Trailblazer

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On the Trail

Andrew Bashaw

Well, another successful Buckeye TrailFest has come and gone, and another summer is on its way. A little over three years ago, we re-imagined our annual event as "Buckeye TrailFest" and it has grown each year. But is it worth the effort? How do you measure that? What is the purpose of Buckeye TrailFest? Did we meet our goal?

Buckeye TrailFest is special in that it is a major event organized by volunteers of the Buckeye Trail Association for the membership of the Buckeye Trail Association. These four days of fun and education take a year to prepare for; we're working on 2015 if you would like to volunteer.

Before we began promoting the concept of Buckeye TrailFest, our Annual Meeting garnered 50 to 75 participants. This year, 278 registrants and volunteers participated! Is that success? It sounds like it, but what about our other goals? As we sit down to plan for our annual event we think about the short and long-term impacts we might create for the BT and the BTA. Will it be a successful fundraising benefit for the BTA, will

it be a productive educational tool for hikers and volunteers, will we get some trail maintenance or construction accomplished, will we build new and strengthen existing local partnerships, will we recruit new volunteers and encourage existing volunteers to take







Photos: Lee Culp







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on new tasks, will we recruit new BTA members, will attendees have fun exploring new sections of the BT and surrounding region and enjoy the company of others who share a love of Ohio's Buckeye Trail? That's a lot to pack into one weekend! Time will tell of lasting impacts, but I can share some immediate results.

TrailFest 2014 saw 278 people gather to enjoy the Hocking Hills and Little Cities of Black Diamonds regions. Sixty-three of these were new or renewing members, and 108 of them camped out during the event. During our event, 51 presenters who were not also TrailFest registrants shared their knowledge of the natural and cultural history of the region, other great trails, and outdoor skills. These are our partners chipping in so that we may have a great event.

Because of TrailFest we had extra motivation to negotiate with nearby Boch Hollow State Nature Preserve on a Buckeye Trail Use Agreement for new off road Buckeye Trail, of which 600 feet was constructed during workshops. In addition to BTA staff and volunteers, 23 local volunteers gave their time so that visitors to the area could explore their backyard. The final numbers on the fundraising side are still coming in as I write, but it looks like the financial benefit to the mission of the BTA from our auctions, trail shop sales, individual donations, sponsorships, and registration fees will be near \$8,000. The donation of goods for our auctions raised nearly \$4,000 alone.

Having an annual event like Buckeye TrailFest also gives the BTA a reason to better promote itself leading up to the event in newspapers and on the radio and internet, reminding the general public that the BT exists for all to enjoy year-round, whether or not they attend TrailFest.

Not only are we able to quantify the impact of Buckeye TrailFest, but we also took the time to celebrate our volunteers' accomplishments over the past year with our awards ceremony, report to the membership what we have accomplished together and where we are heading, and elect new Trustees to the BTA Board. We also made it a point this year to gather input from the membership on what you thought of TrailFest, what we should offer in the Buckeye Trail Shop, and what you think of our plans for our trail preservation, trail town and volunteer programs. What is difficult to quantify is the feeling an organizer has, seeing a crowd of new and existing members mingling around a campfire, discussing their BT experiences, watching the sun set, and listening to the growing chorus of spring peepers rising from valley below. That is the moment we aspire to achieve.

So, was Buckeye TrailFest 2014 a success? Yes. Was it worth all the effort? I think so, do you? What will next year hold for Buckeye TrailFest? That depends a lot on what the volunteers, partners, weather, facility, and the Buckeye Trail are able to offer in northwest Ohio. We do not plan on exponentially increasing in each category from one year to the next. We do however aspire to provide those moments for Buckeye Trail Association members to gather, learn, engage and enjoy . . . and not just once a year at Buckeye TrailFest.

Thank you to all of the volunteers, partners, sponsors, and members who helped to provide many moments at this year's Buckeye TrailFest. Until next year . . .

See you On the Trail,

Executive Director

Buckeye Trail Association

Check us out ...



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Trailblazer

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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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Oh, What a Hike!

Jim Gilkey

I officially got started hiking the Buckeye Trail on August 11, 2007. After 6 years, 4 months, and 18 days, I finished it on December 28, 2013 at point 34 of the Bedford section near Lake Erie. I had 160 hiking days, with an average of 9 miles a day. Except for a few months of "Health Hikes" in Five Rivers MetroParks starting in September 2006, I was a greenhorn at hiking and camping. My adventure really started in January 2007 when I picked up a copy of Parkways. Listed in the events section was a slide show of Brent and Amy's backpacking trip on the BT, which I attended.



Jim Gilkey reaches Lake Erie, having completed all 1400 miles of the Buckeye Trail

I had known of the BT for 5 or 10 years from a pamphlet I picked up at the Ohio State Fair, but after hearing Brent and Amy I was inspired to become involved with it. By April of 2007, I was a member of the BTA. I day-hiked in the Loveland section in July of that year with John, Chris, and Dianne. John and Chris did volunteer work on the trail, they informed me, and Chris was circuit hiking as well. I got involved in doing both. The work parties with the chuck wagon were a real treat. Herb and Susie spent many hours cooking and feeding the volunteers, a task which has been taken over by Jay Holwick. Thanks to all of you. At night, someone would start a campfire if it wasn't raining. I just sat around and listened to the stories.

As most hikers already know, I have hiked in the heat and the cold, when the sun was shining or when the rain was pouring down in a thunderstorm. Each section of the BT gave me a new vision of the state. In the southwestern part of the state, I had to keep an eye out for bicycles. Further north in the western area, the trail follows the towpath of the Miami-Erie Canal. There is a lot of history along the way in that area. Crops such as tomatoes and cabbages are abundant in the central northwest area. Try to hike this area when the corn is high, since restrooms are scarce.

In the northeast central area, the trail went by a lot of homes with ponds. They must be for fire protection. The Little Loop was filled with many beautiful and well-kept MetroParks. The trail follows the Ohio-Erie Canal towpath south, finally coming to a region of several man-made lakes that help control flooding downstream. The A.E.P. Recreation Lands have many miles of off-road BT trail. A hiker could backpack for three days on it. They have two camping sites. In the southeast section, the trail goes through the Wayne National Forest. It was the most difficult to get through, but one of my favorite sections. Across the southern part of the state, the trail goes through at least 7 state parks, forests, farm lands, and rolling hills.

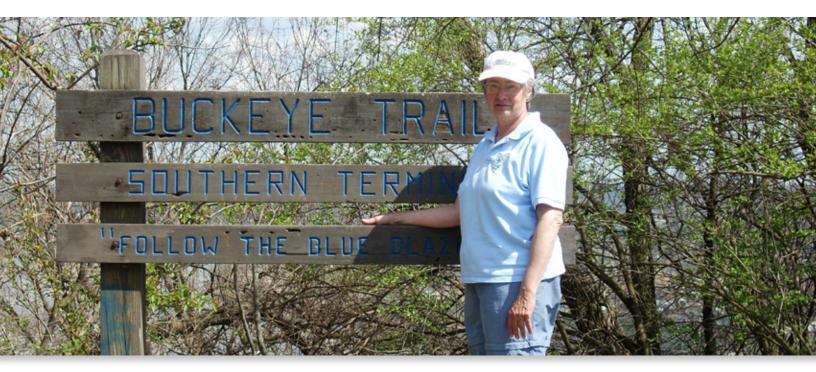
Dianne and I probably had the most hiking miles together. CW, who I met on a M.A.C. (Members Activity Committee) hike in April 2009, helped me towards the end. He finished the trail on July 25th, 2012. There were a lot of hikers and trail angels getting me through on the trail. To all of you, a big thank you.

This is all just a small part of my adventure on the BT. I have many more memories. I also have at least 2,450 pictures, all from a 35mm film camera.

This year in April I am planning to start hiking one weekend a month to do a circuit hike on the BT. Watch the website or the *TrailBlazer* for more details.

President's Message

Connie Pond



Hi, I am Connie Pond, the new president of the BTA. Contrary to most BTA presidents, I actually asked to do this job. I want to thank the current board members for giving me a shot at it. I have been on the board for a number of years as the treasurer and for the past year as the Vice President. I was proud of my contribution as treasurer. I fancied myself as an enabler.... facilitating the work of the REAL workers by keeping the bills paid. When I retired from government work 16 years ago, Bob (my husband) and I decided to walk the 1400 miles of the Buckeye Trail. That was the adventure that really endeared the BT to me. I have walked the shores of Lake Erie, trekked the hills of the southeastern counties, stood on the banks of the Ohio River and marveled at the flatness of northwest canal lands. All portions have their magic and the BT takes you there, up front and in person. I want this to continue forever.

Our board is 15 members strong. We have three new members this year: Kathy Hamilton, who has a varied background in serving as director to various youth organizations; Jenny Koester, who wants to use her background as a writer and photographer to promote the BT; and Linda Paul, who is currently managing director of Earth Share Ohio and who brings a great wealth of non-profit administration experience to the board. My job will be to see that their skills and the skills of the other board members are used to the maximum to strengthen the association.

Recently the association hosted Trail Fest 2014 in the Hocking Hills. The most amazing aspect to me was the number of tent campers: 91. This definitely shows a demographic shift toward a

younger crowd and is in contrast to earlier annual events where beds in a dormitory were at a premium. There were many varied hikes: long, short, early morning, and evening. Hikers watched birds, learned about area geology, and learned to identify spring flowers. I spent Friday along with several others on an auto tour of the Little Cities of the Forest. We learned about oil and coal exploitation and the resultant pollution in the critical watersheds of Sunday and Monday Creeks. This relatively poor area has visions of enticing much-needed tourism dollars by expanding the horizons of visitors to the Hocking Hills.

The BTA office is located in Shawnee in the midst of the Little Cities area. Because of its location, valued relationships have been forged between Rural Action and the Sunday Creek Watershed Group. Our two Americorp volunteers have shared employment with BTA and Rural Action. The BTA office is located in a building rented from the Sunday Creek Group. Our Executive Director, Andrew Bashaw, who lives in Glouster, has nurtured these relationships. If any of you live in southeast Ohio and have a few hours to donate, we sure could use some help at the BTA office. Give us a ring.

I will sign off for now. Read through this issue and consider coming out to a work session. Those of you who attended the trail building workshop at the Trail Fest can hone your new skills. Pick out a hike and earn some miles on the BT. Did you know the BTA has patches for increments of miles walked? This summer, why not earn at least one. Happy Trails!

BTA Trailblazer Summer 2014 www.buckeyetrail.org

The Loveland Section: Eden Park and DeSales

Jenny Koester

The southern terminus of the Loveland Section is located in Eden Park, by all accounts the gem of Cincinnati's park system. The park includes the Art Museum, Playhouse in the Park, two river overlooks, Mirror Lake, Twin Lakes, the often-photographed water tower, Presidents' Grove and Krohn Conservatory.

It is no accident that Eden Park feels like a garden-woodland oasis in the heart of the city. The land, once named The Garden of Eden,



The Donald A. Spencer Overlook at Eden Park offers a sweeping view of the Ohio River and Kentucky

was purchased by Nicholas Longworth from Martin Baum. Longworth was an avid horticulturalist and a man of great vision. After an inspiring trip to Philadelphia, he hired Daniel McAvoy to improve upon his Garden of Eden. Longworth and McAvoy worked tirelessly to add new plants and trees to the property. The land that Longworth had developed and kept open for the public's enjoyment passed to his son who later worked to have it transferred to the city. The grand opening of the park was July 4, 1870. In honor of Longworth's Garden of Eden, the park land was named Eden Park.

At this point, Adolph Strauch, the other key player in the park's development, arrived in Cincinnati. Strauch's name may not be as familiar as that of Frederic Law Olmsted, but for Cincinnati, it is Strauch to whom we owe a debt of gratitude. Strauch believed in enhancing nature by working with nature rather than manmade objects. He removed manmade obstacles such as stone walls and fencing and created settings in which the observer was positioned in a way to see natural features, not other people. The natural and potential topography of the land was ideally suited for Strauch's design sensibilities.

Strauch was Superintendent of City Parks for a time. Even after politics drove him away, he found a way to 'shame' the city into installing more trees. It is quite possible that he asked Baron Richard Von Steube, Germany's Royal Chief Forrester, to comment that Eden Park lacked sufficient trees. This did not sit well with city officials. Voila, more trees.



The Spring House Gazebo, the oldest Cincinnati park structure and perhaps the most photographed park structure in Cincinnati

The DeSales neighborhood has seen its share of change, for good and bad, over the years. It wasn't that long ago that this was a small black eye in our area. Today, shops, eateries, boutiques, and art galleries line Woodburn Avenue. The neighborhood is still in transition but there are positive steps toward revitalization.

The area, part of Walnut Hills, is the result of two distinct cultures coming together: the wealthy entrepreneurs who built lavish mansions on 5 or more acres and middle-class German workers. Most of the buildings of historic and architectural significance were built between 1865 and 1910. This area was, for a time, suburban, an oasis from the dirt, grime, noise and pollution of Cincinnati. In 1849, the Marianist Brothers from France established the Saint Francis De Sales church (the church you see today is the second church built for the parish) for the neighborhood's German Catholic families.

By the 1860s the primarily residential neighborhood was developing a thriving business district. The horsecar service of 1872 opened up

this area to new residents, making it easier for them to commute from Woodburn to East Walnut Hills and downtown. Cable cars soon replaced horses and faster electric streetcars replaced the cable cars. The quiet area that was once apart from the city was now tightly connected by modern transportation. To accommodate the influx of new residents and the shops and services to cater to them, multifamily dwellings were built, most of which included storefronts on the first floor.

What makes DeSales so exceptional is that the design of the apartment buildings was as thoughtful and elegant as that of the grand estates. The San Marco Apartment building at the corner of Woodburn and Madison boasted "handsome carved stone trimmings, private halls, bathrooms fitted up with marble floors and wainscoting, a butler's pantry and one room on the top floor for a servant."

Schedule of Hikes & Events



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

JUNE

June 28-July 2

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

Description: Continue building new trail at the Nature Conservancy's Edge of Appalachia Preserve 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: Camp 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

July 11-13

Work Weekend at West Branch State Park

Description: Continue building trail around Michael J. Kirwan Reservoir. Meet at the back meadow of the horse camp area at 8:00am Saturday morning. Tools will be provided. Bring your own food and water.

See June 20-22 work weekend for information on camping and meals.

Contact: Steve Latza at (216) 533-0514

July 12-13

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

3 Day Work Weekend at the Ballinger Property, Shawnee Section

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

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

Meals: Bring your own food and water. Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

July 19-20

BT Circuit Hike

Location: Burton Section, Nov. 2011 map Description: Saturday: Meet at water tower in Burton Square (near Point 21). Leave at 9:30AM to car pool to Mountain Run Station Trail Head off Chardon Windsor Road, near Point 16. The hike is about 12.6 miles.

Description: Sunday: Meet at Township ball field in Hiram Rapids near Point 24. The ball field is one block east of Alpha Road on Allyn Road. Leave at 9:00AM to car pool to Burton Square (near Point 21). The hike is about 9.8 miles.

Camping: Punderson State Park Contact: Jim Gilkey at 614-879-9912 ahead of time or at 740-277-8749 on the hike weekend

AUGUST

August 16-17

BT Circuit Hike

Location: Caesar Creek Section, Nov. 2013 map

Description: Saturday: Meet at Caesar Creek horseman's camp (near Point 9). The horseman's camp is on Furnas Oglesby Road off SR-73. Leave at 9:30AM to car pool to Caesar Creek Visitor's Center parking lot near Point 4. The hike is about 11.3 miles.

Description: Sunday: Meet at Access ramp parking lot on Spring Valley Paintersville Road near Point 13. The ball field is one block east of Alpha Road on Allyn Road. Leave at 9:00AM to car pool to the horseman's camp on Furnas Oglesby Road (near Point 9). The hike is about 10.2 miles.

Camping: Caesar Creek horseman's camp Contact: Jim Gilkey at 614-879-9912 ahead of time or at 740-277-8749 on the hike

August 22-24

BTA Board Retreat

Location: BTA Barn at Tappan Lake Contact: President president @buckeyetrail.org

August 22-24

Work Weekend at West Branch State Park

Description: Continue building trail around Michael J. Kirwan Reservoir. Meet at the back meadow of the horse camp area at 8:00am Saturday morning. Tools will be provided. Bring your own food and water.

See June 20-22 work weekend for information on camping and meals.

Contact: Steve Latza at (216) 533-0514

SEPTEMBER

September 6-10

Whipple Work Week in the Wayne National

Description: Work on the trail within the Wayne National Forest in Washington County doing basic maintenance, clearing trees, and blazing between points 1 & 6 of the Oct. 2010 Whipple map, about 14.3 off-road miles.

Camping: Haught Run Campground on T407 near SR 26 and Tice Run Rd. A shower will be available.

Meals: Bring your own food and water. Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

September 12-14

Work Weekend at West Branch State Park

Description: Continue building trail around Michael J. Kirwan Reservoir. Meet at

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.

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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 Trailblazer Summer 2014 www.buckeyetrail.org the back meadow of the horse camp area at 8:00am Saturday morning. Tools will be provided. Bring your own food and water.

See June 20-22 work weekend for information on camping and meals.

Contact: Steve Latza at (216) 533-0514

September 13-14

BT Circuit Hike

Location: Burton Section, Nov. 2011 map and Mogadore Section July 2011 map

Description: Saturday: Meet at trailhead on Prospect Street, one block east of SR-44 near Point 3, Mogadore Section. Leave at 9:30AM to car pool to Township ball field in Hiram Rapids near Point 24 Burton Section. The ball field is one block east of Alpha Road on Allyn Road. The hike is about 10.7miles.

Description: Sunday: Meet at driveway just north of Newton Falls Road near Point 6, Mogadore Section. Leave at 9:00AM to car pool to trailhead on Prospect Street. The hike is about 10.8 miles.

Camping: West Branch State Park Contact: Jim Gilkey at 614-879-9912 ahead of time or at 740-277-8749 on the hike weekend

September 21-22

Medina Work Weekend at Plum Creek Park

Description: Help build new Buckeye Trail in Plum Creek Park from 8:00AM to 3:00PM, then enjoy the park's family-friendly amenities.

Camping: Camping will at the Hayes's home. There are some beds and lots of floor space or you can pitch a tent or bring a camper.

Meals: Dinner Saturday and breakfast Sunday will be provided. Bring your own lunches.

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

September 27-29

Delphos 3 Day Work Weekend at Ottoville

Description: Work party to relocate the Buckeye Trail/North Country Trail from on-road (Road 25-P) to off-road Miami & Erie Canal property (mostly towpath) owned by the Village of Ottoville and the State of Ohio between points 14 & 15. Leave for the work site at 8:30AM both days. Quit work at 3:30PM on Saturday and at Noon on Sunday.

Camping: TBD

Meals: Bring your own food and water. Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

OCTOBER

October 5

Mentor Marsh Nature Center Cleanup Day

Location: Mentor Marsh Nature Center, 5185 Corduroy Rd., Mentor, 44060 Description: Maintenance work on the

the nature preserve. Bring water, snack, and work gloves.

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

October 11-12

New Straitsville Work Weekend at Burr Oak State Park *BTA Chuck Wagon Event*

Description: Improving existing BT throughout the New Straitsville Section. Leave camp at 8:30AM for work site.

Camping: Burr Oak State Park Group Campground near boat dock 3. From SR78 on the east side of Burr Oak Lake, take C-14 (Mountville Rd.) west toward the lake and the group campground.

Meals: Meals will be provided FREE for the first 20 volunteers to sign up with Jay Holwick at holwick@columbus.rr.com by October 5, 2014.

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

October 17- 19

Fort Ancient State Memorial - First Annual Campout/Hiking Event

Description: The Miami Rivers Chapter of the BTA is hosting their first annual 2-night Campout/Hiking Event at Fort Ancient. See article in this issue. More details will be provided as they become available.

Contact: Gayle Burke at gaylehammerburke@gmail.com

October 17-19

Work Weekend at West Branch State Park

Description: Continue building trail around Michael J. Kirwan Reservoir. Meet at the back meadow of the horse camp area at 8:00am Saturday morning. Tools will be provided. Bring your own food and water.

See June 20-22 work weekend for information on camping and meals.

Contact: Steve Latza at (216) 533-0514

October 18-19

BT Circuit Hike

Location: Caesar Creek Section, Nov. 2013 map

Description: Saturday: Meet at parking lot on Weaver Street at US-68 just north of Shawnee Park in Xenia. Leave at 9:30AM to car pool to access ramp parking lot on Spring Valley Paintersville Road near Point 13. The hike is about 10 miles.

Description: Sunday: Meet at parking lot north of Yellow Springs Station near Point 19. Leave at 9:00AM to car pool to parking lot on Weaver Street at US-68. The hike is about 9.1 miles.

Camping: John Bryan State Park or motel. Contact: Jim Gilkey at 614-879-9912 ahead of time or at 740-277-8749 on the hike weekend

West Union at the Edge of Appalachia *BTA Chuck Wagon Event*

Description: Work week to continue building new trail in the Nature Conservancy's Edge of Appalachia Nature Preserve in the West Union Section. Saturday-Tuesday: Leave for work site at 8:00AM and quit work at 3:00PM. Wednesday: Leave for the work site at 8:00AM and quit at Noon.

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

Meals: Meals will be provided FREE for the first 20 volunteers to sign up with Jay Holwick at holwick@columbus.rr.com by October 20,

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

November 8-12

Old Mans Cave Work Week at Pretty Run Preserve *BTA Chuck Wagon Event*

Description: Trail maintenance work at the Pretty Run Preserve in Vinton County. Saturday-Tuesday: Leave for work site at 8:30AM and quit work at 3:30PM. Wednesday: Leave for work site at 8:30AM and quit at 12:30PM.

Camping: Pretty Run Property near point 26 of the Nov. 2010 Old Mans Cave section map

Meals: Meals will be provided FREE for the first 20 volunteers to sign up with Jay Holwick at holwick@columbus.rr.com by November 5,

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

November 15-16

BT Circuit Hike

Location: Mogodore Section, July 2013 map Description: Saturday: Meet at parking lot on Knapp Road north of SR-14 near Point 11. Leave at 9:30AM to car pool to driveway on Garrett Road just north of Newton Falls Road near Point 6. The hike is about 10 miles.

Description: Sunday: Meet at Cranberry Creek Community Park on Sandy Lake Road near Point-14. Leave at 9:00AM to car pool to parking lot on Knapp Road 0.2 miles north of Point 11. The hike is about 7.2 miles.

Camping: West Branch State Park or motel. Contact: Jim Gilkey at 614-879-9912 ahead of time or at 740-277-8749 on the hike weekend

December 13

BTA Board Meeting

Location: Command Alkon in Columbus OH at 10:00AM.

Contact: President president@ buckeyetrail.org

The Wildflowers Bring Hope

Mary Anne Kamph

Every year as winter draws to a close, my husband Scott and I start watching for the first wildflowers to appear in our woods. The Spring Beauties and Yellow Trout Lilies seem to pop up overnight and we welcome them like dear friends. There is hope that spring is finally here. The Dutchman's Breeches and Bloodroot appear as do the May Apples, Dandelions and Violets. Then the Jack-in-the-Pulpits show up, hiding in the other early green vegetation on the forest floor. There are many more flowers depending on where you live.

Then come the Ox-Eye Daisies and there is hope that summer is almost here. Take a magnifying glass and study this lovely flower. As summer progresses we see an abundance of flowers in various types and colors in our fields and roadsides. Nature's bouquet of blue Chicory, white Queen Anne's Lace, and red Clover is a favorite of mine. The tiny Deptford Pinks send up a beautiful, delicate, intricate flower that never fails to amaze me.



Outchman's Breeche:



Bluets

As summer wanes the Goldenrod stalks grow and flower in their brassy, golden glory. There is hope that autumn is almost here. Many of summer's wildflowers have already faded and await next year's blooming. Late autumn brings the lavender-colored Asters with their little yellow centers. I eagerly wait for them and find myself telling their stalks to "Hurry up and bloom, because the frost in coming!" I want to enjoy their beauty as long as possible because winter is coming.

The wildflowers come every year at their appointed time. The cycle of nature gives us hope that life goes on—the wildflowers tell us so. They have the power to amaze as well as comfort. They can make us pause in our fast-paced lives to see a beauty that nurtures our spirits. We can show them to others or draw them or take a picture of them. We can teach our children to identify and love them.

No matter what else you may do this year, I hope that you will take the time to hike your favorite places on the Buckeye Trail and find the wildflowers in every season.

Boy Scouts and Trail Runners Perform Good Deed on the BT

Pat Hayes

On April 19th, Jim Sprague, acting Akron section supervisor, Pete Whitworth, Todd Smith, and I met near Boston Mills to remove old bridge material from a ravine on the Buckeye Trail in the Cuyahoga National Park. Last November, we took down the bridge used by the BT because the stream had eroded the bridge supports, making it unsafe to use. The bridge was originally built by the National Park Service to carry horses over the stream, so it was rather solidly built.

The trail in this section of the CVNP is used heavily by trail walkers and runners, and as it happened on this day, by Boy Scout Troop 327 out of Hudson. The Scouts were on a training hike to prepare for their trip to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. It was our good fortune to have trail users that appreciate what the BTA does for the trail: both trail runners and the members of Troop 327 stopped and picked up bridge lumber and carried it up the hill to the edge of Boston Mills Road for the Park Service to pick up.

It was a beautiful day for the project and Pete and Todd did more than their share of carrying that lumber up the hill. I profusely thanked all who stopped to help.

A Blast from the Past: How Old Items Come Up Again!

Richard Lutz, GIS Coordinator

While reading through old Trailblazers, I came across the following article in the July 1978 issue:

WANTED: PHOTO OF WILLIAM FLOOD'S GRAVE!

Two years ago, the summer BT hike was in that interesting countryside in Adams County near Buzzard's Roost and Lynx Prairie. Ralph Ramey was the Hike Master and he recently wrote to us that someone in his group had taken a picture of the historic grave of early pioneer William Flood and that he would very much appreciate getting a copy of that picture if it can be located.

If any of our readers is the photographer of that special spot and can locate that slide or negative, would you please write to us? Many Thanks!

Since I haven't seen the *Trailblazers* after 1978, it is hard to know if someone replied to that request; however, I do have a photo to share. In it, you may notice the flag line that Jim Runk and I laid out earlier this spring at the Edge of Appalachia Preserve System goes past the grave. The new trail that we continue to work on will go right past this site. So come out on June 28th-July 2nd and October 25th-29th, and help us get the new trail to William Flood's grave to provide a new historical point along the trail for all hikers to enjoy!



Wichard Lutz

Flag line for new trail through the Edge of Appalachia goes past William Flood's grave

Barn Report

Mary Hamilton

A dozen people descended on the BTA Barn on March 22nd-23rd to seal the exterior of the barn in order to deter the bat population. Repairs were made where needed, major cracks sealed, old plastic removed from the third floor and new plastic put in its place. When the crew needed a break for fresh air, they removed fallen trees on the trail from the barn to Tappan Lake Park. This was scheduled to be a three-day project, but was completed in only two days. Many thanks to everyone for their hard work.

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Available through **www.HumanKinetics.com**, major online resellers, and your local bookstore



Maintainer's Corner

Jim Sprague, Maintenance Supervisor

During 2013, Luke Jordan, known also by his trail name "Strider," hiked the entire North Country National Scenic Trail. He chronicled his trip in the Winter Issue of "The North Star." His story is fascinating. He met adversity with strength and resolve as he struggled through late snows in North Dakota and Minnesota. Further on, he described the trail in most states with glowing terms. However, Ohio did not measure up. While his hike through Ohio was filled with much trail magic created by the people he met, our Buckeye Trail is described in the excerpt below:

"My hike through Ohio started out as a pleasant hike along the old canal towpaths."

"However, once I reached the Shawnee State Forest section of the trail everything started to go bad. A lot of the off-road trail was overgrown with multiflora rose and many sections were impassable. By the time I got through Ohio I had walked about 40 miles further than planned and wasted two days because of getting lost or having to turn around because the trail was not passable. I'm not trying to bad mouth the people involved with the Buckeye Trail, because I know they are all dedicated and work very hard to try to maintain over 1400 miles of trail with a shortage of manpower, which is nearly impossible. But I wanted to include this because the difficulty of hiking parts of the BT was the biggest road block of the hike."

Extracted from "A Thru-hiker's Journey", Luke "Strider" Jordan, The North Star, 33, No.1, pp 40-43 (2014)

Is this the kind of description that you want for the Buckeye Trail? I can tell you that it is not my idea of how I want the Buckeye Trail to be remembered. I am equally certain that you agree with me. Yet, I know that the history of maintenance along the trail is fraught with the idea that maintenance can be accomplished in the early spring and late fall. Do you see the problem? Grass, multiflora rose, tall prairie flowers, vines and shrubs show enthusiastic growth during Ohio's hot, humid, moist growing season. If you are lucky enough to have adopted a sun-drenched portion of trail, visits during the hot months are a necessity. Farmers take in their first cut of hay by Memorial Day or a little later. That should tell us that vigorous growth of weeds as described by Strider is also well underway. Aggressive weed cutting should be underway by mid-May and continue at least once every 4 to 6 weeks on into September. Wooded trail is not so demanding. If you time the visit sometime between mid-June and mid-August, one visit annually cutting growth to the

ground will keep the weeds in check. Trail maintenance requires hard work and dedication. The payoff is knowing that your piece of heaven along the Buckeye Trail is just that—a pleasure to hike.

As Strider suggested, the Buckeye Trail needs more maintenance manpower. That need remains urgent. If you feel the urge to sweat, and what hiker does not, contact Barry Unger at americorps@buckeyetrail.org about adopting your own trail segment. Note that all of the North Country Trail that is congruent with the Buckeye Trail lies between Providence Dam on the Maumee River west of Toledo and Zoar south of Canton. The distance to your adopted site may be significant.

By the way, if you have not already read Strider's story in "The North Star", I highly recommend that you do. He had an outstanding adventure.



Trail maintainer Randy Bailey cuts down Honeysuckle in the Troy section near Wright Patterson Air Force Base.



Mary Hamilton clears debris along the trail.

2014 Trail Crew Awards

500 Hours of Service - Jacket Byron Henry

250 Hours of Service - Honor RollDeven Atkinson
Byron Guy

100 Hours of Service - Patch Russ Flesher John Johnson Scott Kamph

30 Hours of Service - Shirt

Claudia Bashaw Bird Frate Tom Hinrichs Don Jacobs Richard Saccardi Ron Schray Tim Spaulding Adam Stamm Shannon Stewart Nancy Vallen Steve Walker

To grow the Buckeye Trail, we need your ideas!

Jenny Koester, Connie Pond

Let me cut to the chase, the Buckeye Trail is always looking for ways to raise money. To maintain and more importantly grow an organization such as this takes funding. Currently we are exploring ways in which we can raise an additional \$10,000 annually. This is an impressive yet very reasonable goal for such a great organization that created and maintains a trail of over 1,400 miles!

The board would like to ask you, as a member of this organization, to share with us your ideas for raising these dollars. We currently raise money through a spring and fall fundraising drive, we will be putting on a 5k run/walk in Nelsonville, and we will help staff a long-distance relay race in Dayton. The additional funds raised will be used in a variety of ways to promote and support the BTA—everything from supporting more work parties with the chuckwagon, building new trail at the Edge of Appalachia Preserve, financing the Buckeye Trail Story Project (see page 14) and second edition of *Follow the Blue Blazes*, supporting Andrew and staff in their work to lead our organization, and many other ways. We want your thoughts on how to best use the resources we have.

I don't know about you, but some of my best, most creative thinking and problem solving happens when I am outside walking the trail. So lace up your boots, head out for a few hikes, and let your mind ponder as you wander—how can the Buckeye Trail raise \$10,000 so that we can continue our outreach, improve our publicity, protect more trail miles, and create a better hiking experience for our members and trail users?

Send your thoughts and ideas to: president@buckeyetrail.org



Jay Holwick explains the Chuck Wagon





Volunteers from the Little Cities of the Forest build hiking trail at Tecumseh Lake near Shawnee

Explore Fort Ancient

Gayle Burke

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: The Miami Rivers Chapter of the Buckeye Trail Association is hosting its first annual Campout/Hiking Event at Fort Ancient State Memorial on October 17, 18 and 19. Fort Ancient is one of the historic sites and museums of the Ohio Historical Society and it was named a National Historic Landmark. Their focus is to provide an educational experience about Ohio's Native American Indians as it relates to the park's archaeology site. You will see breathtaking views of the Hopewell ceremonial earthworks that give Fort Ancient is charm while hiking the various trails. Following the Buckeye Trail's blue blazes through part of the property is all the more reason to hike at the State Memorial.

The Miami Rivers Chapter will host a two-night camping adventure with hikes and tours scheduled at Fort Ancient. Our plan is to provide hikes ranging from three to ten miles to view the beautiful landscape this park has to offer. Included in the festivities will be a cookout held in the shelter area on the Fort Ancient grounds, along with campfires and fellowship among the hikers and campers. Although our goal is to provide an unforgettable experience for all who attend this event, another goal is to raise money for Fort Ancient. Since we want to support this landmark and all the history it holds as a special site in our state of Ohio, we welcome donations to Fort Ancient State Memorial.

It will certainly be a fun-filled experience for everyone. Please consider joining us for an adventure in support of a good cause. Hope to see you on the weekend of October 17th!

Dr. Strangelove or How I Learned to Love the Stu... Wilderness Loop

Randall Roberts

I guess my story starts shortly after my hiking partner Steve shared some stories he had heard about the so called stu... I mean the North Country Trail connector. I knew there was some sort of funky bulge going on in the southeast but didn't know much about it. I thought it could make a good backpacking loop. Steve proceeded to tell me about the typical experiences hikers have had on that section of the trail—mostly negative. You may have heard those stories already, but you haven't heard mine. I actually liked these two sections!

I wanted to know more about what I would eventually be getting myself into. Thanks to the work by Richard Lutz and others, I was able to import the BT into Google earth and do some virtual exploring. I discovered that the Road Fork section starts out on roads that cross over and follow various ridge lines. When I first started hiking the BT I wasn't sure how I felt about hiking along roads, but I've learned to enjoy them. They often make for a nice casual walk past interesting farm houses and other structures and usually have very little traffic. This didn't look so bad.



A scenic country road in the Wilderness Loop

I completed the Road Fork and Whipple sections in 19 days spread out over 10 months, which included eight day hikes and seven nights of camping. My first hike was February 18, 2013 on Presidents Day. I completed a 5.2 mile (one way) out and back hike. I had four similar hikes over the next six weeks, including Archers Fork loop. I think this was one of my favorite hikes. Being a bike trail, there were bridges to help cross ravines and streams, and that section was well maintained, except somehow I managed to get off the trail and into a thorn thicket. I also had to backtrack ¾ miles to retrieve my walking cane which I had left when I sat on a log to retie my boots. The cane was a telescoping walking stick I bought while I was stationed in Korea to help hike the ridges there. It had sentimental value and was worth backtracking to retrieve it.

In May I started my weekend hikes, using the free camping at Lamping Homestead. I raced down Friday after work and set the tent up as the sun was setting. After the sun set, I was the only one there. I must admit, this was a little unnerving. I kept having visions of the Blair Witch Project and wondered if I would awake to find a stack of stones just outside. The wind would shake the tent and I wondered if it was someone messing with me.

At two in the morning I awoke to a woman's scream! My mind raced to think of all the scenarios that could possibly happen. Luckily, the scream was followed instantly by laughter. I got out of the tent and walked to the tree line where I could see a car in the parking lot. I heard the doors open and close and the car left. They stopped to use the privy. Who does that in the middle of nowhere? The woman must have stepped into the ditch on the way to the facilities.

In August, I camped one weekend each at Ring Mill and Haught Run, both good quiet places to camp. The day I left Ring Mill was the worst day for me. I had lofty goals this day, but the first bit of the hike was on muddy road being used by ATVs that left long mud puddles. The only way to cross without getting wet was to go into the woods thick with brambles. I couldn't wait to get out of that section. Next, I began hiking in chest high grass and weeds still wet from the morning dew. I was soaked and couldn't wait to get out of that area. The next area was full of downed branches. I couldn't wait to get out of that area. I hiked down to the creek and up the other side to a road, crossed the road and straight up through thorn bushes. The tall grass didn't seem so bad now. Frustrated, I hacked through the thorn bushes with my Korean walking stick, which eventually broke in two. Studying the map, I discovered I could actually hike all the way back to camp on road and in doing so, cover part of the trail I had yet to hike. I didn't plan it that way, but I managed to make a nice loop hike out of it.

I completed the Whipple section over four weekends in September, October, and November, staying three weekends at Lane Farm campground near Marietta and one weekend at AEP Camp Ground G. The upside of Lane Farm was its location close to Applebee's in Marietta. The downside of staying there was that while I was the only one camping, there was a lot of traffic between 10pm and 4am. People seem to like to park there and play their music loudly!

While hiking Whipple between points 2 and 4, I met a land owner who has a hunting trailer near a stream. The trail goes through his property. He said I was the only one he had seen hiking the trail even though he had seen work parties several times. I knew by the signs of fresh sawdust and cut trees that this part had recently been taken care of and it was a great place to hike.

I'll be honest, I was happy to get to the Stockport section and to be able to say, "Yes, I finished the Stupid Loop," but I really enjoyed it and I'm glad to have had the experience.

BTA Trailblazer Summer 2014 www.buckeyetrail.org

A Series of Remarkable Experiences and Other Hiking Life Lessons

Barb Crompton (Blue Blaze Bugsie)

Hiking gives me plenty of time to daydream and contemplate. On one of my hikes I was thinking that if I ever completed the entire Buckeye Trail, I would have done so almost three times, having hiked, biked and driven most sections. Another thing I noted was that since I come back to where my section-hike journey last ended, each hike has been a great way for me to see some remarkable places twice and in most cases I set aside some extra time to explore.

Before starting today's journey, hubby and I headed back to the Latter Day Saints sandstone quarry at the edge of Lake Metroparks State Forest. Talking a mile a minute about what I had seen there, I could barely contain myself as I dragged him to the wood viewing platform. Today the light was much brighter than on my last visit, so I was able to get some very nice photos that clearly showed the 170-year-old harvesting marks that remain etched in the stone. We then headed back to the car and drove up the road to the Old South Church at SR 306 and Eagle Road where I began today's hike.

After a short roadside hike down Eagle Road, the trail headed north and off I went into Penitentiary Glen. The blazes took me down a narrow trail and I popped out into a lane of crabapple trees that were loaded with lovely scarlet-colored fruit. As I pass the last tree I got my first view of the marsh. To me, coming into a wide expanse after being on narrow paths is like walking into a beautiful room in a showcase home. I like to experience all the treasures it has to offer right from the entry: the way it is laid out, the smells that reach me, and the way the rush of air brushes at my face. I am captivated at the threshold as I take it all into my head, then photograph it for memories. The marsh was surrounded on every side by trees of all types, with a large pond in the middle. The beautiful colors were twofold as they were reflected in the water along with the brilliant blue color of the sky. As I followed the trail I got to watch birds visiting the man-made nesting boxes and homes dotting the marsh landscape. The blue blazes pulled me away from the pond and down yet another wooded trail which took me away from, but then back again, to a different side of the marsh. This was the pattern as I made my way through and around the glen.

Finally I moved into darker and darker trails that had maddeningly difficult hills and even a creek to ford. As I walked, I learned that this very area was the reason for the name Penitentiary Glen. As difficult as it was to walk it, imagine what the early settlers must have felt while taking their wagons through there! I found myself getting quite exhausted on this hike and as I finally made my way back out of the glen and onto Booth Road I was relieved it was almost over! I walked down the driveway of the Penitentiary Glen nature and wildlife centers and out onto Booth Road. One last steep haul took me down to Chardon Road onto the property of an old schoolhouse, now a nature interpretive center for schoolchildren, and future potential parking spot for my last leg of the Bedford section of the Buckeye Trail.



Follow the Blue Blazes for a hiking adventure



Marsh and pond at Penitentiary Glenn

The Buckeye Trail Story Project

The Buckeye Trail began with a 1958 article in the Columbus Dispatch with a big idea inspiring a movement that has continued to grow for over 50 years and 1,400 miles. What story is being shared today that will inspire the next generation of hikers and outdoor enthusiasts? A whole new generation of outdoor adventurers is being introduced to the BT this season and we need to reach out to them now to foster that relationship.

Based on input from members like you we have compiled the wish list at right of the next evolution of BT products to help us tell our story better and engage existing and future generations of BT hikers. Every bit you are able to chip in will help us to produce these tangible products.

For more details on our Story Project, check out:

http://www.buckeyetrail.org/spring.php

WISH LIST

2nd Edition of Follow the Blue Blazes
BT Map Wall Poster
Next Evolution of the BT Hiking Maps
BT Version of National Park Style Map/Brochure
Buckeye Trail Data Book
Improved Online Interactive Map
BT Promotional Video and Documentary
Special Edition TrailBlazer
Research on stories told from the BT
BT Smartphone App

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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BTeasers

Pat Hayes

Q

Which two BTA-friendly Ohio Senators introduced amendments to Ohio Revised Code to protect landowners from liability lawsuits?



Senators Ralph Regula (Navarre) and Harry Armstrong (Logan) submitted the amendments and were successful in persuading the General Assembly to make a change to the public liability law. Ohio Revised Code 1533.18 and 1533.181 allow landowners to grant permission to persons to cross their land for recreational purposes without being in danger of a lawsuit for any damages sustained by such users.

Trailblazer Volume 7 No. 4, October 1974

Welcome New Members!

Bev and Jerry Starcher

Joe Albert and Family, Milford, OH Robin Amos, Richfield, OH James Anthony, Erie, PA Brad Baaske, Harpster, OH Steve Baker, Piqua, OH Terri Baker, South Bloomingville, OH Paul Bettinger, Galloway, OH Blackbrook Audubon Society, Mentor, OH Steve Bohlen, Blacklick, OH Mick and Sandy Box, Worthington, OH Kevin Brandfass and Family, Marysville, OH Loren Brown, Granville, OH Mike and Shirley Bulle, Sidney, OH Rodrick Carbonell, Great Barrington, MA Gregory Carey, Columbus, OH Sandy Carter and Family, Barberton, OH Joe Carter, Dublin, OH Matthew Cary, Dayton, OH Dennis Cecil, Cincinnati, OH Ronald Coleman, Rootstown, OH Brock Collins, Chillicothe, OH Janis Comstock-Jones, Mount Vernon, OH Robert Cook Delaware, OH Sarah Cox, Nelsonville, OH Gregory Cramer, Columbus, OH Harold Cupp, Londonderry, OH Robert Curtis, Athens, OH Iulie Darnell, Loveland, OH Bradley Davis, Hillsboro, OH Thomas Delaney, Cincinnati, OH Terre Donoghue, Dayton, OH Dianne Doss, Urbana, OH

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MEMBERSHIP FORM (for new members only)

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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/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.

