

# Trailblazer



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## Emma "Grandma" Gatewood Solstice (EGGS) Hike 2014: The Benefits of BTA Event Organizing

Andrew Bashaw



Five years ago, brothers Byron and Jamie Guy started their own personal challenge that has evolved with a little support into "Ohio's greatest hiking challenge." On June 20-22, the BTA's 5th Annual Emma "Grandma" Gatewood Solstice (EGGS) Hike was held on the Buckeye Trail, Burr Oak Backpack Loop, and the Wayne National Forest's Wildcat

Hollow Trail System. This year 56 hikers attempted a personal hiking challenge of 60, 40, or 20 miles in 36, 24, or 12 hours, respectively. Fifty of those hikers completed their challenge. We applauded their perseverance as they looped safely back to base camp.

Besides helping hikers achieve personal accomplishments, what impact can an event like the EGGS Hike have for the BTA? The EGGS Hike is a creative idea to gather together and have fun, but it also has a positive impact on our trail and our organization. Through it, we recruit members (28 new and renewing members) and volunteers, develop partnerships, improve our trail, raise needed funds, and promote the Buckeye Trail and the BTA. This year, 13 BTA volunteers came together on National Trails Day to clear and re-blaze over 10 miles of the trail in preparation for the EGGS Hikes. Twenty-three volunteers answered the call to set up



20-mile Challenge hikers Joe Bash, Kat LoGrande and Randall Roberts check their map, Burr Oak State Park

base camp, run hike checkpoints, retrieve hikers, man the trail shop, put out signage, celebrate, and tear down at the end of the weekend. The event could not have happened without the support of our partners at Burr Oak State Park, Wayne National Forest, Rural Action's Sunday Creek Watershed Group, and the Central Ohio Hikers and Backpackers.

Leading up to the event, the BT and the BTA were promoted through the BTA's e-newsletter The Loop, local radio announcements, flyers, local presentations, Facebook, Twitter, the *Trailblazer* and our website. All of this promotion not only creates a

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# Miami and Erie Canal Restoration Complete: Lock 1 South

Preston Bartlett

The restoration of Lock 1 South has been completed and the dedication was August 21, 2014 (see Winter 2013 issue, Vol.46, No. 4 for information on the restoration process). Lock 1 South is the first lock going south from the Loramie Summit to the Ohio River and is located in Lockington. The town of Lockington is the end of the Troy Section of the BT and the beginning of the St. Marys Section (which I think is the best Section!). The Ohio Historical Society is responsible for obtaining grant money to make sure that the lock and its history continue.



Preston Bartlett

Completed restoration of Lock One South

The area is rich in canal history and provides visitors with opportunities to hike the Buckeye Trail. The construction of the locks in the mid-to-late 1800's led to the creation of Lockington, a community that was full of hustle and bustle. Canal travelers stayed here as they waited to slowly work their way down to the Ohio River, through the first five locks, over Loramie Creek on an aqueduct, and through Locks 6, 7 and 8 on the other side of the creek. Several of the buildings that were built to accommodate travelers during their journey are still standing.

You can walk up the side of Lockington Dam, built to help with flood control after the 1913 flood, and then walk north through two miles of wooded trail along the remains of the Miami and Erie Canal. There are four other locks that cascade from Lock 1 down to

Loramie Creek, providing visitors with a nice side hike from the Buckeye Trail as it goes through Lockington, which has many good photo opportunities. The gem of the area is the Johnston Historical Farm, which provides visitors with area Indian history and displays as well as boat rides on the canal boat General Harrison. To learn more, visit their website at <http://www.johnstonfarmohio.com>.

Lock 1 coordinates: 40.2086° N, 84.2358° W



Preston Bartlett

Restoration work started in the fall and continued through winter



## 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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Correction: The gazebo in the photo on page 5 of the Summer issue is located at DeSales Corner. It is not the Spring House Gazebo in Eden Park.

# President's Message

Connie Pond

The last few months have been busy for the BT. We have chosen a place near Defiance for the 2015 Tail Fest. I am particularly fond of northwest Ohio and its colorful history of canal boats. During the Fest, there will be the opportunity to ride a canal boat in Providence Park or explore the BT as it winds its way along the Miami Erie Canal in St. Marys. If you have a special hike or event that you think would be of interest to Trail Fest attendees, please drop us a line.



Old rail bridge over the Maumee River near Roche de Bout, Toledo's Farnworth Metropark

Connie Pond

My membership in the North Country Trail was up for renewal in June. Bob and I have been members for many years and take advantage of the special membership cost of \$23 for Buckeye Trail members. The NCT is a national scenic trail that winds through six states besides Ohio. In Ohio, it joins the BT in the east at Zoar, and follows the southern and western parts of the trail before leaving the BT in northwest Ohio, just east of Napoleon. One of the hikes that will be offered at the Trail Fest in 2015 is on the NCT as it follows the Wabash Cannon Ball trail through Oak Openings Metro Park.

A special adventure offered by the BT is circuit hiking. This phenomenon has been occurring off and on for the past 30 years. The goal of the event is to hike the entire BT in a series of weekend hikes with each day's hike covering 10 to 14 miles, depending upon the terrain. At this rate, the event takes nine years to complete. There is always an intrepid leader (or two) who will have scoped out the days' hikes, planned parking and shuttling between cars, and overnight accommodations. Then there is the core of the group . . . a stalwart group who figure nine years is not too long a time to complete a dream. And, the beauty of this adventure is that it is never too late to start the trek. Look at the calendar in the newsletter or on our website and pick a hike. Join with Jim Gilkey to begin or continue your nine-year adventure.



Ludwig Mill and canal boat, Towpath Trail in Providence Metropark

Connie Pond

# On the Trail

Andrew Bashaw



Andrew Bashaw

It has been another great season on Ohio's Buckeye Trail thanks in large part to you, the BTA Membership. Hikers are hiking, volunteers are investing their time, partners are paying attention, progress is being made on preservation of the BTA corridor, Trail Towns are coming on board and much more. Over the course of a season there are ups and downs, but overall we continue to draw closer to our shared vision.

It is amazing to me what a volunteer and membership based organization like the Buckeye Trail Association can do. We have been "crowd sourcing" for over 50 years, long before the term was invented. What we lack in financial resources we make up in human resources with support from members like you. Here is a taste of what we have accomplished or are working toward in the past season together.

Your Buckeye Trail Crew and other BTA Volunteers built or improved the trail in Pike Lake State Forest, the Marietta Unit of the Wayne National Forest, the BTA's Pretty Run Preserve, AEP ReCreation Lands, Wildcat Hollow and Burr Oak State Park Trail systems, the BTA's Ballinger Preserve, Providence Metropark, West Branch State Park... and that is "taking it easy" over the hot summer months! Included in these efforts was the construction of a new camping shelter adjacent to AEP ReCreation Lands on private property. As a result of the Buckeye Trail Crew's progress in constructing nearly 2 miles of trail on the 10+ mile Sunshine Ridge project at The Nature Conservancy's Edge of Appalachia Preserve, the BTA was honored with The Nature Conservancy's Trailblazers Award! Way to go, Crew!

Thanks in large part to the work of your AmeriCorps Member Richard Lutz, several land owner negotiations are in development for permanent preservation of the BT. We hope to report significant progress in the near future. We continue to prioritize areas that have hazardous on-road hikes and areas where we can provide new campsites, which will improve the ability to hike long distances on the trail. The BTA is partnering with the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) National Park Service office to fine-tune a process called Optimal Location Review (OLR) that helps to define priorities for trail preservation. The BTA received funding to complete and submit priority OLR's for important gaps in the BT/NCNST.

Ongoing effort by volunteers is building awareness of the BT and BTA. The town of Xenia, which lies on the BT, NCNST and Little Miami Scenic Trail, has been accepted as the next official

Buckeye Trail Town thanks to local volunteer Nan Allen and Buckeye Trail Town Coordinator Angie Sheldon! The tireless work of BTA volunteers on the BTA Century Barn over the past decade has been recognized by the Friends of Ohio Barns with an award for the 2014 Barn of the Year for Adaptive Reuse! Jim Gilkey continues to invite and guide circuit hikers around the BT and Arch Cunningham is persevering on his hike-and-pedal of the entire BT to raise awareness of Melanoma. The BTA was well represented at local events around the state such as the Serpent Mound Summer Solstice Celebration, the Burning River 100, regional Boy Scout events, our own EGGS Hike, and the upcoming Run for the Blue Blazes 5K in Nelsonville. Barry Unger and Darlene Karoly have been instrumental in the evolution of the Buckeye Trail Shop. A new Chapter of the BTA initiated by Steven and Karen Walker is in the beginning stages of formation to cover the Muskingum Lakes region of the BT.

Many of our accomplishments over the past season have been magnified thanks in part to the hard work of your two AmeriCorps Members, Richard Lutz and Barry Unger. The AmeriCorps term of service runs from August to August. Richard has devoted the limit of 3 terms of service to the BTA and is forced to hang up his AmeriCorps hat. Fortunately we are able to keep him on part-time until the end of the year with NPS funding for critical trail preservation work. Barry has accepted another year of service with the BTA, which will be devoted to continuing to strengthen the BTA's volunteer program. Thank you Richard and Barry!

Recently I took a walk on the trail with a new BT Adopter and member. He observed that some BTA volunteers live and breathe the BT as if it were their religion. I had to laugh a little because I could tell whom he was speaking of; you may know a BTA volunteer or hiker who falls into that category as well. Some are able to devote themselves whole-heartedly to the BT as their number one cause, others support the BT in ways that the demands of their lives allow. Each member and volunteer is important to us. It is your support of the BT and its development and your enjoyment that creates a positive 'return on experience' for hikers, fellow members, and volunteers. It is because of the people along the BT and around the state that the BTA exists and continues to grow despite all the challenges. Thank you for providing those positive experiences all along Ohio's Buckeye Trail by supporting the progress the BTA makes each season.

See you On the Trail,

Executive Director  
Buckeye Trail Association

## EGGS

(continued from page 1)

well-attended event, but also draws hikers to the under-promoted Burr Oak State Park trail system throughout the year, helping to create a broader base of support for hiking trails in the region. The EGGS Hike is unique, new, and local, making it a little easier to garner local interest.

Just as important as the benefits to the BTA are hiker impressions of the BT and the BTA. A new hiker (and now new member at the EGGS Hike) gets many impressions on what we do and what we value. With Byron Guy cooking up dinners and breakfasts from the Buckeye Trail Crew's chuck wagon as well as Jamie Guy "sweeping" the Wildcat Hollow Trail at night, hikers know that we care for their health and wellbeing as they accomplish their hiking goals. Seeing so many BTA volunteers, such as Shannon Chaney running the registration table, and having fun around the campfires at night, inspires hikers, so signing up to volunteer for the BTA may be in their future. The fact that we organized a continuous 60-mile hike, incorporating two night hikes, through some of Ohio's most scenic and rugged country shows that we are trying new ways to highlight the best of what Ohio has to offer. While we try new things, we also honor those that have come before us, such

as Grandma Gatewood, who for many is the symbol of overcoming adversity to achieve personal aspirations, something we continue to encourage all around the BT.

These impressions are what new hikers and BTA members take home with them and share with their friends and families, along with their memories of brave attempts and achievements they'll not soon forget. Buckeye Trail volunteers work hard to honor their 50+ year history by improving the trail, inviting friends and strangers to a beautiful part of Ohio's foothills to create a unique life experience with others, and having a good time while they are at it.

These are the impacts a creative event with small beginnings and a lot of work can have toward the mission of the BTA. We'll try to support you as best we can if you have an idea for an event that highlights the BT and helps us achieve our mission, or you would like to invest your time and effort to help an existing event grow. We are already EGGS-cited to see you, during next year's summer solstice at Burr Oak State Park!



EGGS hikers and volunteers

Lee Culp

# The Buckeye Trail Story Project

Thanks to your support, the BTA had our most successful spring appeal to date! With your help we raised over \$6,500 for the Buckeye Trail Story Project—Thank you! This funding will assist BTA promotion efforts including publishing the 2nd Edition of *Follow the Blue Blazes* by Connie and Bob Pond this fall!

# Schedule of Hikes & Events



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

## SEPTEMBER

### September 6-10, 2014

#### Whipple Work Week in the Wayne National Forest

**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. Shower will be available.

**Meals:** Bring your own food and water.

**Contact:** Trail Management Team [stc@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:stc@buckeyetrail.org)

### September 12-14, 2014

#### 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.

**Camping:** Camping in horse camp. Gate will be unlocked at 6:00pm on Friday.

**Meals:** Bring your own food and enough water for cooking and drinking. The horse camp only has nonpotable water available. Potable water is available at the regular campground if needed.

**Contact:** Steve Latza at 216-533-0514

### September 13, 2014

#### Run 4 Blue!

**Location:** Nelsonville

**Description:** Join us for a 5K run/walk through the city streets of Historic Nelsonville, up the scenic Hocking Parkway, and along the Hocking-Adena Bike path. Don't miss this fun opportunity to enjoy the outdoors AND benefit the BTA! First 100 entries receive a "Run for The Blue Blazes" t-shirt! Top 3 male and female in each age group gets awards. Register today at <http://www.buckeyetrail.org/run4blue.php>

**Contact:** Herb Hulls at 740-787-2416 or [run4blue@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:run4blue@buckeyetrail.org).

### September 13-14, 2014

#### BT Circuit Hike

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

**Description for Saturday:** Meet at trailhead on Prospect St., 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 Rd. on Allyn Rd. The hike is about 10.7 miles.

**Description for Sunday:** Meet at driveway just north of Newton Falls Rd. near Point 6, Mogadore Section. Leave at 9:00AM to car pool to trailhead on Prospect St. 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, 2014

#### Medina Work Weekend at Plum Creek Park -- CANCELLED --

### September 27-29, 2014

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

## OCTOBER

### October 4, 2014

#### Muskingum Lakes Chapter Getting to Know You Hike

**Location:** BTA Barn, Deersville (83949 Beale Rd., Cadiz)

**Description:** Meet at 10:00am for a fall hike and chapter meeting of the new Muskingum Lakes chapter of the BTA. Bring a lunch.

**Contact:** Steve Walker at 330-833-9365

### October 5, 2014

#### Mentor Marsh Nature Center Cleanup Day

**Location:** Mentor Marsh Nature Center, 5185 Corduroy Rd., Mentor, 44060

**Description:** Maintenance work on the Buckeye Trail and Zimmerman Trail through the nature preserve. Naturalist Becky Donaldson provides a fun learning experience. Bring water, snack, and work gloves.

**Contact:** 440-257-0777 or [rdonalds@cmnh.org](mailto:rdonalds@cmnh.org) to reserve a spot. Buckeye Trail contact is Deb Zampini, [half-marathoner@hotmail.com](mailto:half-marathoner@hotmail.com)

### October 11-12, 2014

#### 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 SR-78 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](mailto:holwick@columbus.rr.com) by October 5, 2014.

**Contact:** Trail Management Team [stc@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:stc@buckeyetrail.org)

### October 17-19, 2014

#### 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 with hikes and tours. More details are available on the BTA Events webpage.

**Contact:** Gayle Burke at [gaylehammerburke@gmail.com](mailto:gaylehammerburke@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:holwick@columbus.rr.com)  
740-743-3813

## October 17-19, 2014

### 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 Sept. 12-14 work weekend for information on camping and meals.

Contact: Steve Latza at 216-533-0514

## October 18-19, 2014

### BT Circuit Hike

Location: Caesar Creek Section, Nov. 2013 map.

Description for Saturday: Meet at parking lot on Weaver St. 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 Rd. near Point 13. The hike is about 10 miles.

Description for 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 St. 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.

## October 25-29, 2014

### 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](mailto:holwick@columbus.rr.com) by October 20, 2014.

Contact: Trail Management Team [stc@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:stc@buckeyetrail.org)

## NOVEMBER

## November 8-12, 2014

### Old Man's 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](mailto:holwick@columbus.rr.com) by November 5, 2014.

Contact: Trail Management Team [stc@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:stc@buckeyetrail.org)

## November 15-16, 2014

### BT Circuit Hike

Location: Mogadore Section, July 2011 map.

Description for Saturday: Meet at parking lot on Knapp Rd. north of SR-14 near Point 11. Leave at 9:30AM to car pool to driveway on Garrett Rd. just north of Newton Falls Rd. near Point 6. The hike is about 10 miles.

Description for Sunday: Meet at Cranberry Creek Community Park on Sandy Lake Rd. near Point 14. Leave at 9:00AM to car pool to parking lot on Knapp Rd 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

## December 6-7, 2014

### BT Circuit Hike

Location: Caesar Creek and Troy Sections, Nov. 2013 maps.

Description for Saturday: Meet at YMCA parking lot (300 S. Central Ave) near Point 1, Troy Section. Leave at 9:30AM to carpool to parking lot north of Yellow Springs Station near Point 19, Caesar Creek Section. The hike is about 10.7 miles.

Description for Sunday: Meet at gravel parking lot on northwest corner of Findlay St. and Monument Ave, about 1 mile west of Point 4, Troy section. Leave at 9:00am to carpool to YMCA parking lot. The hike is about 9.6 miles.

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

## December 13, 2014

### BTA Board Meeting

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

Contact: President [president@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:president@buckeyetrail.org)

## JANUARY

## January 10-11, 2015

### BT Circuit Hike

Location: Mogadore Section, July 2011 map.

Description for Saturday: Meet at parking lot of Hamrick Mfg. Co., 1436 Martin Rd. near Point 21. Leave at 9:30am to carpool to Point 15. The hike is about 10.4 miles.

Description for Sunday: Meet at public parking lot on Sunnyside St. just west of SR-43 in Hartville. Leave at 9:00am to carpool to Point 21. The hike is about 10.5 miles.

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

# Go Green! Get Your Trailblazer Online!

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!

Sign up at [buckeyetrail.org/newsletter.html](http://buckeyetrail.org/newsletter.html)



# News and Notes

## Muskingum Lakes Chapter

Steve Walker

On Sunday, August 10, there was an organizational meeting of the Muskingum Lakes Chapter of the BTA at the BTA Barn near Deersville. The new chapter's focus will be the Massillon, Bowerston, and Belle Valley Sections. Leading the new chapter will be Steve and Karen Walker from Navarre.

Plans were made for a hike and chapter meeting on Saturday, October 4, at the BTA Barn. Future plans include a January event (agenda and date to be determined), a Wild Flower Hunt on Sunday, April 26, 2015 organized by Scott Pendleton, Bowerston Section Supervisor, and some geocaching events. Planning for some weekend work parties/camp-ins was also discussed. For more information about the Muskingum Lakes Chapter, contact Steve and Karen Walker at 330-833-9365 or e-mail [nilesprinting@gmail.com](mailto:nilesprinting@gmail.com).



BTA members discuss the new Muskingum Lakes BTA chapter

Steve Walker

## Buckeye Trail Scholarships

Elmo Layman, Scholarship Chairman

As students whose parents or grandparents are members of the Buckeye Trail head off to college this fall, they need to be looking for scholarship opportunities that they might be eligible to apply for. Funds are always needed for books and many other necessities. Two \$500.00 scholarships are available each year. You may find the details at the Buckeye Trail website under the scholarship section at <http://buckeyetrail.org/scholarship.php>. The scholarships are awarded each spring at the annual meeting.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 & 4

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# What's in a Name?

Robert Pond

*"A rose by any other name would smell as sweet."* –Juliet, Romeo and Juliet, by William Shakespeare

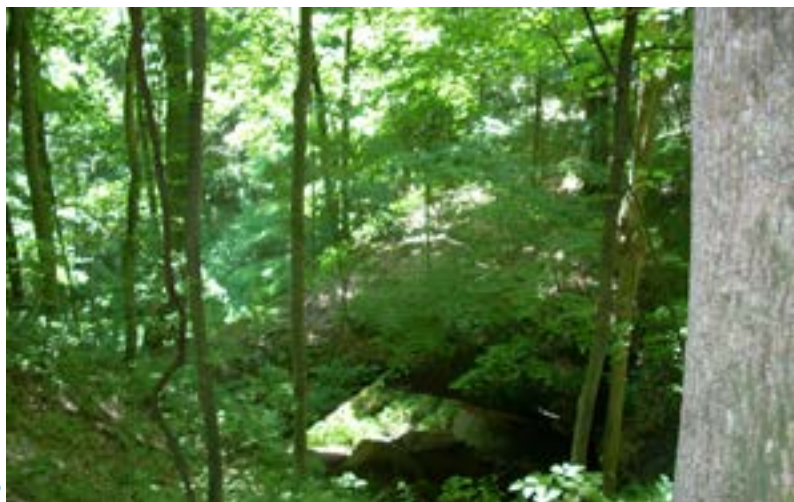
This article was inspired by Randall Robert's description of his backpacking adventures on what he referred to as the "Stu... Wilderness Loop," (see *Trailblazer*, Summer 2014).

Randall was referring to the newest "little loop" on the BT, added in the last decade to follow the lead of the North Country Trail. (The NCT uses much of the BT in Ohio to get from Pennsylvania to Michigan.) Randall's backpacking experience, more difficult than a day-hiking experience, as any hiker can tell you, was commendable for the kind of terrain he covered with only his backpack and tent.

My wife and I day-hiked the southeastern loop of the BT in 2009. If the name for the newest loop is not official, I would propose a more suitable name for this loop is the "Marietta Loop." My reasons are as follows:

- 1) The trail passes through the Marietta Section of the Wayne National Forest.
- 2) The North Country Trail, a National Scenic Trail 4600 miles in length, travels through Marietta using a paved walking/bicycle trail following the Ohio and Muskingum Rivers.
- 3) The Buckeye Trail could follow the same route through this amazing and historic city, since it follows routes through other cities such as Dayton, Cincinnati, Defiance, and Akron. Marietta, especially, should not be carelessly bypassed by country roads.

I contend that Juliet was wrong in believing that a name does not matter. It does matter in many cases and I believe "the jury is



Natural Bridge on the Archer's Fork Loop trail

Robert Pond

still out," in determining the name of this latest "little loop" of the BT. I am not sure where the "Wilderness Loop" name originated, but it is ill-suited for the area the trail passes through. For a definition of the word wilderness, consult most dictionaries and find the definition similar to: "A wild and natural area in which few people live." Anyone who has hiked this area knows that it is far from a wilderness, but I will leave this part of the argument to others.

The only other loop known as the "Little Loop" is in the northeastern corner of the state. It begins near the Cuyahoga Valley National Park or "CVNP" and then leads to the northern terminus at Lake Erie, before finally returning the hiker to the larger loop in Akron.

I call for a proper christening of the newest "little loop" trail by the board, or the full body of the BTA. Another christening might be considered later for the northern "Little Loop" now that the BT includes two "Little Loops" in addition to our entire Buckeye Trail circuit.

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

Barb Crompton (*Bue Blaze Bugsie*)

Although this would turn out to be one of my longest treks to date, at just over nine miles, I came into today's hike with a heightened sense of "extra special." This hike not only represented what would be the end of the Bedford section, but, most importantly, my father was waiting for me at the end. Experiencing and loving nature as I do, it always has a way of making things stimulating and I ended up hiking with excitement coursing through my body. As I had already hiked the portion up to the Northern Terminus sign, I would be finishing my hike at the Mentor Lagoons Yacht Club (Point 30), and it is there that I dropped my bike. After getting permission to park at the Old Schoolhouse-turned-nature-center at the corner of Booth and Chardon roads (Point 26), I got underway.

Most of the trail was along the road with dips into wooded areas or a quick traverse on a paved bike trail. The bright sunshine and beautiful fall weather made everything stand out extra crisp and clear, so I took the time to absorb all the details shown to me. I took many photos of stems and leaves, noting how the rich autumn colors spread like a blush through them.

I paused along Baldwin Road at the granite identification marker for the farm of Levi and Ruth Holbrook Smith. Originally from Connecticut, the Smiths settled in Kirtland around 1814 and became instrumental in the establishment of the Mormon Church in Ohio. I took in the gorgeous array of fall colors splashed against the peaceful landscape that was once their farm.

Within moments the silence was broken by a great commotion that only grew louder by the second. Spying a great gaggle of Canada Geese in flight heading my way, I readied the camera for whatever treat they had in store for me and they did not disappoint. At first it seemed they were passing through, but as they flew closer, it became apparent that they were preparing to land somewhere nearby. As I



Historical marker for the Levi and Ruth Holbrook Smith farm

switched the camera to video mode, half of the geese suddenly broke away from the main group and dropped dramatically from the sky. Gracefully they floated downward and surprised me as they made a messy splash landing of flailing wings and feet into a pond which I would never have even noticed if they had not landed there! While the first group settled in, proudly and loudly discussing their flight and perfect landing, I

swung the camera back up to follow the second family, now on final approach, as they, too, made their noisy touchdown and reformed their gaggle. Satisfied at my wildlife encounter, I moved on.

Passing through old historic towns, one walks upon roads with very intriguing names like Johnnycake Ridge or Little Mountain Road—I often wonder at their origins, especially when there are no mountains in sight. Other roads are named after the original families who owned farms or built businesses in the area as local resources allowed. A person could actually spend weeks in one tiny neighborhood and never learn all the local history or lore of the area. Until I make a point to revisit any one section again in the future, these things will probably remain hidden to me. Alas, for now, I will have to remain somewhat satisfied that I had the opportunity to even come this way.

A turn off Hopkins Road, my main thoroughfare for quite a few miles, jolted me back to reality. My aching feet and my BT map told me I was close to my final destination; when I made my last turn onto Harbor Drive, my heart began to race. I saw and heard the telltale signs of Mentor Lagoons as a few sailboat masts waved and bobbed hello to me. The place never seemed as big as it did today, as I slowly made my way to my father. I finally found him with my aunt and he embraced me. There were tears in his eyes as he told me how proud he was of me, and it became the fuel I needed to commit myself to hiking at least another section of the Ohio Buckeye Trail. Only 25 sections left to go!



Fall foliage and beautiful weather along the trail

Barb Crompton

# Xenia: Buckeye Trail Town

Nan Allen

Xenia becoming the third Buckeye Trail Town was truly a community event.

While talking with Andy Niekamp, Troy Section Supervisor, at the Midwest Outdoor Experience in October 2013, I asked him what would it take for Xenia to become a Buckeye Trail Town? He said it was a great time to pursue the designation since the Buckeye Trail runs through Xenia along the same path as the North Country Trail, which meant the city would automatically receive both honors. He suggested I talk with Andrew Bashaw, the BTA Executive Director, who was hosting the BTA booth that evening. When asked what the requirements were Andrew replied, "What does Xenia have to offer hikers? What makes your town unique?" My first thought was a cobbler!

The list of what Xenia has to offer to hikers is a long one. Xenia Shoe and Leather sits along the Buckeye Trail and they can repair almost anything that comes their way, from hiking boots to zippers on backpacks. Plus, they have a great supply of footwear, socks and other related items. After a stop in their shop, I asked Matt, the manager, who would be the best person in the city to contact about Xenia becoming a Buckeye Trail Town. Matt replied with the name Mary Crockett.

Next I went to the local bakery, Harvest Moon. The owners, Chris and Andrea, were enthusiastic about the idea of Xenia becoming a Trail Town, and could already envision Buckeye Trail artwork being displayed on their walls. They said they would help in any way they could. When asked who to contact with the city, again it was . . . Mary Crockett.

When I called Mary Crockett, the City of Xenia Community Development and Downtown Coordinator, and presented her with the idea, there was a three second pause and then a resounding "YES! That sounds like a great idea!" That one phone conversation was all it took. Mary introduced the idea to the many groups and organizations in the community and everyone shared in the excitement. Whenever a question arose there was always a person or organization with the answer. From the Greene County Parks and Trails to the City Manager to Downtown Xenia Now Business Enhancement and the Chamber of Commerce, it was truly


inspiring to see various parts of my community come together to pursue this designation and celebrate this great asset we have traveling right through our city.

Andrew Bashaw also introduced me to the Buckeye Trail Town Coordinator, Angie Sheldon. Angie gladly answered any and all questions concerning the Trail Town designation and requirements. She also shared a Buckeye Trail presentation at the City Council meeting.

At the June Council meeting, Xenia Mayor Marsha Bayless proclaimed June 26, 2014 as "Buckeye & North Country Trail Town Day." She commended the Buckeye Trail Association for its work in developing and maintaining the Buckeye Trail and further encouraged all residents of and visitors to Xenia to take a hike on the Buckeye Trail and North Country Trail. To celebrate the designation, a hike along the Xenia section of the Trail was scheduled for the September 5th "First Friday" celebration downtown.

I encourage other Buckeye Trail Association members to explore the opportunity of becoming a Buckeye Trail Town. It was truly an eye-opening experience to see the hard work and dedication so many individuals and organizations have for their city. When a community has a forward-looking vision, everyone benefits. It was great meeting others in my community and I experienced firsthand that Xenia lives up to its name as "The City of Hospitality."





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# Trail Maintainer's Corner

Jim Sprague

After my last article—the one that stated clearly that an Adopter should start by mid-spring to keep ahead of the weeds and briars—can you guess where I find myself this year? Not a very hard question, was it? Yes. Parts of my segment in the AEP portion of the Belle Valley Section still (late July) remain untouched. I would like to think that my trail is not too bad. After all, it is my trail. It was near-perfect very early this spring. Of course, that was well before anything had started to grow again. It is also from the perspective of an old Hiker. I am tolerant of an occasional overgrown stretch of trail. In other words, I keep a rosy view of most trails.

Sigh! When I was down there on my first maintenance trip this year during the second week in July, I was given a very different view of the situation. The view came from—well, let me start from the beginning. My segment includes trail near Bicentennial Camp, otherwise known as Campground K. Campers come here to hunt or fish the ponds and lakes dispersed throughout the region. Most are not hikers. Most move about some but very few ever get more than a mile or two from camp unless they drive. In this particular case, I received the opinion of a father named Bob and his teenage son, Josh. We met on the trail about a mile north of camp. Armed with my trusty Weed Whacker, I had whacked the weeds and brush to provide a clear path about 3 feet wide. I had started back towards camp whacking off another 3 feet. The total cleared width of 6 feet keeps things pretty nice. An explanation for such wide clearing: while not in full sun, nearly all of my trail receives enough sun to grow lush rosebushes, black raspberries, poison ivy,

autumn olive—I have probably said enough. Those plants grow fast enough that while 6 feet of clearance is perhaps a bit more than adequate, it is certainly not excessive. The overgrown condition is quite unpleasant!

Let's return to Bob's opinion. When we first met, Bob was enthusiastic about the trail he had followed so far, the part I had cleared. "This trail is wonderful, really great!" Josh gave tacit support. Bob asked if there was another lake along the trail ahead. I answered, "Yes, about a mile ahead." I also pointed out that the trail ahead had not yet received even one clearing this year and there would be a hill to deal with as well. They were undeterred. They had already caught and released two 1-pound and one 3-pound large-mouth bass from a pond they had fished along the way. They were not only undeterred—they were fired up! Off they went. I resumed whacking my way back towards camp.

Somewhat later, they overtook me. I didn't have to ask how they had done. Had the fishing been good, they would not have caught me so soon. I asked anyway, and I received Bob's second opinion of the trail, "We did not get to any lake. The trail was too thick for shorts." What more is there to say? You know as well as I which of Bob's two opinions really counted.

Questions: How many other poor opinions had my trail segment already created? How far have those opinions been broadcast?

Moral: My opinion of my value as a volunteer is completely overshadowed by the opinion of the user, based on a personal view of his trail experience.

## Ottoville Work Weekend in the Delphos Section

Sam Bonifas

Please join the Buckeye Trail crew on the last weekend of September at Ottoville as we work to clear the old towpath of the Miami and Erie Canal. This will allow us to move the BT/NCT off-road.



Old canal towpath looking north, old canal prism to right



Old towpath looking south, old canal prism to left

# In Memory

## In Memory of Dorothy Anson

*Connie Pond*

Dorothy Anson and I worked together for over 20 years, she as the Mail Secretary and I as the Treasurer. It was always fun to get her envelopes because she used colorful Post-It™ notes to ask questions or explain strange checks. During our tenure, there were a few times when it seemed that checks were “lost.” I could count on Dorothy’s recordkeeping system of keeping envelopes and diligently noting check amounts and other details on each envelope.

As the Buckeye Trail’s accounting grew more sophisticated, we asked Dorothy to make actual bank deposits, an add-on of duties and of course, no raise in pay. I don’t think Dorothy even batted an eye. She worked so hard to provide the BT with just what we wanted.

Dorothy would often come to the quarterly board meetings at Command Alcon in Dublin and personally deliver her current accumulation of mail. We would take a few minutes to talk about our shared love for bird watching and gardening. During our June meeting, we missed Dorothy and found out that she was hospitalized and not expected to recover. We thank Dorothy for her many hours of service and Don for his endurance with her service.



Don and Dorothy Anson

*Connie Pond*

## In Memory of Ed DeLaet

*Lee Kreider*

I served with Ed DeLaet on the BTA board for a number of years. I first met him as we were designing and building the trail through Dayton north toward Lockington. It was the early 1970s as best I recall.

Ed stood tall and carefully spoke his mind on a number of issues. He was well known and well respected by the people whose cooperation we needed. He had worked with the Boy Scouts for many years, which had given him important contacts. He was a dear friend whom I saw on a regular basis until the last year of his life. Until that last year you might have still met Ed toddling along the trail in Eastwood Park or Taylorsville Reserve.

He was as competent at handling tools for trail clearing as he was talking to the people whose authorizations we needed. I remember the two of us fighting our way through the underbrush between Taylorsville Dam and Old Springfield Road. We were trying to forge the trail along the towpath of the Miami-Erie Canal. Obviously, no one had been along there in years. We wondered if anyone would ever use it. What a gratification to see the towpath trail become a well-maintained, popular paved bikeway. The Buckeye Trail has benefited greatly from Ed DeLaet’s contributions.

# 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*.

## TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND – 05/01/2014-7/31/2014

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## Building the BTA

*Andrew Bashaw*

The many events we hold throughout the year help us to reach out to new audiences who are unaware of the BTA, encouraging them to hike and become a BTA member like you. A new BTA Member was surprised that despite our steady progress of increasing membership in recent years, the BTA has a membership of 1,100+ and not 10,000 members!

To move toward that ambitious goal we are offering an incentive of 20% off a BTA membership for three different groups: new gift memberships, special event new members, and members from other Ohio-based hiking and trail organizations. We want to thank you and encourage your generosity in sharing a gift membership with someone you think would enjoy the camaraderie of the BTA. To encourage you to get out and attend our BTA or outreach events we would like to reward you with 20% off as well. Finally, since we value a culture of hiking, backpacking, and trail development around the state, on or off the BT, we want to offer 20% off to our friends at any Ohio-based hiking or trail organization to make it a little easier to support two great organizations rather than having to choose just one.

# Welcome New Members!

Bev and Jerry Starcher

Eric Anderson, Cambridge  
 Judith Bach, Columbus  
 Erik Baldwin, Tallmadge  
 Kelly Barrett, Columbus  
 Diane Bayer, Galena  
 Matt Bigham, Sevierville TN  
 Mark Bontrager, Greenwood IN  
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 Mitchell Dysart, Delaware  
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 Benjamin Filla, Batavia  
 Keith Geary, Brunswick

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 Don Halahakone, Montgomery  
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 Laurie Herris, North Royalton  
 Benjamin Hickerson, Fort Loramie  
 Kurt Hoellrich, Rockbridge  
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 William Lindeman, Oregon  
 James Long, Cincinnati  
 David Mackley, Lititz PA  
 Nancy McAllister, Hamilton  
 Kathleen McCabe, Fremont

Sam Miller, Logan  
 John Mothersole and Family, Wilmington  
 Silpa Patel, Cincinnati  
 Mary Pozydaev, Fairview Park  
 Don Raymond, St Mary's  
 Staci Resler, Lewis Center  
 Larry Reynolds, Lancaster  
 Pete Rogers, Marysville  
 Sheila Sands, Marysville  
 Carrie Schott, Dresden  
 Heather Sheets, Logan  
 Mark Shonce, Leavittsburg  
 Mark and Marcia Shubert, Amesville  
 John Smilek, Beaver creek  
 Eric Spence, Columbus  
 Gwen Talley and Family, West Chester  
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 Don and Vicki Wagner, Waterford  
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John Knouse

## BTeasers

Pat Hayes

**Q** An article in the August issue of *Camping Journal* resulted in what BTA milestone?

**A** Mrs. Wayne W. Schmidt read an article in the August 1972 issue of *Camping Journal* about the Buckeye Trail. A recent transplant from Michigan to Ohio, Mrs. Schmidt sent a letter to the BTA with a \$7.25 check to cover the cost of a family membership and a set of BT trail maps. By joining the BTA, the Schmidt family became the one thousandth member of the Buckeye Trail Association.