleanup Day, Bedford Section. Mentor Marsh Nature Center, 5185 Corduroy Rd, Mentor, OH 44060.

Description: Maintenance work on the Buckeye Trail and Zimmerman Trail through the nature preserve. Becky Donaldson, naturalist at the Mentor Marsh, will be on-site. Bring water, snack, and work gloves.

Contact: 440-257-0777 or rdonalds@cmnh.org to reserve a spot. BTA contact is Debbie Zampini, half-marathoner@hotmail.com.

June 14

BTA Board Meeting. Location: TBD

Contact: President, president@buckeyetrail.org

June 14-15

Buckeye Trail Circuit Hike, Loveland and Caesar Creek Sections

Description: Details will follow. Watch the BTA website.

Contact: Jim Gilkey at 614-879-9912

June 20-22

EGGS Hike (Emma Grandma Gatewood Solstice Hike), Wildcat Hollow & Burr Oak State Park, New Straitsville Section

Description: Visit the EGGS Hike website for complete details

June 28

Celebration of Hiking Trek

Description: Start time 10:00AM. Approximately 7 mile hike along the MEST/BT/NCT from downtown St. Marys to Bloody Bridge led by Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists from the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District of Allen County. Dress for the weather, pack lunch, water bottle and a rain coat. Individuals and families may register that morning. Organized groups must preregister by calling 419-221-1232 by June 20th.

Location: High St. Parking Lot & Shelterhouse, Downtown St. Marys, OH

Contact: Mark Mohr, Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District. Ph. 419.223.1025, mailbox 3 or mmohr@jampd.com

JULY

June 28-July 2

BTA Work Week, Edge of Appalachia, West Union Section. *BTA Chuck Wagon Event*

Description: Rare animals and plants make the Nature Conservancy's Edge of Appalachia Preserve a truly special place. Continue

building new trail as part of a long-term project to build 10-15 miles of off road trail. Work will start at 8:00AM and quit at 3:00PM each day.

Camping: Camping near the maintenance building on Waggoner Riffle Rd. Portable shower will be available.

Meals: Contact Jay Holwick, holwick@columbus.rr.com by June 24 for FREE meal reservation for first 20 volunteers.

Contact: Trail Management Team, stc@buckeyetrail.org

July 12-13, 2014

Defiance Work Weekend at Providence Park

Description: Trail maintenance along the old towpath trail near Grand Rapids, working with Toledo Metroparks employees. Leave for work site at 8:00AM and quit at 3:00PM on Saturday and Noon on Sunday. Bring work gloves, also loppers and pruning saws if you wish.

Camping: Providence MetroPark Maintenance area on north side of the Maumee River west of Grand Rapids, off of old US 24.

Meals: Bring your own food. Some of us may choose to eat supper in Grand Rapids or Waterville.

Trail Management Team, stc@buckeyetrail.org

July 12-14, 2014

3 Day Work Weekend at the Ballinger Property, Shawnee Section

Description: Experience the Ballinger Property and the Shawnee Section of the trail. Spend the weekend mowing, working on the well, and doing any other maintenance as needed. Work starts at 8:00AM both days and ends at 3:00PM on Saturday and noon on Sunday.

Camping: Tent camping is available on the Ballinger property. Campers may have difficulty entering property.

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

Trail Management Team, stc@buckeyetrail.org

July 19-20

Buckeye Trail Circuit Hike, Burton Section

Description: Details will follow. Watch the BTA website.

Contact: Jim Gilkey at 614-879-9912

AUGUST

August 22-24, 2014

BTA Board Retreat

Location: BTA Barn at Tappan Lake

Contact: President, president@buckeyetrail.org



Buckeye Trailfest 2014

APRIL 24-27, 2014

Details at <http://www.buckeyetrailfest.org>

Trailfest 2014 will take place at Camp Akita in the beautiful Hocking Hills area of southeast Ohio on April 24-27.

There are a wide variety of lodging options this year, including a limited number of private bedrooms, small dormitory-style bedrooms, cabins, tent camping, and RV camping. Come spend time on the Buckeye Trail, meet other hikers, and be inspired by your fellow adventurers!

There will be a number of social events and entertainment, including the live and silent auctions, a Saturday afternoon social hour with refreshments, the awards ceremony, and a presentation by our keynote speaker, Julie Zickefoose. Saturday supper will be automatically included in the registration.

This will ensure that we can have everyone together for the awards presentations!

We need outing leaders, publicists, workshop presenters, campground hosts, photographers, coordinators for the silent and not-so-silent auctions, and volunteers for a great many other tasks.

Please contact John Knouse at knousejohn@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer.

Come hear...

Julie Zickefoose, Southeast Ohio's own nationally known birder, nature artist and writer

Kate Power and the Free Range Pickers entertain us with an Appalachian Contra Dance

Andy Niekamp's Latest Hiking Adventures

Lisa Strohm and Mary Warren's
2013 BT Thru-Hike

and more!

Come learn...

Birding

Wilderness survival skills

Backpacking basics

Rock climbing and rappelling

Kayaking

Native plant and tree ID

Local history

Ecology

Geology

Astronomy

Sustainable trail building and maintenance

Chainsaw safety

Land preservation

How to make a paracord bracelet

Hiking with dogs

How to contra dance!

Come see...

The Hocking Hills

Little Cities of Black Diamonds

Crane Hollow

Conkles Hollow

Bison Hollow

Boch Hollow

Tar Hollow

Old Man's Cave

Cedar Falls

Ash Cave

Clear Creek Metropark

Rockbridge

Rock Stalls

Burr Oak State Park

Wayne National Forest

Historic Shawnee, OH

BTA Pretty Run Preserve

Strouds Run State Park

Moonville Rail Trail

Hockhocking Adena Bikeway

Nelsonville, OH

Come on and...

Backpack into TrailFest

Camp in Tent City

Paddle by the light of the Moon

Enjoy a nightly campfire

Buckeye Trail Association Awards and Recognition Nominations

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

AWARDS

___ BOB PATON AWARD (Meritorious Service)

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

___ PRESIDENT'S AWARD (Volunteer of the Year)

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

___ BILL MILLER AWARD (Conservation)

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

___ SUPER STAR (Superior Service over Time)

Awarded to person(s) who have exhibited superior service in appointed or volunteer tasks.

RECOGNITIONS

___ TRUSTEE EMERITUS (Board Members Only)

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

___ 2000 KM

For hiking the entire trail on foot and completing it in the year 2013 through April 2014 for this year's award.

___ CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

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

___ STAR PERFORMANCE (Leadership Excellence)

Presented to person(s) who have exhibited leadership in appointed or volunteer tasks.

___ TRAIL ADOPTER AWARD

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

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

All nominations must be postmarked by April 1, 2014. This nomination form can also be found on the Buckeye Trailfest web site, buckeyetrailfest.org. Send nominations to Mary Hamilton, hamilton3310@roadrunner.com or 717 E. Third St., Dover, OH, 44622.



End of the Trail

Dana Zintek

The Buckeye Trail Circuit Hike patch is awarded to any person who has completed the Buckeye Trail. In this issue we celebrate three people who completed the BT.

Hiker	Date Started	Date Finished	Mileage of BT When Hiked *
CW Spencer	April 2009	July 2012	1444
Lisa A. Strohm	October 2012	July 2013	
Mary L. Warren	October 2012	July 2013	

* Mileages can vary with the ever-changing length of the BT.

Kentuckian CW Spencer's hike was actually a Plan B. Plan A was to thru-hike the Appalachian Trail with his brother; however, he passed away before they could make the trip. CW realized he needed something slightly less ambitious and decided the Buckeye Trail fit the bill perfectly. He enjoyed the new friends he made and the variety of things he saw and did along the way, not to mention the adventure of a long hike. He has not ruled out a thru-hike of the BT someday.

Lisa A. Strohm had the personal goal of hiking the entire BT. After completing the AT, the BT should be next. Lisa wanted to see Ohio through the eyes of a thru-hiker: its seasons, people, challenges, crops and small towns. She enjoyed hiking another long trail with her AT partner, the simplistic day-to-day hiking with only basic needs and no TV. She cautions that the BT should not be compared to the AT. Whereas the AT is a wilderness hike, the BT is an urban trail connected by woods walking. But similarities do exist; both trails' strength is their volunteers. They need to be nurtured, valued and led by open-minded and flexible leaders.

Mary L. Warren reached a goal from her bucket list by hiking the BT. She'd already hiked the AT in 1998, but 150 miles into her 1999 BT hike she was discouraged because of the road-walking. She became a Trail maintainer in the New Straitsville section instead of hiking. Then she was inspired by the panel of thru-hikers from the 2012 TrailFest and started again on the BT. She saw our wonderful state in slow motion and especially enjoyed the AEP lands, so beautiful after her memory of them being stripped clear when she was young. She suggests establishing work crews for each section or region of the BT, like the AT has along its length.



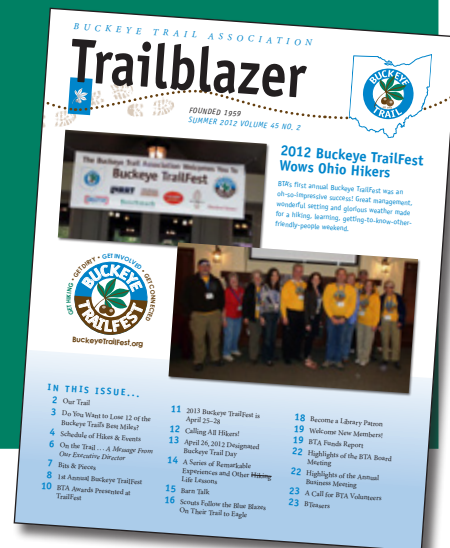
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An interactive edition—with bookmarks to each story and active links—can now be sent to you.

Have more of your membership \$\$ go into the Buckeye Trail!

Get the electronic version of the *Trailblazer* earlier than the mailed version!

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Onwards and Upwards—The Future of the Buckeye Trail and Ohio Landowners

Barry Unger with Andrew Bashaw

At over 1400 miles, the Buckeye Trail is the longest continuous loop trail in the United States, and possibly the world. The landscape and terrain of the trail as it weaves through public and private lands are as diverse as its users. The Buckeye Trail is close to 40% off road, meaning that over half still lies along country back roads and city streets. The future of the Buckeye Trail is bright, as each year, more miles are relocated into public parks, forests, and land that is held by conservation groups. Ohio ranks 47th of 50 states in public land acreage per capita. The BT makes the best use of the public lands Ohio does have, but most of what remains between existing off-road portions of the BT is held by private owners.

Carl and Gail Boesel recently provided the Buckeye Trail with a two-mile easement on their property (Points 2-3, Old Man's Cave Section), with a 100 acre conservation easement surrounding the trail given to our partners at the Appalachian Ohio Alliance. The Boesels live on their property in northern Hocking County between the Wayne National Forest and the Hocking Hills. These easements not only insure that the trail will have a permanent home, but that the Boesel's land will be protected for future generations of Ohioans to enjoy. I spoke with Carl to ask him about his decision to provide this easement to the trail, in hopes that other landowners may look to their story as inspiration to do the same.

For as long as Carl can remember, the Buckeye Trail has run through his property. When looking to purchase the property, he noticed blue blazes along many of the trees, and when he asked the realtor what these were, the man stated that the Buckeye Trail ran through the property. Carl, having only heard of the trail through stories an old friend told him, thought this was a "neat" quality that the property possessed.

Though the trail had been a staple on the Boesel's property, it was only recently that Carl decided that he wanted to insure the protection of their property and decided to provide the easements. He stated that "I wanted to see the trail preserved and [to] provide a place for hikers to experience nature and see the hills and wild areas. This also will protect the land from logging." When I asked Carl about any apprehension that he had about having the trail on his property, he said, "At first I was worried about liability, but I learned that Ohio law actually protects the landowner. I hear many people tell me that they don't like the idea of having people on their land, making noise and littering. I can tell you that I have never had any litter on my property from hikers; they are usually the ones [who] are picking the litter up." Carl's message to other landowners is "It is really satisfying to preserve, build, and maintain the trail on his property." He enjoys "continuously making the trail nice and



Barry Unger

though [he] rarely sees them, does enjoy seeing the thru-hikers when they come through."

Andrew Bashaw, Director of the BTA, gave an illustration of the essential role of private landowners in preserving a corridor for the BT. If you were to take Carl and Gail Boesel's property as an example, two miles of the BT was preserved within 100 acres, so that is 50 acres per mile of the BT. Since the nature of the BT varies across the state, the value of an acre of land also varies greatly. As a rough estimate, let's take 50 acres per mile multiplied by half of the remaining BT (let's say 700 miles) multiplied by \$2,000 per acre. These rough estimates add up to... 35,000 acres for \$70 million IF the land were to be purchased Fee Simple. The BTA is making great strides for a small non-profit organization in figuring out our trail preservation strategy. In the past 3 years we have been able to preserve 230 acres! At this rate, it would take the BTA by itself... 457 years to see the vision through! While this is all theoretical, it points out the huge importance of each and every landowner's decision along the Buckeye Trail corridor. A more reasonable answer is for the BTA to encourage 350 private landowners to follow the Boesels lead.

The real progress on a preserved corridor for the BT includes all the work of our partners around Ohio, not just the BTA's efforts. We hope to better highlight the great work of our partners over the coming year. Ultimately, the BTA will need to combine all strategies possible to increase the preserved trail corridor:

- Our private landowner negotiations for donations of land or easement, such as those from Franchot and Henrietta Ballinger and Carl and Gail Boesel.
- Our support of conservation partners such as the Appalachian Ohio Alliance, The Nature Conservancy in the Sunshine Ridge Corridor, the Western Reserve Land Conservancy and Friends of Camp Crowell Hilaka.



- Our support of funding for public lands for our federal and state agency partners, and programs such as Clean Ohio, Land and Water Conservation Funds, and the North Country National Scenic Trail's fledgling land acquisition program.
- The purchase of land ourselves, such as the 230 acre Pretty Run Preserve, by leveraging our member/donor investments in our Buckeye Trail Preservation Fund with funding from sources such as ODN's Clean Ohio Trails Fund.

By employing all of these strategies, and getting better at them, the future does indeed look bright, and we've only just begun in earnest to tackle the issue. The years and funding needed to complete the vision by the BTA alone is dramatically decreased with the help of land-owners like the Boesels. The BTA has but one full time staff person, one Americorps position devoted to BT corridor protection, and a small volunteer Trail Preservation Committee. As in all other efforts of the BTA we will be dependent upon our members and volunteers. What can you as a BTA member do to help? Join us during Buckeye TrailFest for a discussion on this topic and to express our deep gratitude to Carl and Gail Boesel for sharing the vision of protected Buckeye Trail!

Grandma Gatewood Gets Her Film

The Ohio Historical Society has awarded a grant to Eden Valley Enterprises to create a documentary about the life of Emma "Grandma" Gatewood, the first woman to solo thru-hike the Appalachian Trail and a founding member of the BTA. Eden Valley Enterprises will be hosting a series of lectures in March to raise money for the project. More information can be found on their website, <http://edenvalleyenterprises.org/progdesc/gatewood/2014events/march/owtnseries.htm>

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:
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The Miami Rivers Chapter – An Update!

Darryl R. Smith

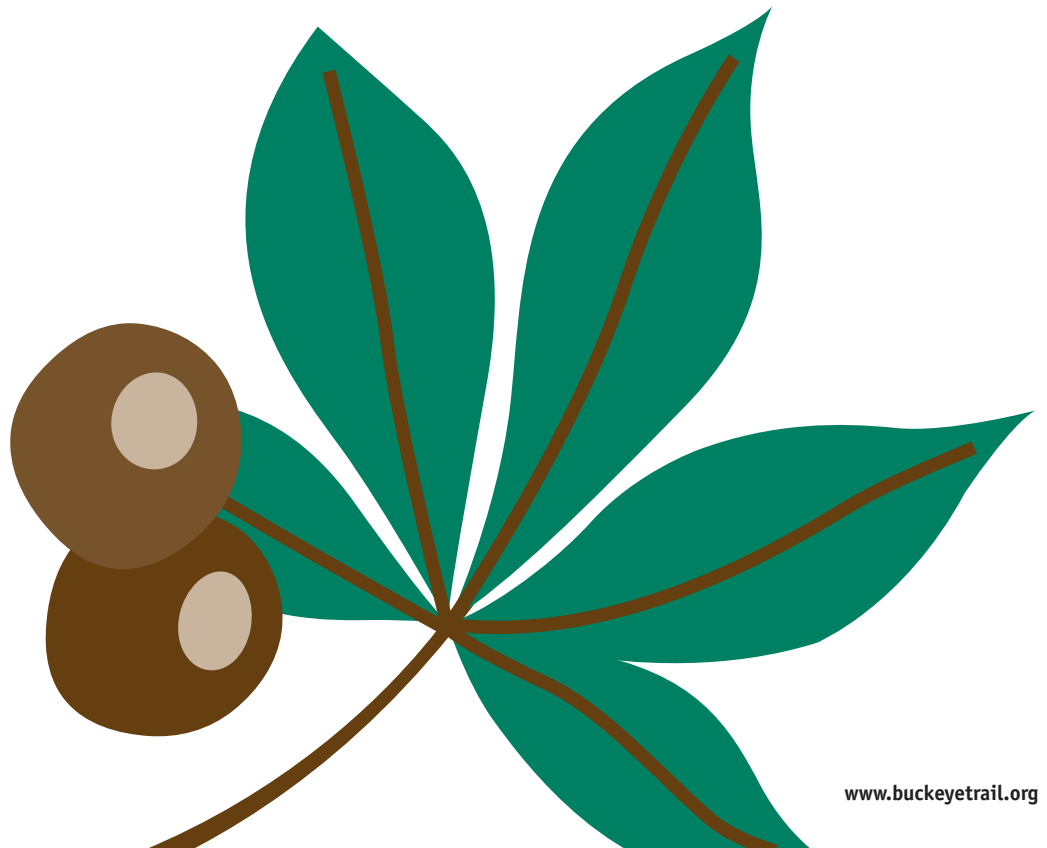
The Miami Rivers Chapter of the Buckeye Trail Association has been growing and has been very active! We are the entity that represents the Buckeye Trail in the Williamsburg, Loveland, Caesar Creek, and Troy Sections of the BT. Having active local chapters is a great way to focus on local trail issues while still growing the overall awareness of the BTA. Nearly 350 hikers participate in chapter events, about 35-40% of whom are also BTA members.

The chapter started in March 2012 and was officially approved as a BTA chapter in June of that year. In the two years that the chapter has been active, we have held over 140 events, ranging from day hikes to backpacking trips to service outings to presentations. 2014 promises to be another activity-filled year, with participation at Buckeye TrailFest, camping and backpacking trips, renewed efforts on local trail maintenance and trail-building opportunities, along with our numerous day hikes.

The chapter is involved with several annual events, from our First Day Hike at the Miami University Natural Areas to the annual MLK Day hike at Hueston Woods to National Trails Day efforts. Members participate in the EGGS hiking challenge each year, support the BTA's efforts at the Midwest Outdoor Experience, and have represented the BTA at the Serpent Mound Summer Solstice event. We will be hosting a beer tasting at TrailFest (look for details on the TrailFest website) as another way to support the Buckeye Trail Association. By the time you read this we will have held our first formal chapter gathering at Roads, Rivers, and Trails in Milford, which is also open to the public as a hiker open house.

We have been looking at our local trails, and will be relocating the BT within the Loveland Section so that it goes by the Cincinnati Observatory, home of the world's oldest telescope used by the general public and two amazing buildings, and through beautiful Ault Park. We are also working to make the white blazed trails near Fort Ancient more hiker-friendly by rebuilding some sections of the trail and adding signage. Additionally, we will be installing four signs along the Buckeye Trail to bring more awareness about the trail to the area.

All in all, the active and engaged members of the Miami Rivers Chapter have shown what a local movement can do to support the Buckeye Trail. If you live in southwestern Ohio please considering visiting our website and join us on an event: www.miamiriverschapter.org.



Dayton Hikers Buckeye Trail Winter Hike at Caesar Creek State Park

Andy Niekamp

On January 11, 2014, the Dayton Hikers group hosted a Buckeye Trail Winter Hike at Caesar Creek State Park in southwest Ohio. Over 60 people participated in five hikes along the Buckeye Trail ranging in length from 4 miles to 14 miles. The weather was unseasonably mild, which was a welcome relief from the subzero temperatures of the polar vortex just a few days earlier. All of the trails were muddy and everyone came back with tales of slippery trails. Afterwards everyone assembled in the park's Day Lodge, which is located right on the blue blazes, for hot drinks, trail talk and a potluck dinner. The hikers had worked up a hearty appetite and there was plenty of food to go around. Everyone who attended received a raffle prize. Prizes were donated by sponsors, including the Buckeye Trail Association, Outdoor Adventure Connection, True Heights Outfitter and Benchmark Outfitter. Plans are already underway to host the event next year. For photos from the hike, visit: <http://www.daytonhikers.com/bthike/>

“

**Great slip-sliding fun!
Nice to see familiar faces!**
– Tim

**This hike had the perfect amount of
messy to it. I loved it!**
– Ruth

Most awesome hike leaders!
– Mark

Muddy Fun! Great time.
– DiAnne

**The hikes, the fellowship and the
food made for a perfect day.**
– Gayle

”



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

Barb Crompton (*B̄ Sue B̄laze B̄ugsie*)

A tree near Old South Church on SR306 in Kirtland provided a lock-up spot for my bike and then off I went to Gates Mills Horticultural Center, eight miles out on County Line road. Although the BT hits local parks and state forest systems along the route, I remember, whilst hiking along at a snail's pace down side streets and winding country roads next to traffic traveling at all speeds, that the point of the BT is piecing together historic trails. No matter what the terrain, I find something to enjoy on each excursion, however it is presented to me. Today's hike found me roadside more often than not as I walked points 21 to 24 of the Bedford section through Chesterland and Kirtland.

The long stretches of country roads have homes and farms with deep, wide lots and most have animals ranging from the four-legged to feather-covered: horses, cattle, turkeys, chickens, peacocks, cats, and lots of dogs. Some are lumbering and happy-go-lucky, some are loud and fast, and others are small and yippy. Some are secured, some bolt at me and then stop short at their invisible fence, and others just run at me full tilt. The last two get the same rise out of me, but it is the quiet ones, who manage to get right up to me without a sound, that get the loudest shriek out of me. Usually I can squawk out a forceful "No!" or even "Sit!," but luckily for me an owner was usually close enough to hear me yell out and then called the dog back. Lesson Number 22: Have a better defense than "No!" or "Sit!" for unexpected approaches of any type. There are a lot of really neat things to observe, but you need to protect yourself.

After I entered Lake Metroparks Chapin Forest Reserve, I wound my way over multiple trails which eventually led to an overlook. I took a few photos of a gorgeous view of the wetlands below me, framed by the trees. As I hiked along I hit a clearing where I could look out toward the horizon. In the far distance I saw smoke stacks, but I did not comprehend all that I was seeing until it hit me—that was Lake Erie! I don't know why it surprised me as much as it did. To date I don't know how many miles I'd walked, but after starting out in Brecksville, it just blew me away that I was actually seeing the lake. I proudly took some photos before I continued with strains of "I'm walking to the lake!" singing in my head.

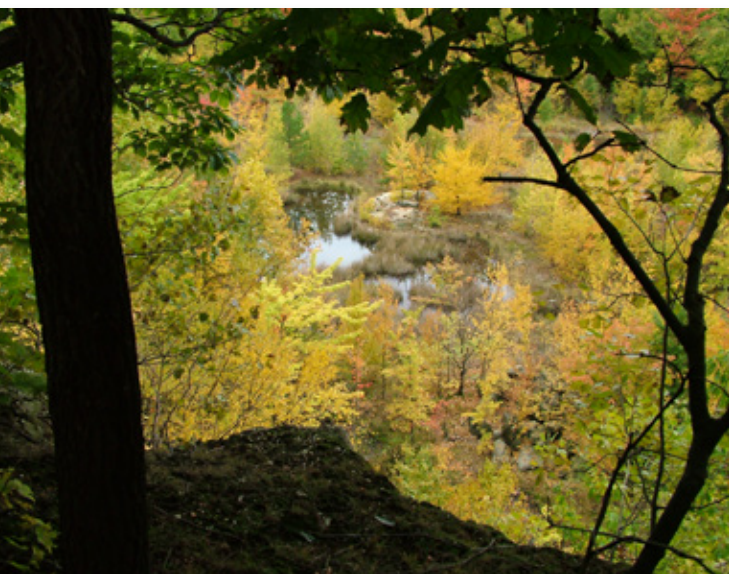
Just before leaving Lake Metroparks Chapin Forest Reserve I walked through the remnants of a sandstone quarry where Mormon founder Joseph Smith cut stone in the 1830's for the Kirtland Temple, the Ohio home of the Church of Latter Day Saints. From the wooden platform extending over the ravine, I studied the scars in the sandstone where each massive block was hand-cut from its eons-long home. While water spilling over the stepped creek bed in the tranquil, park-like setting lulled me back in time, I couldn't help but imagine the hustle and bustle of church members hard at work cutting the sandstone one block at a time and the tremendous effort of moving them on a rugged road to the Temple location two miles away. I was with a LDS Boy Scout Troup when I rediscovered the BT, so this site held a lot of meaning for me. I placed a call to the Scoutmaster to share with him where I was.

I never realized when I started to hike the BT in honor of my father that I would have all these little adventures, that I would find so much to reminisce about so far from my neighborhood, and that I would be taking a walk to Lake Erie! Today the journey became more than an honor I started for my father, it has become about what I would one day accomplish and all that I would take away from the experience.



Barb Crompton

Overlook where stone was quarried for Kirtland Temple



Barb Crompton

Wetlands in Lake Metroparks Chapin Forest Reserve

Winter Hike at Hueston Woods State Park

Pat Hayes

We had about sixty participants show up this year for our annual winter hike around Acton Lake at Hueston Woods State Park on January 20. The American Discovery Trail Northern Route passes along the western edge of Acton Lake as it makes its way from Oxford, OH to Richmond, IN. We had temperatures in the low 30s with snow on the ground. It was a beautiful day for a hike in the woods.

I arrived at the Hueston Woods State Park the evening before the hike and checked into the Lodge. I had breakfast the morning of the hike with a group of hikers who had also arrived early. We had hikers from all over Ohio show up, many from The Dayton Hikers organization and from The Miami Rivers Chapter of the Buckeye Trail Association. Just before 9:00 AM we gathered in the Lodge's main lobby so I could explain the plan for the hike and to have the group photo taken. It was very gratifying to see so many hikers show up for this annual event commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

Four Buckeye Trail members had flagged the 11.5 mile route around Acton Lake on the Friday before the Monday hike. Once again we had some "helpful" person or persons over the weekend remove some of the pink flagging tape that the flagging crew had put up. The good news is that we didn't lose any hikers because of the missing flagging. We reported the incident to the park ranger on duty and he assured us that it wasn't park personnel who removed our trail markers.

BTA members John Rethman and Chris McIntyre set up the tables and chairs in anticipation of feeding the first hikers. I provided transportation from the Park Office back to the Lodge for those hikers who chose to only hike part way around the lake. Thanks to John Rethman for once again providing both the bean soup and chili as well as the corn muffins for the free lunch. Once all the hikers had their lunch and had left the building, John, Chris, and I cleaned up the kitchen and dining area before locking up and heading home. A special thank you goes to Park Manager Mark Lockhart for once again allowing us to use the kitchen facilities and dining area of the Hueston Room in the Park Office building.



Hikers gather in the Lodge for the start of the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day hike at Hueston Woods

5th Annual EGGS Hike and Campout

Byron Guy

Help us honor Emma Gatewood, a founding member of the Buckeye Trail and first woman to solo thru-hike the Appalachian Trail, during the Summer Solstice at the 5th Annual EGGS (Emma "Grandma" Gatewood Solstice) Hike. Come join over 100 hiking/backpacking enthusiasts on the longest day of the year and attempt one of three unsupported backpacking challenges in the beautiful Burr Oak State Park and Wildcat Hollow of the adjacent Wayne National Forest.

This grassroots, volunteer-supported event takes place over three days from June 20-22, and includes a 20 mile/12 hour, 40 mile/24 hour, and 60 mile/36 hour challenge. On-line registration opens April 26 and all registrants on or before June 1 receive a commemorative T-shirt, waterproof/annotated topographical map of the trail, and other trail goodies from one of our many sponsors. Anyone completing the challenge earns the highly coveted EGGS patch to prove they have what it takes to conquer this rugged, off-road, single-track footpath in the foothills of the Appalachians on parts of the Buckeye Trail, North Country National Scenic Trail, and American Discovery Trail. Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/eggshike and visit www.buckeyetrail.org/eggs.php for more information.



Trail Maintainer's Corner

Jim Sprague, Maintenance Supervisor

Happy New Year! Winter 2013-2014 has been a long one for me. When I served as the BTA's State Trail Coordinator, I frequently camped year round. Winter was when I did most of my layout for new off-road trail. Now, I rarely get out, even just for a hike on the frozen trails to observe and enjoy the sights and sounds of the woods in winter. So, it was a rare treat to go out with a small group from a Cleveland Boy Scout Troop late in January, even though it was a cold, blustery day. Rashee Brooks, an Eagle Scout Candidate from Troop 515 (sponsored by The Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland, 6515 Bridge Ave., Cleveland) completed his Service Project. He led his assistants as they performed final assembly of an 85-foot bog bridge along the Buckeye Trail in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The bridge had been built inside so the young men could keep warm and was then transported to the site by One Guy's Flatbed Service out of Lakewood. Cleveland Lumber Company donated the lumber. The bog bridge had been approved as a useful project because a vernal pool had developed between a paved road and the trail. Water from the pool drained across the trail over an extended length and caused hikers and runners to produce a morass of braided, very muddy trail. That problem was best solved by a bog bridge. Rashee was assisted by Joshua Frye (Scoutmaster), Joe Rampini (Scouter), his father Rashee Brooks, and fellow Scouts Jesse Knight, Jacob Stulic and Joseph Weppleman.

Ground Hog's Day is just ahead at this writing. It will be long past by the time you read this message. I am looking forward to getting out on my adopted trail segment in the Belle Valley Section. I hope you have similar thoughts about your segments. March and April are great months to be on the trail. The "bones" of the slopes lie fully exposed until the canopy becomes established in May. That is the time to "sweep" the trail to be sure the trail is passable after the ravages of winter. In addition, you can readily scope out the details of needed trail improvements like drainage, blazing and so on that you might want to schedule for the warmer months. I would like to hear about your adventures on your trail.

By the way, if you have not adopted a segment, many miles of off-road trail are available for immediate adoption in the eastern and southeastern portion of the state. The more populated regions may be more difficult to adopt although there is often a need for volunteers to blaze trail on the road portions. If you are interested, send a message to Barry Unger (americorps@buckeyetrail.org), telling him where you would like to volunteer and what your experience level might be. Barry will suggest an assignment within your comfort zone. Don't worry should you have no experience. Your Section Supervisor will provide you with the early training that you need. Training sessions will also be conducted during the TrailFest at Camp Akita. In addition, you can acquire skills from the Buckeye Trail Crew. The Crew has a full schedule posted on the website (buckeyetrail.org) and on page 21, and they always welcome new members.



Finished bog bridge with proud Scouts (front, left to right) Joseph Weppleman, Jesse Knight, Jacob Stulic and (back, left to right) Joshua Frye, Joe Rampini, and Eagle Scout Candidate Rashee Brooks

Jim Sprague



Eagle Scout Candidate Rashee Brooks, his father Rashee Brooks, Sr., Jim Sprague, and Scoutmaster Joshua Frye

Jim Sprague

Blazing Tips for Trail Maintainers

Jim Sprague, Maintenance Supervisor

The marker along the Buckeye Trail is a 2" by 6" vertical blue (hopefully) rectangular mark called a blaze. The paint employed most frequently is a Sherwin Williams color named "Sweeping Blue" #2408 in outdoor, water-based paint with a Satin finish. The paint is applied with a brush. Please note that the color is not available in any spray can on the market.

Blazing is an art form fraught with the possibility of doing wrong. "I see too many blazes." "I lost my way. There were too few blazes." This complaint can be heard on the same trail segment from different people or possibly at different times of year. Because this situation happens with regularity, Adopters must have a thick skin. A rule of thumb for blaze frequency is that the hiker should be able to see a blaze either by looking forward or by looking back. Note that the rule uses "or." It does not use "and." There is no need to see a blaze only by looking forward.

The blaze is placed on prominent objects such as a tree that stands out along the trail or utility poles along roadways. Therein lies the problem – sometimes what stands out are objects on which blazes should never be painted. This category includes historic buildings, stone structures such as entrance gates, historic canal features and so on, and, yes, sometimes even trees. Had the Buckeye Trail passed by the Logan Elm, that tree would have been featured on the list of objects that should never be painted. Fortunately, the trail never went near this tree.

Sometimes the status of an object is questionable. Sometimes Park Managers think their signs look pretty good as they were designed without a blue Buckeye Trail blaze. While we may question the wisdom of their judgment, it always pays to ask what we may do. Public funds may pay the bills in any Park but responsibility for what happens there falls on the Manager's shoulders. Ask permission, suggest alternatives if they disagree, but always abide by their decision.

Serious consequences may result from failure to follow this rule. The BTA lost its privilege to blaze the Towpath Trail within the domain of Stark Parks after someone painted a blaze prominently on an information display along the trail. We did not get a second chance. In Fairborn, someone painted a blaze on the Entrance Gate to the Wright Memorial. That was a very serious offense – defacing federal property. Fortunately, this blaze was easily removed and no lasting harm was done. Please keep these guidelines in mind when blazing the trail in your section.



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State of Ohio – 21013

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Cuyahoga County – 6045

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

BTA Funds Report

Thank you for showing your Love of the Buckeye Trail! Together you contributed over \$12,000 to the BTA's 2013 Big Give and For the Love of the Buckeye Trail campaigns. Individual contributions are essential for the BTA to continue the good work of building, maintaining, protecting and promoting Ohio's State Trail. Thank you!!

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.

GENERAL FUND

11/01/2013-01/31/2014

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Betty Schwab
Lucas Schwabel
Trudy Senesi
Thomas Shapaka
Frederick Silver
CW Spencer
Kent Spieth
Jim Sprague
Earl Staddon
Robert Steeneck
Arnie Stemen
Jane Tidwell
Richard Troha
Lee David Tucker
Lawrence Turner
Robert Ulrich
Adrian Vanko
Mario Vargas
Rodney Vest
John Waltz
Thomas Webster
Peter Weiner
Lisa Wendt
S. H. White
Windy Hills Farms
Eugene Wilson
John Winnenberg
Todd Woods
C. J. Yegerlehner
Jeff Yoest
Thomas Ziembra
Keith Zook

TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND

11/01/2013-01/31/2014

Travis Neely
Pat and Mary Hayes
Jack Winkler

BARN FUND

11/01/2013-01/31/2014

Linda Paul

Blue is the Favorite Color of The Friends of Crowell Hilaka

Donna Spiegler

The Friends of Crowell/Hilaka (FoCH) is an active grassroots nonprofit that is working on a campaign to purchase Crowell/Hilaka, which is for sale through the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. The former 336-acre Girl Scout camp at Broadview Road and Route 303 in Richfield sits on the Medina section of the Buckeye Trail (points 32-33). The property has two lakes, many streams, an abundant variety of plants and wildlife, and important historic value as the former estate of inventor Jim Kirby. The property has historic buildings—including a dance hall floor built on railroad car springs. Funding commitments and pledges are vital to the success of this campaign.

In addition to donors, FoCH is seeking partners to facilitate the purchase and transformation of the property to benefit hikers, trailblazers and outdoor enthusiasts. To that end, FoCH would like to work with the BTA to redirect the Buckeye Trail through Crowell/Hilaka. “We would be honored to have the Buckeye Trail’s blue blaze through our beautiful camp,” notes Corey Ann Ringle, president of the FoCH. “It would be a win-win for everyone.” If you are interested in learning more about the efforts to save this land for future generations, visit the FoCH at www.friendsofcrowellhilaka.org.

Note: The BTA Board has committed \$100 per acre to the project, conditional upon the inclusion of the BT on the property, the project going to closing, and the anticipated replenishment of the BTA Trail Preservation Fund from an approved grant. The project would help the BT relocate from road to the beautiful setting of the camp.



✂ Cut and save for future reference!

2014 Work Parties

- ① March 22-24BTA Barn 3 Day Work Weekend
- ② April 12-13Scioto Trail Work Weekend
- ③ May 3-4Scioto Trail Work Weekend
- ④ May 17-21Road Fork Work Week
- ⑤ May 31-June 1Old Mans Cave Work Weekend at Pretty Run Preserve
- ⑥ June 7-8New Straitsville Work Weekend at Wildcat Hollow (National Trails Day)
- ⑦ June 7-11Belle Valley/Stockport Work Week at AEP
- ⑧ June 28-July 2West Union at Edge of Appalachia (Chuck Wagon Event)
- ⑨ July 12-13Defiance Work Weekend at Providence Park
- ⑩ July 12-14Shawnee 3 Day Work Weekend at the Ballinger Property
- ⑪ September 6-10Whipple Work Week in the Wayne National Forest
- ⑫ September 20-21Medina Work weekend at Plum Creek Park
- ⑬ September 27-29Delphos 3 Day Work Weekend at Ottoville
- ⑭ October 11-12New Straitsville at Burr Oak State Park (Chuck Wagon Event)
- ⑮ October 25-29West Union at the Edge of Appalachia (Chuck Wagon Event)
- ⑯ November 8-12Old Mans Cave Work Week at Pretty Run Preserve (Chuck Wagon Event)



Welcome New Members!

Bev and Jerry Starcher

Rodney Anderson and Family, Louisville
Tracey Anderson, Newark
Frances C Baumle and Family, Payne
Robert Benedict, Tallmadge
Elizabeth Brooks and Family, Jewett
Thomas Cambisios, Toledo
Russ Cole, Columbus
Mark Cooper, Columbus
Sherry Corbin, Middletown
Arch Cunningham, Wyoming
Brent Devitt, Beavercreek
Gary Dickinson, Oregonia
Stephen Emerick and Family, Centerville
Ken Fletcher, Columbus
William Franz and Family, Chillicothe
Patrice Gambino and Family, Brunswick
Gary Geho, Lambertville, MI
Gerald Hamier, Ashville
Chris Heldman and Family, Columbus
Jonathan G Herrmann, Cincinnati
John Hlivko, Stow
Dave Hodkinson, New Philadelphia
Terry Hopson, Germantown

Nancy Hurst and Steve, Cincinnati
Nancy Johnson, Perrysville
Darrell Kamph and Family, Navarre
Paul Kerchenski, Chargrin Falls
Lisa Lebovitz, Hudson
Miryoung Lee, Kettering
Laura Lozier, Chargrin Falls
Alexa Martin, Cleveland Hgts
Jennifer Matas, Westerville
Jim Meyer, Batavia
Maryann Mildenerger, Painesville
Catherine Miller, Westerville
Joseph Nungesser and Family, Columbus
Connie Nusbaum, Tiffin
Chris Owens, Blanchester
Joshua Palmer and Family, Akron
Dave Palmer and Linda, Rittman
Regina Reiter and Family, New Carlisle
Michael Reynolds, Oberlin
Frank Shaw, Cincinnati
Robert Smith, Xenia
Jonathan Smuck, Steubenville
Rebecca Soehnlén, Beach City

Brian Stewart, Wheelersburg
Liz Stilp and Family, Lewis Center
D J White and Renee Kinkopf, Columbus
Susan Yeager and Clifford, Tallmadge
Jenna Yoakem, Wheelersburg

MEMBERSHIP FORM (for new members only)

ADULT \$20.00 per year
FAMILY \$25.00 per year
STUDENT (full-time) \$10.00 per year
ORGANIZATION \$35.00 per year
SUSTAINING \$50.00 per year
CORPORATE \$500.00 per year
LIFE \$400.00

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Buckeye Trail Association

P.O. BOX 254, WORTHINGTON, OHIO 43085

OR JOIN ONLINE AT:

www.buckeyetrail.org/membership.html

Maximize Your Impact

Barry Unger

Are you maximizing your volunteer hours and donations that you make to the BTA? Many employers will not only match financial donations that you make, but they will also provide non-profits with grants that are based on the amount of hours that you volunteer! Check the list below for Ohio-based organizations that have such programs in place. If you do not see your employer on the list, don't panic! You can contact your employer or contact Barry Unger at volunteer@buckeyetrail.org to see if they show up on our master list of participating employers.

Acme-Cleveland Corporation
 Aeroquip-Vickers, Inc.
 Alcan Aluminum Corp.
 Amcast Industrial Corporation
 American Electric Power Company
 Andersons, Inc.
 The Austin Company
 Borden, Inc.
 BP America, Inc.
 Brushed Engineered Materials, Inc.
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 Rubbermaid Incorporated
 Scott Fetzer Company
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 The Union Central Life Insurance Company
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 White Consolidated Industries, Inc.

Buckeye Trail Association

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**April 24–27,
2014
Camp Akita
Logan, Ohio**



BuckeyeTrailFest.org

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

The Buckeye Trail is now on CafePress!

We have been working hard to expand the official Buckeye Trail merchandise that we offer. We are happy to announce that a full line of new products ranging from childrens clothes to license plate covers can now be purchased at www.cafepress.com/buckeyetrailassociation. Our trail shop found at <http://buckeyetrail.org/store.html> will still offer maps, books, and many of the other products found there in the past, as well as some new additions in the future.

The holiday season is right around the corner, we invite you to stop in and check out some of the great new products that are now available at www.cafepress.com/buckeyetrailassociation.



AND MORE!!