

Trailblazer



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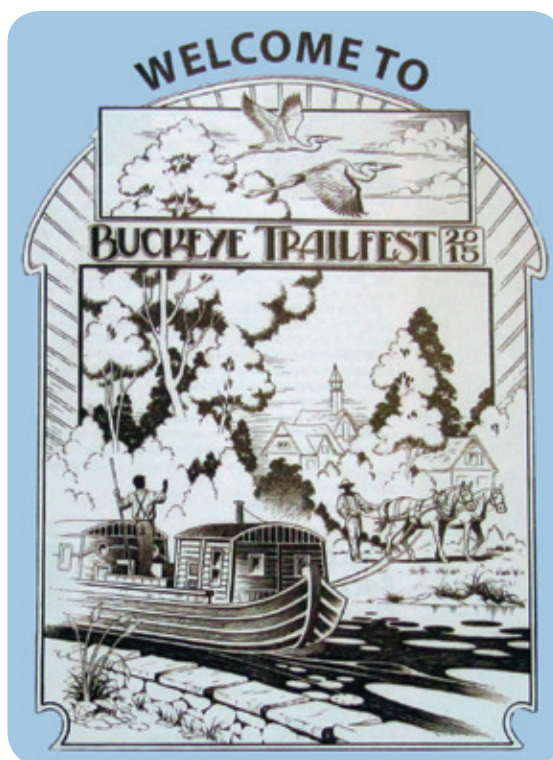


A String That Goes Through My State

Randall Roberts

There is a theory today developed by some physicists to explain the universe, energy, and the behavior of matter. It's called string theory. I don't pretend to understand all that, but I do know that there's a string that goes around my state. If you look closely, and know where to look, on the state map prepared by the Ohio Department of Transportation, you might find a dashed red line. It's hard to follow, as it darts in and out of towns and on and off state and county highways and other back roads identified on the map. It's pretty easy to miss, unless you know what you're looking for. The Legend Key simply identifies it as "Selected Hiking Trail". But many of us know exactly what it is and where it is.

In the middle of May, the string that is the Buckeye Trail brought together over 100 like-minded people from around the state and a few from out of state and country, too (I believe there were a couple of Canadians) for a common purpose. Don't let me mislead you though, these like-minded



people are nothing alike and the common purpose is inspired by very different and individual motivations. They varied in age, ability, stature, character, and personality. They varied in education, occupation, background, and experience. Some came because they want to preserve nature while others came just to experience it. Some came to listen about adventures they only dream of, or someday hope to experience themselves firsthand. Some came to share their stories; because what good is an adventure if you can't share it with others? The adventures themselves are as different as the individuals who came to present them, be they circling the state on foot in 88 days, hiking from Georgia to Maine on that "other trail" out east (ending on a fractured ankle but determined to finish), or dealing with

the suicide of a family member and sharing that story in hopes that others may see the signs early enough and know where to turn for help. Some came to teach others a new skill so they can

continued on pg.2

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A String That Goes Through My State

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carve a bear from a piece of bark, or maybe a pig if the carver couldn't quite get the nose to come to a point. Some came to learn about the migration of different types of Native Americans in the area, both voluntary and forced. Some came to learn of local history, experiencing the canals, and learning about Ohio historic figures like Johnny "Appleseed", John Johnston, or even Emma "Grandma" Gatewood herself, who helped this string get started in 1958/1959.

I thought of this as I laced up my boots with a string, and began collapsing the fiberglass poles of my tent held together by an elastic string. Maybe there is something to this string theory.



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BTA Representation at Earth Fest

Pat Hayes

BTA volunteers Melissa Reed, Darlene Karoly, Jim Sprague, Susan Schnittke, and Pat Hayes spent an enjoyable day at the Earth Fest event at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds on April 19. BTA member Linda Paul was nearby working the table for one of our supporting organizations, Earth Share Ohio. The weather was agreeable and the attendance was robust. We answered many questions about the BT and handed out almost all of our brochures and Winter issues of the Trailblazers. I believe it was definitely worth our BTA volunteers' time.



Melissa Reed representing the BTA at Earth Fest

DEADLINES

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

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C O M M I T T E E C H A I R S**

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Buckeye TrailFest

Awards & Recognition

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BTA Century Barn

Mary Hamilton

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President's Message

Connie Pond

As the Year of the Volunteer progresses, I would like to report on the volunteer awards that were presented at the Trail Fest in northwest Ohio. Herb Hulls received the prestigious Bob Paton award. This is given yearly to a volunteer who has demonstrated continued excellence in BT volunteer activities. One person said, "You really don't need to describe Herb's accomplishments, just say Herb!"

The President's award was given to Darlene Karoly for her years of service as a "go to" person for all kinds of graphic design help and her invaluable contribution to the production of the 2nd edition of "Follow the Blue Blazes." Our Super Star was presented to Mary Hayes for contributions to the efforts of the board of trustees to update the BTA bylaws. Mary has shown continued success in leading committees through tedious tasks and offering continued support to board activities.

Mary Ann Kamph, Linda Paul, Barry Unger, Ruth Brown, Darryl Smith and Angie Sheldon all received Star Awards. These awards are presented to individuals who have been recommended by other BT volunteers as deserving special recognition for volunteer excellence.

The next time you are at the BT barn, look for the recognition given to Mary Hamilton. She has contributed innumerable hours to caring for the BT barn and spending even more time working in "her" kitchen. The BT will dedicate the BT kitchen from now on as "Mary's Kitchen." Speaking of cooks, we also recognized the efforts of Jay Holwick as the Chuck Wagon Chef.

Jim Sprague presented the following Trail Crew Awards:



500 hours - Richard Lutz and Gene Wimmer

250 hours - Jamie Guy, Scott Kamph, Steve Latza, Bill Jindra

100 hours - Shannon Guy, Jay Frate, Sandy Henry, Don Jacobs

30 hours - Lisa Adkins, Dan Adkins, Tracy Anderson, Sam Bonifas, Allen Darby, MaryAnn Kamph, Lew Kruger, Matt McClain, John Nemicik, Mark Schwab, Frank Shaw

Beside the volunteer awards, the BTA awarded \$500 scholarships to Michelle Benedum and Sierra Bachman. Michelle graduated from Edmonds Academy and plans to attend Liberty University in Virginia, majoring in environmental education. Michelle graduated from Hocking College in Wildlife Management and will be attending the University of Idaho.

The BT Trail Fest is where BT volunteers recharge. We all feed off the activities and enthusiasm of others who are interested in participating in BT events. We make a special effort at this event to say "Thank You" to all of our volunteers. Our next Trail Fest will be in eastern Ohio. I am looking forward to working on our award program next year and hope to see your name on an award or meeting you and saying thanks.

On the Trail

Andrew Bashaw



Andrew Bashaw

his stone soup will be when it is finished...if only he had a few potatoes. More travelers pass by as the soup begins to take form and each is convinced by the idea to add a little something more—vegetables, herbs, meat, and so on—until the idea of a delicious stone soup becomes a reality for all the travelers to enjoy....because they all chipped in.

The idea of the Buckeye Trail is not so different. For over 55 years now individuals like you have encountered the idea of the BT and continually added to it. We started with nothing, but began boiling that water in 1959. Over time, people hungry for the idea

The success of the Buckeye Trail and the Buckeye Trail Association is like making 'stone soup.' Have you ever heard the story of 'stone soup'? It is an old folktale with variations but the gist is as follows: one person begins with the idea of a delicious soup but lacks any ingredients. Instead of letting the idea go he begins to boil a big pot of water and adds a stone. As travelers pass by and inquire about what he is cooking he explains how delicious

of our own long distance hiking trail have chipped in by becoming members, volunteering their time and expertise, permitting the trail to be developed on their property, taking time to enjoy the BT and sharing that experience with others. The beauty of the trail today is that, like soup, we can enjoy it while we keep adding to it.

Today the BTA is made of many ingredients such as membership, volunteerism, partnerships and hikers. Put them together and we enjoy Buckeye TrailFest, the Emma 'Grandma' Gatewood Solstice (EGGS) Hike + Campout, the Miami Rivers Fort Ancient Campout, Section Hikes, our Winter Hikes, and many other gatherings throughout the year. We also enjoy the events of the Buckeye Trail Crew constructing new hiking trail across lands preserved by the BTA and our partners. Our big stone soup has been split again into smaller portions looking for ingredients – our Miami Rivers, Muskingum Lakes and now Little Cities of the Forest Chapters. Many volunteers and a few staff are working hard to not only prepare the soup for tomorrow but for Ohio's hiking community to enjoy today.

Whether you are contributing as a BTA member, donating to our current appeal to develop new campsites along the BT, attending our events, volunteering and recording your hours, or simply out enjoying the fruits of our labors and sharing with others... we just want to say thank you! Thank you for being an essential ingredient in the making of Ohio's Buckeye Trail. Enjoy the soup and keep adding what you can!

Hope to see you On the Trail this summer,



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

Barb Crompton (*Blue Blaze Bugsie*)

I set out to place my bike at Smith and Riverview Roads, but for the life of me I simply could not figure out where the Buckeye Trail was going to end for me that day! I spent some time studying the area, but could not locate any blazes that would indicate the best place to place the bike in relation to what I thought would be the end of the hike. As this is always a part of the adventure, I finally gave up, focused on a hidden place, locked it down and drove off to the parking lot at Lone Pine Area at O'Neill Woods where Daniel and I stopped last time.

One steep climb left in O'Neil Woods then it was all downhill and flat surfaces. Another picture-perfect day! I spent some time taking



A snake found along the trail

photos of snakes darting across the trail, a lovely picturesque scene of a foot bridge, a lonely park bench that was taking in the scenery by the river and different fun angles of a big white barn. As I stepped out of O'Neil Woods

and neared Bath Road, I caught the sign for Cuyahoga Falls. I am always amazed to see just how far I've actually walked, albeit not all at once, and found myself feeling a little impressed.

Once the blue blazes took me back to the tow path trail I relaxed. I feel great comfort in its familiarity and the wildlife and moving water always gives me plenty to look at and photograph. I passed near Botzum, another early canal city turned ghost town, whose sole building might just be the current station house for the scenic railway.



Railroad station in Botzum

All too soon the blazes told me to take a right, leading me through a tunnel. As I exited the tunnel and turned around to survey it, I felt quite silly. Although I had looked right at this spot while studying where to place my bike, I never realized it was a tunnel and that I would be coming through it at the end. But that's ok, being surprised is still one of my favorite parts of the Buckeye Trail.



A beautiful spot to enjoy the scenery

Schedule of Hikes & Events



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

JULY

July 11-12

Work Weekend at the Ballinger Property

Location: Shawnee Section

Description: Mow, prune and clear up any winter damage to the property and structures. Work will begin at 8:00 am.

Camping: On Ballinger property. Bring your own food and water.

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

July 11-12

Work Weekend at Providence Park

Location: Providence Metropark, Defiance Section

Description: Assist Metroparks of Toledo work crew with pruning and along Towpath Trail in Providence and Farnsworth Metroparks. Leave the campsite for work site at 8:00 AM.

Camping: TBD

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

July 11-12

Work Weekend at West Branch State Park

Description: Continue building on to the trail we have north of the Michael J. Kirwan Reservoir. Meet at Horse Camp at 8:00 am.

Camping: Back meadow of the Horse Camp, 1/2 mile east on Copeland/Esworthy Road from Rock Spring Road.

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

July 18-19

BTA Circuit Hike Massillon and Bowerston Sections

Saturday: Meet at the Community Center parking lot in New Cumberland. Leave at 9:00 AM to car pool to Canal Lands Trailhead on Dover Zoar Road. Hike is about 11.9 miles.

Sunday: Meet at parking area on Deer Road past Point 7 and dam, Bowerston Section. Leave at 8:30AM to car pool to Community Center parking lot in New Cumberland. The hike is about 11.1 miles.

Camping: Atwood Lake Campground
Contact: Jim Gilkey at (614) 879-9912 before hike or (740) 277-8749 hike weekend

July 25

BTA Adopter Training Series

Location: Shawnee

Description: Trail Carpentry - We'll learn the principles while constructing a 40 foot bridge as a gateway to the BT.

Contact: Barry Unger, Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@buckeyetrail.org

AUGUST

August 1

BTA Adopter Training Series

Location: Rockridge, OH

Description: Rock Work - We'll set up the highline and move boulders to construct a rock staircase at the Appalachia Ohio Alliance demonstration site.

Contact: Barry Unger, Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@buckeyetrail.org

August 7-9

The Great Muskingum Encampment

Location: The BTA Barn near Deersville, Ohio.

Muskingum Lakes Chapter annual signature event includes hiking, kayaking, canoeing, geocaching, vendor and partner displays, camping and inauguration of the Muskingum Lakes Chapter Trail Crew (aka Muskingum Makers of Mayhem). Saturday evening dinner to raise money for Barn Fund and Muskingum Lakes Trail Crew Fund, cost of \$10.00 per person. Additional covered dish or desserts are welcome but not necessary. Camping fee of \$10.00 per tent for both nights.

Please confirm by phone call or e-mail for Saturday meal count.

Contact: Steve Walker at 330-833-9365 or e-mail nilesprinting@gmail.com.

August 15-16

BTA Circuit Hike St Marys and Delphos Sections

Saturday: Meet at the public parking lot near Point 24 in St Marys. Leave at 9:00 AM to carpool to Cruisin Classics parking lot on Canal Road north of Point 16. The hike is about 11.7 miles.

Sunday: Meet at trailhead at corner of Deep Cut Road and Deep Cut-Spencerville Rd., Point 2 on Delphos map. Leave at 8:30 AM to carpool to Point 24 in St. Marys. Hike is about 11.6 miles.

Camping: Grand Lake St Marys State Park Campground

Contact: Jim Gilkey at (614) 879-9912 before hike or (740) 277-8749 hike weekend

August 21-23

BTA Board August Retreat

Location: BTA Barn, Tappan Lake, Deersville

Camping: At the Barn

Contact: President president@buckeyetrail.org

August 22-23

Work Weekend at West Branch State Park

Description: The plan for the weekend work party is to continue building on to the trail we have north of the Michael J. Kirwan Reservoir.

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

BTA Barn Directions

Take I-77 south to US-250 east (just south of New Philadelphia). Follow US-250 past Tappan Dam almost to the end of the lake. There is a causeway with a sign that reads "Tappan Lake Park". Turn right (this road also takes you to Deersville). Approximately 3.1 miles from the US-250 turnoff is Beall Rd. on the right. Follow this dead-end road 1.3 mi. It ends at the BTA Barn down a long gravel driveway.

Remember the house side of the driveway is absolutely and strictly off-limits. It is a private residence so please respect their wishes and stay on our side of the driveway and please do not block any roads.

Chuckwagon Reservations

For meal reservations for the chuckwagon at work parties (where available), contact Chuck Wagon Master, Jay Holwick at:

holwick@columbus.rr.com
740-743-3813

August 29-30

Work Weekend in the Delphos Section

Description: Continue improving the towpath trail in Paulding county. Leave the campsite for work site at 8:00 AM.

Camping: TBD. Bring your own food and water.

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

S E P T E M B E R

September 12-16

Work Week in the Whipple Section

Description: Clear downed trees and foliage growth from the BT/NCT trail in the Wayne National Forest in Washington County between points 1 and 6 of the October 2010 for about 14.3 off road miles. Leave camp site at 8:00 am for the work site.

Camping: Little Muskingum Watershed Association property at SR 26 and Thomas Ridge Rd. Showers and flush toilets will be available

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

September 12-13

Work Weekend at West Branch State Park

Description: The plan for the weekend work party is to continue building on to the trail we have north of the Michael J. Kirwan Reservoir.

Camping: Will be in the back meadow of the Horse Camp at West Branch State Park.

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

September 19-20

BTA Circuit Hike Bowerston Section

Saturday: Meet at parking area on US 250 between Point 14 and Dam. Leave at 9:00 AM to carpool to parking area on Deer Road past Point 7. The hike is about 11.5 miles.

Sunday: Meet at parking area on Long Road just north of SR 799 near Point 18. Leave at 8:30 AM to carpool to Point 14 on US 250. The hike is about 10.0 miles.

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

September 26-28

Work Weekend in the Bowerston Section

Description: Several areas on the BT need attention, 0.4 miles of new trail at Piedmont Lake, a new bridge at Wye Bay and reroute around beaver activity at Tappan and Clendenning Lakes. Leave camp at 8:00 am.

Camping: At the BTA barn.

Meals: Provided by Mary Hamilton

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

O C T O B E R

October 10-11

Work Weekend in Burr Oak State Park

BTA Chuck Wagon Event

Location: New Straitsville Section

Description: Trail improvements in the park. Great event for new adopters to get some training. Leave camp at 8:30 am for work site

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

Meals: This is a chuck wagon event. Meals will be provided free for the first 20 volunteers to sign up with Jay Holwick at holwick@columbus.rr.com by Oct. 5, 2015.

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

October 17-18

BTA Circuit Hike Delphos Section

Saturday: Meet at north end of Canal St in Stadium Park by water tower, south of Point 8. Leave at 9:30 AM to carpool to Point 2. The hike is about 12.7 miles.

Sunday: Meet at driveway at 24949 C.R.P., just west of Point 15. Leave at 9:00 AM to carpool to Point 8 north of Delphos. This hike is about 10.8 miles.

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

October 17-21

Work Week at West Branch

Description: The plan for the weekend work party is to continue building on to the trail we have north of the Michael J. Kirwan Reservoir.

Camping: Camping will be in the back meadow of the Horse Camp at West Branch State Park.

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

October 24

BT Full Marathon Trail Run

Location: Start at Shawnee, Ohio; End at Burr Oak State Park Lodge

Description: Race starts at 9:00am sharp. \$60 pre-registration; \$75 after September 30. Race Day registration begins at 7:00am. T-Shirt and Medallion for all registered before October 1. Transportation will be provided back to the start from Burr Oak. Visit <http://www.buckeyetrail.org/run4blue.php> for more info.

Contact: Herb Hulls at run4blue@buckeyetrail.org, 740-787-2416

O C T O B E R

October 24-26

Work Weekend near Ft Loramie

Location: St. Mary's Section

Description: The Plan is to reroute the existing BT off of roads between Points 11-12 and put it off road on property along Loramie Creek.

Camping: TBD

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

N O V E M B E R

November 7-11

Work Week at Boch Hollow

BTA Chuck Wagon Event

Location: Old Mans Cave Section

Description: We will continue to extend new trail, adding to the almost 2 miles we built in 2014.

Camping: Boch Hollow State Nature Preserve Office at 7211 Bremen Road Logan, OH 43138

Meals: This is a chuck wagon event. Meals will be provided free for the first 20 volunteers to sign up with Jay Holwick at holwick@columbus.rr.com by Oct. 5, 2015.

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

November 14-15

BTA Circuit Hike Bowerston Section

Saturday: Meet at parking area on SR 799 just south of Point 21. Leave at 9:30 AM to carpool to Point 18. The hike is about 10.4 miles.

Sunday: Meet at parking area on corner of SR 800 and Marina Road, east of Point 26. Leave at 9:00 AM to carpool to parking area on SR 799. The hike is about 10.3 miles.

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

D E C E M B E R

December 5

BTA Board Meeting

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

Contact: : President at president@buckeyetrail.org

December 5-6

BTA Circuit Hike Defiance Section

Saturday: Meet at driveway at 8101 Road 198, just north of SR 613. Leave at 9:30 AM to carpool to Point 15. The hike is about 11.6 miles.

Sunday: : Meet at driveway at 15111 County Line Road 8, south of Point 2. Leave at 9:00 AM to carpool to driveway just north of SR 613. The hike is about 10.8 miles.

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



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Simply a Great Idea: The LWCF

Elizabeth Renfroe - Photo by Don Jacobs



Over the years, Ohio has benefited immensely from a little known program called the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

Based on a simple idea, the LWCF uses revenues from the sale of one natural resource owned by the American public - offshore oil and

gas - to support the conservation of another precious resource - our land and water. The money is intended to protect national parks, recreational trails, areas around rivers and lakes, national forests and national wildlife refuges, and to provide matching grants for state and local parks and close-to-home recreation projects. In Ohio, many popular recreation destinations such as Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, and Wayne National Forest have all benefited from investment by the LWCF, as have many state parks and urban playgrounds and ball fields, like the Cleveland Metroparks, Delaware Reservoir State Park and the Columbus Zoo. A unique opportunity to protect lands around the Buckeye Trail in the Little Smokies near Shawnee State Forest was funded this very year.

This year, many of us will venture out into these treasured Ohio places, hiking on our trails, biking through our urban parks, fishing in our lakes and rivers, camping in state and local parks, and generally enjoying spending time in nature. Though our state is comprised of predominantly private land, our public lands are immensely popular outdoor recreation destinations for residents and tourists alike. Cuyahoga National Park, for example, receives 2.2 million visitors every year, according to the National Park Service. The Ohio State Parks system hosts about 55 million visitors from Geneva State Park up north to Little Miami State Park down south.

Aside from the obvious benefits of giving us the space to get outside, unwind and spend time with family and friends, these pastimes are significant economic drivers, spurring \$17.4 billion in direct consumer spending and supporting over 196,000 jobs annually. That's big business for our state, and something that we can promote through smart investments in the places where people like to hike, bike and fish.

Despite the LWCF's incredible success year after year, the majority of its funding has not been appropriated by Congress for its intended conservation purpose, but diverted to unrelated spending...leaving community-driven, ready-to-go projects on hold. Furthermore, the LWCF will expire this September without Congressional action to reauthorize the program.

LWCF is working for Ohio by helping to make sure every American family and their children have access to a nearby place to get outside and experience Ohio's natural beauty. It is time that we urge our Senators and Representatives to support full, dedicated funding and reauthorization for LWCF, and to hold it up as a responsible, efficient federal program that gets the job done without costing the American taxpayer a dime.

For more information please contact:

Elizabeth Renfroe

Ohio Field Representative, The LWCF Coalition
elizabethrenfroe@gmail.com

202-425-2684



Spring ferns along a stream, Road Fork section

Hike In, Pack On, Camp Out!

Andrew Bashaw

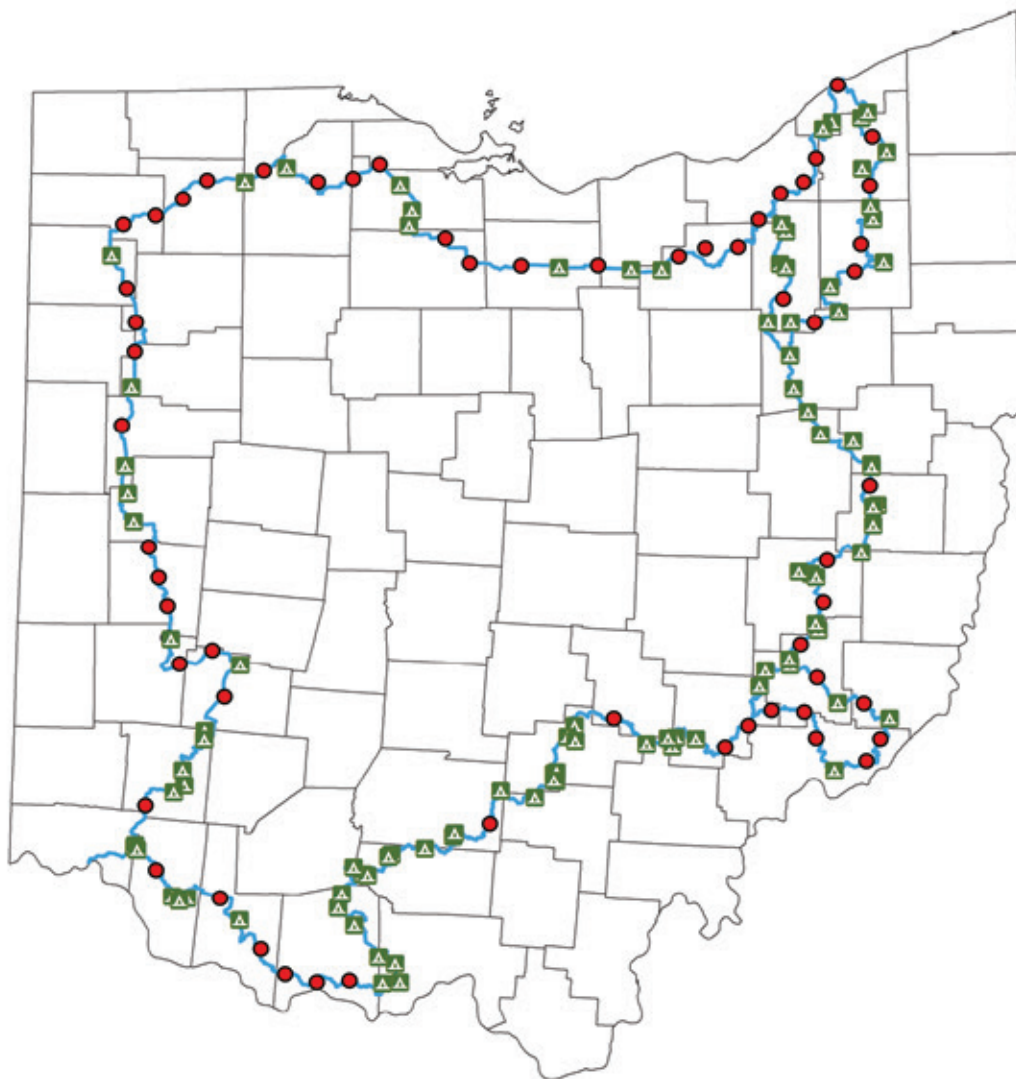


Buckeye Trail supporters like you have recently received an appeal in the mail to help support an increase in campsites development along the BT to make it more 'backpackable.' We have made great progress over the years, creating nearly 100 campsites with our partners, but we would like to focus our trail preservation effort to answer Buckeye Trail hikers' call for a place to camp about every 10 miles. This would take approximately 60 more campsites. With more boots and tents on the trail awareness and support of the BT will grow.

Just since 2010 we have seen the 230 acres of the BTA Pretty Run Preserve acquired, two campsites developed on the historic Miami & Erie Canal Towpath, a campsite donated on the headwaters of the Mahoning River now called Shaw Woods, and thanks to a generous pledge by two BTA members, two shelters constructed by your Buckeye Trail Crew near AEP ReCreation Lands and Serpent Mound State Memorial. A few more are in the works with our partners, but we need your support to pick up the pace to strategically develop permanent campsites with private landowners.

The BTA currently has the staffing needed to identify and negotiate new camping locations on private lands. Two generous BTA members have pledged to purchase the materials needed for 23 more - 8'x12' Adirondack-style shelters, approximately \$800 each, IF we can negotiate places for our Buckeye Trail Crew to construct them.

continued on pg.11



Hike In, Pack On, Camp Out!

Continued from Page 10

Help fund our time intensive effort to work with our land managing partners, negotiate with landowners, and preserve land when necessary to secure sites for the Buckeye Trail Crew to construct the remaining 23 shelters pledged. Our goal is to raise \$5,000 by the Summer Solstice, June 21, as we camp out under the stars during the Emma 'Grandma' Gatewood Solstice (EGGS) Hike. Will you help us take "lack of camping" off our list, so we can answer hikers: YES, the BT is 'backpackable'?

Overnight hikers will be grateful to you after long days of lugging their packs around the state to arrive "home" for a night on the BT. We are so thankful for the continued support of the BTA membership, and with your contribution we can secure key camping locations around the BT.

THANK YOU FOR HAPPILY HELPING HIKERS ALONG OHIO'S BUCKEYE TRAIL!



Matt Thomas relaxing in camp

Book Review: Grandma Gatewood's Walk

Bob Glotzhober

Grandma Gatewood's Walk, by Ben Montgomery, Published 2014. Chicago Review Press. 268pp.

The name Grandma Gatewood is familiar to most members of the Buckeye Trail Association, due at least in part to the sectional trail in her honor in the Hocking Hills State Park and for her early involvement with the Buckeye Trail. Perhaps many of us have also heard about her thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail (AT) as a 67 year-old grandma back in 1955. All of this is interesting stuff, but what is really amazing is, as Paul Harvey used to say, "the rest of the story."

Author Ben Montgomery was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2010, winner of many other writing awards, and a staff writer for the Tampa Bay Times. He became fascinated with Emma Gatewood's story, researched many sources, interviewed some of her children and grandchildren, and using her journal, also followed parts of her route on the famous hike. It is not always recognized, but the AT has changed routes several times over the years, and Montgomery wanted as much as possible to walk the path and see the scenery she saw on her hike.

The story he weaves is amazing – on several levels. The basic tale of this grandmother's hike is fascinating enough. Montgomery relates how she wore out seven pairs of shoes (mostly tennis shoes), dodged rattlesnakes, mud, hurricanes, blow-downs and poorly marked trails. She carried all her meager gear (only 15 to 20 pounds) in a draw-string sack slung over her shoulder. She walked alone, without maps, GPS or even what would have been accepted in 1955 as basic hiking equipment. While he tells the tale of the first woman to hike the AT, he also weaves in Emma Gatewood's personal history which includes living on a poor farm near Gallipolis, raising 11 kids and suffering a difficult marriage. He also describes her other hiking adventures, which included two more complete hikes of the AT as well as a couple of major trails in the Western U.S. and her involvement with the Buckeye Trail. Did you know she led many of the earliest winter hikes in the Hocking Hills?

This book is a great read for Ohioans who want to know more about this iconic woman, her fantastic hike, and the cultural and personal history behind her determination to complete her hikes. I got my copy of the book on loan from the Columbus Metropolitan Library – but I'm sure it is also available in bookstores around the state.

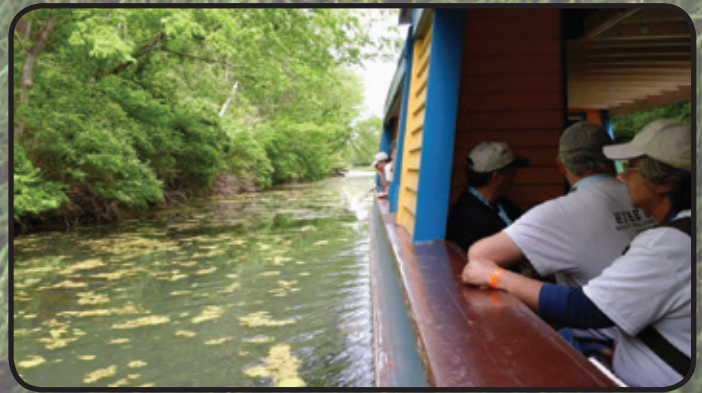
TRAILFEST



*"Our first Trailfest. It was a great experience."
Mike and Norma Herr
Wauseon*



ST 2015



"Great location!"



Photos: Karen Walker, Andy Niekamp, Richard Lutz, Liz DeBraal

The Buckeye Trail Association & Premier Races



Full Marathon Trail Run on the Buckeye Trail

Saturday,
October 24, 2015

WHERE: Start at Shawnee, Ohio; End at Burr Oak State Park Lodge. *(Transportation to start will be provided from Burr Oak.)*

TIME: Race starts at 9:00am sharp

ENTRY FEE: \$60 pre-registration; \$75 after September 30
Race Day registration begins at 7:00am
T-Shirt and Medallion for all registered before October 1.

VOLUNTEER: Email volunteer@buckeyetrail.org to sign up to help on race day!

INFORMATION & REGISTRATION: www.buckeyetrail.org/run4blue.php
or Herb Hulls at run4blue@buckeyetrail.org,
740-787-2416

Lodging and meals available at Burr Oak State Park
Route 2, Box 159, Glouster, Ohio 45732-9536
Reservations: 740-767-2112

PRE-REGISTER TO RECEIVE A FREE T-SHIRT!

NPS North Country National Scenic Trail Office

Mark Weaver



NEW STUFF: 2016 marks the 100th Birthday of the National Park Service

Like the Grand Canyon, Cuyahoga National Park, and Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, the North Country National Scenic Trail is a part of the National Park Service (NPS). And through the North Country Trail's partnership with the Buckeye Trail, you are a part of the NPS too! 2016 marks our 100th anniversary and we're pulling out all the stops to make sure that everybody knows it. Starting now, if you have a special event, organized hike or are staffing a booth at an outdoor recreation or sports show, etc., let us know! We can help you pull it off by covering some of the expenses and provide you with materials to promote the Buckeye Trail, North Country Trail and the National Park Service. Funding is limited, though. Just email or call me: mark_weaver@nps.gov or 616 430 3495. Also, check out www.findyourpark.com for more information about our celebration.

NEW STAFF: Chris Loudenslager

In mid-May we will have a new staff member join us on the North Country Trail, Chris Loudenslager. Chris will be taking over for Jeff McCusker, who returned to the Bureau of Land Management this past January. While we missing, we also welcome Chris. Chris comes to us from the Forest Service, and he has strong connections to the North Country Trail. I asked him to put together a short biography for you:

I grew up in a small farming community in southwest Michigan, just a few miles north of the Indiana border. I'd define my high school years as pretty typical for someone from the area: I was active in sports, worked summer jobs on local farms, and made frequent trips "up north" to our family cabin adjacent to the Manistee National Forest. After high school, I attended college for a few semesters, but ultimately decided that enlisting in the United States Army was a better fit for my interests and needs at that time. Curiously, it was while I was stationed in Georgia that I first discovered a "managed" trail. I recall very vividly my bewilderment at finding a well-constructed set of wooden steps leading up a steep slope in what I thought was the middle of nowhere, and wondering who in the world would have taken the effort to build such a structure so deep in the woods. It wasn't until later that I learned that I had wandered onto the Appalachian Trail; but even then, I would not have ventured to imagine that I would

eventually become someone building delightfully mysterious structures deep in the woods many years in the future.

I returned to college after nine years of service in the Army. I began my career in natural resource management as a seasonal maintenance mechanic on Isle Royale National Park while pursuing my studies at Michigan Technological University. After completing my BS in Forestry and MS in Recreation Management from Michigan State in 2004, I accepted a seasonal recreation technician position in the Wayne National Forest, where a majority of my time was spent conducting trail maintenance on the North Country Trail with my 5-person YCC crew. Soon afterward, I was hired as a permanent recreation technician in the Cherokee National Forest, where my duties began to focus on working closely with partner groups, volunteers, and student interns to build and maintain trails. In 2006, I returned to Michigan where I worked as a trails technician in both the Mio and Baldwin/White Cloud Districts of the Huron-Manistee National Forest. It was during this time that I became most familiar with the North Country Trail and began to foster my relationship with the local chapters of the North Country Trail Association as we began to tackle a number of long-standing issues with the Sterling Marsh boardwalk and Michigan Creek erosion projects, just to name a few.

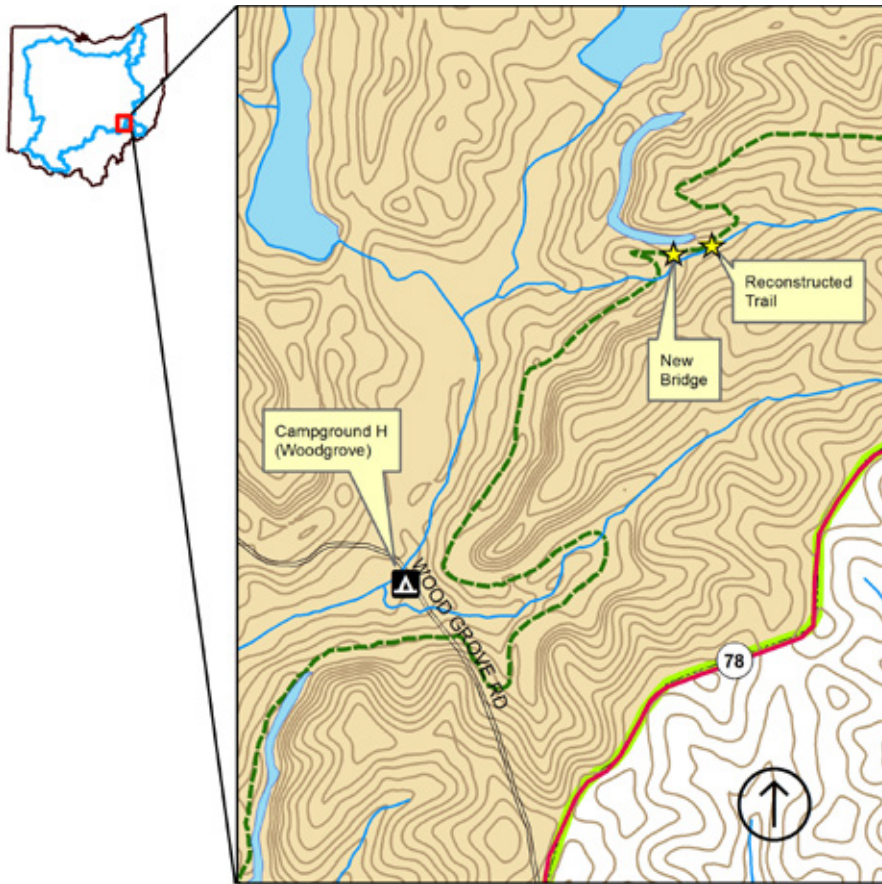
Most recently, I was assigned to the Superior National Forest, where for the last five years I served in a number of different roles: as a west zone recreation planner, as a district recreation operations manager, and as the Forest's veterans program manager. While this experience has provided a wide range of opportunities within the realm of recreation management, I still regard myself as a "trails person" at heart and find that my most enjoyable days are those spent tweaking tread, making a good trail better, and working with partners to figure out the best way to build a new trail to connect "we're here" with "we want to get there."



Chris Loudenslager

Third Blue Blazes Camporee

Richard Lutz



On April 25th, the Third Blue Blazes Camporee took place at AEP ReCreation Lands in Morgan County. During that Saturday, 373 boy scouts and leaders from the Simon Kenton Council helped to improve the BT and build a new bridge near a beaver dam north of Campground H (Wood Grove).

Before the Camporee, hikers had to cross the dam to get between two ponds. The trail was also disappearing in the area due to the hillside sliding down and covering the existing benched trail near the crossing.

Along with the scouts and parents, BTA members and trail crew representatives Herb Hulls, Earl Garn, Jim Runk, Byron Henry, Pat Hayes, Dave Baker, and Richard Lutz were on hand to assist and teach the scouts the proper trail and bridge building techniques. Before the camporee, Herb and Earl along with Dave Dingy from AEP ReCreation Lands moved the poles to the site for the bridge. Herb, Earl and Dave Baker prepared the site for the scouts to work.

Herb, Stockport Section Supervisor, organized the event with the council. He said his hopes were to rebuild the trail and to explain why it needed to be rebuilt to all the boy scouts working on the project. His optimistic goal was to bench about 500 feet of trail and complete the bridge building during the day. When asked why this project was important, Jim Runk, BTA Trail Crew Leader, said it was “a chance to introduce boy scouts and their leaders to

the Buckeye Trail and how trails are created.” He went on to say, “It’s also a way to advance the Buckeye Trail connection to the boy scouts. It’s a way of passing on the knowledge to build bridges and trail to the next generation.”

The skies threatened rain for most of the morning as one crew moved the poles into place and another crew dug away at the hillside to restore the benched trail. However, in the afternoon the skies opened up. The dedication of the BTA members and scouts to finish the projects didn’t deter them in the slightest.

While the scouts and BTA volunteers worked, I asked Rick Mark, Scouting Liaison for the BTA, about why the boy scouts like doing these kinds of projects. He said, “The opportunity covers requirements for badges and hiking requirements and are great ways to get involved with the organization. It’s a great way to earn service hours as well.”

By the end of the day, the 500 feet of trail was reconstructed and a 24 foot bridge was complete with a 34 inch high handrail! In addition, the scouts hiked from Campground H to Campground K and trimmed back branches, multi-floral rose, and autumn olive along the trail to make the route more passable. After

the work was done the scouts had a pig roast at Campground K (Bicentennial campground) and a boy scouts campers honor ceremony at the end of the evening around a bonfire.

continued on pg.17



Scouts cross the new bridge on the way back to camp

Third Blue Blazes Capmoree

Continued from Page 16

When I asked Larry Schmitt with District Activities for the Buckeye District of the Simon Kenton Council how he thought the project went, he commented that “It is a great experience that every scout should participate in at least once.” He was greatly pleased with the progress of the day and appreciated of the Buckeye Trail Crew members teaching the scouts.

With these projects complete, hikers don't have to worry about getting their feet wet or losing the trail. The project also allows the Buckeye Trail Crew to focus on other areas in their upcoming work party at AEP ReCreation Lands. Special thanks goes out to the scouts and leaders of the Simon Kenton Council for all the help building the bridge and improving the trail and to AEP for providing all the materials for the bridge project!



Scouts re-benching the trail

Buckeye Trail Crew Update

Richard Lutz

Here is what the Buckeye Trail Crew has been up to for the first two work parties of the year:

Fort Ancient (Camp Kern): After a chilly two days in the Little Miami River Valley, the Miami Rivers Chapter along with the Buckeye Trail Crew created 1500 feet of new trail on the Camp Kern property near Fort Ancient. Twenty-four people worked on this project to eliminate a long series of steps on the trail. The crew and chapter members put in 178.3 work hours toward this project. This new trail bypasses the steep hill that is becoming less safe to use and now climbs the hill at a steady 10% climb. According to Darryl Smith of the Miami Rivers Chapter, “The trail is open and able to be used, but there are a lot of chores to be worked on to make it really grand...if you go out to walk the new trail, [remember] all the effort it took to build a trail on such a steep hillside, and we hope that you will be encouraged to join us on a future volunteer outing.”

Road Fork Work Party: Fourteen hearty trail crew members worked on fresh blazing for the entire section and chain-sawing obstructions out of the way on the 17.7 miles of off-road trail in the section. At the end of the official work party, the crew did some trail maintenance in the adjoining Whipple section. Overall the crew put in 333.7 work hours on the trail.

Stay tuned...the year has just begun and we will be doing more out there in the upcoming months. Come join us and have some fun out in the woods!



Richard Lutz paints new blazes in the Road Fork section

What Motivates a Buckeye Trail User

Matt McLain



Matt McLain

(Editor's note: Matt is a BTA Scholarship recipient)

My name is Matt McLain and I am a graduate student pursuing a Master's of Science in Environmental Studies at Ohio University. Many of you may remember me from last year's Trailfest at Camp Akita. I was the one bugging you for interviews throughout the weekend. Over the past two years I have been working on a joint research project, with assistance from the Buckeye Trail Association and your BTA director Andrew Bashaw. The purpose of the research was to investigate the motivations and benefits that users of the Buckeye Trail gain, to subsequently be used for marketing purposes. Through the use of a means-ends analysis and an open-end interview process, individual Buckeye Trail users identified the attributes, consequences, and values they attributed to their use of the Buckeye Trail.

The results from the analysis of this data illustrate the dominant motivations behind an individual's attraction to the Buckeye Trail. The major motivational themes identified by Buckeye Trail users include connection to nature, community, exercise, learning Ohio's

history, health, giving back to future generations, enjoyment and relaxation/wellbeing. Integrating these terms into Buckeye Trail marketing materials should encourage additional involvement in Buckeye Trail related events. While these identified motivations may seem obvious, and many of them are, this study provides confirmation for their use in Buckeye Trail related marketing.

In addition to the time spent preparing, conducting, and analyzing the applied research, there were also many other volunteer work opportunities. These Buckeye Trail events, outside of the confines of interview process, added to my firsthand experience and understanding of the motivations that encourage Buckeye Trail volunteers and users. Through these Buckeye Trail events, I was also able to gain experience conducting trail work, leading trail work, leading/sweeping hikes, and helping others, all while gaining a greater appreciation for Ohio and its natural resources.

Through my research I asked Buckeye Trail members what motivates them to be part of the Buckeye Trail—well now it is my turn. My number one motivation would have to be the community, in particular the trail building/maintenance events. Personally, I enjoy getting my hands dirty and giving back to the trail. The Chuck Wagon events have been a treat! Who can argue with being in the woods, good food, hard work, and comradery?

Through my experience using trails and the completion of this research, I have gained a strong love for trails and the opportunities they provide. Trails are places that offer relaxation, recreation, and reflection. They provide settings for community building and socializing. Trails have the ability to promote environmental awareness, environmental protection, and environmental education. A well-known trail can provide local pride and economic opportunities. I hope that my research and participation in Buckeye Trail events has helped to further the mission of the Buckeye Trail. I hope to see you all out on the trail this year! Next time you see me I will certainly be wearing my new blue Volunteer Buckeye Trail jacket!

Boy Scout Adventures on the Buckeye Trail

Ben Wical

After several planning sessions our troop set out to hike eight miles of the Buckeye Trail. Our goal was to help younger scouts work on Second Class requirements. These requirements included taking a five-mile hike, demonstrating how a compass works, and learning how to orient a map.

Our trek began at Lake Loramie State Park (Pt. 14 St. Mary's Section). This is a point we are all familiar with because our troop has camped and participated in District Camporees here. The hike was along the Miami Erie Canal and ended at Dicke Kuenning Natural Area.

During the hike we discovered the involvement of other scouts who had completed Eagle projects. We learned about the history of the canal and the rich history of small towns past and present. We saw the reconstructed Lock 1 North and the lock tender's house. We were greeted at Dicke Kuenning Natural Area by our shuttle ride back to Lake Loramie State Park. The troop's goal of several second class rank advancements was met through our use of the Buckeye Trail.

Since discovering the trail, our troop has used the Buckeye Trail for several other scout outings. The next trip was to Burr Oak State Park. We hiked the blue blazed backpack trail from the group campground to the ranger station then returned on the white blazed Buckeye Loop Trail to camp that night at the group campground. Discover the Blue Blazes on your next troop outing!

Keeping "outing" in Scouting,
Ben Wical
Patrol Leader "Soaring Penguins"
Troop 301, Anna, OH



Scouts take a break at the New Bremen lock on the St. Mary's section



Hiking the Paton Trail at Burr Oak State Park



Checking out the rock formations at Burr Oak State Park

First Steps to Standardized Trail Maintenance Inventory

Steve Walker

Plans are in the works to create a standardized method and procedure for inventory of trail maintenance for the Buckeye Trail. On April 9th, Richard A. Lutz, GIS Coordinator/Land Preservation Specialist for the BTA led a trail maintenance inventory survey near Clendening Lake in the Bowerston Section. Working with Richard on this beginning effort were Scott Pendleton, Bowerston Section Supervisor and Karen and Steve Walker, Muskingum Lakes Chapter Co-Organizers. GPS units were used to mark points on the trail where problems or issues existed that required monitoring.

The long range plan is to document how often certain areas of the trail will require specific maintenance and to identify other areas where current problems exist. Once documented and gathered into a database, it will enable trail adopters to know what to watch for in areas where recurring problems may occur. The information thus gathered may help with trail planning when rerouting needs to be considered to go around problem areas.



Steve Walker, working with the four-legged crew members, is careful to hold the GPS unit in the upright position for best reception (see yellow circle)

BTA Scholarship Winners

Elmo Layman

Sierra Bachman



Sierra hails from Georgetown, Ohio. She states her passion is animals, natural resources, and education. In order to accomplish her goals, she plans to complete studies at Wilmington College, Southern State Community College, and Clermont College. Then she expects to transfer her credits to Liberty College where she

will combine courses. Sierra, an outstanding student, has been involved with home schooling and taken classes at the University of Cincinnati. One of her references states that Sierra is one of the most amazing young people that she has had the privilege to know. We wish Sierra the best in all she does.

Michelle Benedum



Michelle is the young lady who is heading to Idaho to complete her bachelors degree in Wildlife Science. She just finished her associates degree at Hocking College and is currently working with the AmeriCorps with Rural Actions, Inc. in the Monday Creek Watershed. She has been involved with water quality studies,

wildlife monitoring and developing grants. Her goal is to work as a wildlife biologist with a concentration in endangered species. We wish her well.

Welcome New Members!

Bev and Jerry Starcher

Brent Agler, VanWert
Pam Alexander, Bethel
Tom Alexander, Glenmont
John Anderson, Cambridge
Steven Bailey, Seven Hills
Jon Baker, Cuyahoga Falls
Dianne Bell and Family, Fairfield
Mary Ellen Berger, Columbus
Sandy Berkes, Medina
Theresa Best, Beavercreek
Andrea Bigley, Columbus
Paul Bingle, Columbus
Cory Boruvka and Family, Wadsworth
Mary Bradshaw, Parma
Bruce Chenoweth, Dayton
Stephen Collar and Family, Willoughby Hills
Ramona Conley, Ludlow Falls
Jason Cook, LaGrange
Joyce Cottrell, Whitefield, NH

Jerry Crouch, Brook Park
Amy Crow, Wadsworth
Mark Dykes and Family, Eaton
Donald Fisher, Avon Lake
Karen Fisk, Reynoldsburg
David Fisk, Reynoldsburg
Norman Fox, Nelsonville
Jamie Gibson, Newark
Brice Gordon, Gahanna
Andrew Hagat, Akron
Stephen Holmberg and Family, Heath
Denise Hutton, Strongsville
Beth Keuneke, St Marys
Cheryl Kreindler, White Lake, MI
Sarah Landers, Athens
James Lunning, Minneapolis, MN
Laurie Malone, Loveland
Patricia McCarthy, Beavercreek
James Moore, New Philadelphia
Sean Murdock, Ravenna

Tammy Nickerson, Granville
Jim Ogg, Carroll
Keith Palacios, Nelsonville
Cody Pollard, Washington
Daniel Raabe, Medina
David Ray, Newark
Steven Redden, Cuyahoga Falls
Timothy Ryan, Cleveland Heights
John Schnettler, Canton
Audie Setser, Cincinnati
Rick Shepherd, Pataskala
Leslie Smith, Granville
Michael Vogt, Erlanger, KY
Carl Vulgamore, Londonerry
Jason Weslek, Cleveland Heights
Forrest White, Republic
Dave Williamson, New Washington
Egan Young, Columbus

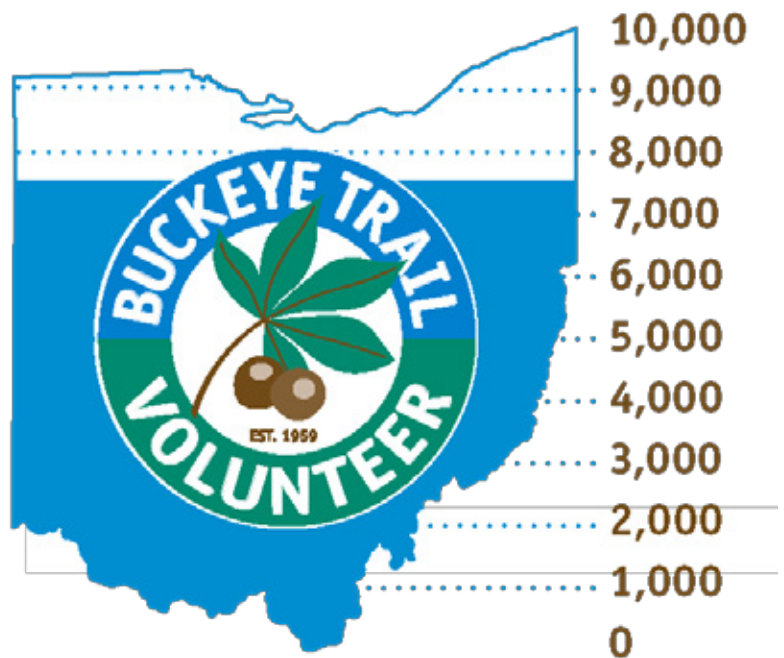
Volunteer Challenge Update

Barry Unger

We have over 7,300 hours logged so far this year! Everyone is doing a great job recording their hours! How can you help? Just make sure you are logging everything into the hour recording software at <https://www.volunteermatters.net/>

#WeRtheBT

Share your
volunteer
experience



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.

BARN FUND - 1/22/2015 - 5/1/2015

Jim Gilkey

SCHOLARSHIP FUND - 1/22/2015 - 5/1/2015

Jim Gilkey

TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND - 1/22/2015 - 5/1/2015

Jim Gilkey

GENERAL FUND - 1/22/2015 - 5/1/2015

North Country Trail Association [Andrea Ketchmark]	Kevin & Mary Jo Bowman
C.J. Yegerlehner	Kevin McKee
Charlotte & Quincy Robe	Mario & Eva Danies Vargas
Christina Rizzo	Michael Smith & Heather Ward
Cliff Thorniley	Miner Dickason
Connie & Tom Myers	Nancy Ellen Burkholder
Donald & Kathy Bashaw	Oscar Long
Donald & Paula Byrnett	Richard Kost
Earl Straddon	Robert & Shirley Burris
Eugene Wilson	Robert Fritschie
Fred & Christine Tritschler	Robert Litt
Garrett & Sydney Dill	Ronald Schweller
Gene Wimmer	Rosemarie & Robert Simons
Harriet & Woody Ensor	Rudolf Brits
Jeff & Sarah Yoest	Phoenix Media [Stephen & Karen Walker]
Jim & Vivian Runk	Susan Kay & Clifford Yeager
John & Janice Fetzer	Timothy Chamberlain
Harrison Co Chapter, Ohio Horseman's Council [Kathy Rose]	William & Diane Gartroza
Kenneth Bordwell	The National Environmental Education Foundation
Kenneth Katona	

2015 ***UPDATED*** Work Parties

- Mar 28-29 --- ① --- Loveland Work Weekend at Ft. Ancient
- Apr 11-15 --- ② --- Roadfork Work Week at Wayne National Forest
- May 2-6 --- ③ --- Belle Valey / Stockport Work Week at AEP
(Chuck Wagon Event)
- May 30-31 --- ④ --- Old Man's Cave Work Weekend at Pretty Run Preserve
- Jun 6-10 --- ⑤ --- West Union at Edge of Appalachia (Chuck Wagon Event)
- Jun 27 - Jul 1 --- ⑥ --- West Union at Edge of Appalachia (Chuck Wagon Event)
- Jul 11-12 --- ⑦ --- Shawnee Work Weekend at the Ballinger Property
- Jul 11-12 --- ⑧ --- Defiance Work Weekend at Providence Metropark
- Aug 29 - 30 --- ⑨ --- Delphos Work Weekend at Ottoville
- Sep 12-16 --- ⑩ --- Whipple Work Week in Wayne National Forest
- Sep 26-28 --- ⑪ --- Bowerston Work Weekend
- Oct 10-11 --- ⑫ --- New Straitsville at Burr Oak State Park (Chuck Wagon Event)
- Oct 17-21 --- ⑬ --- Mogadore Work Week at West Branch State Park
- Oct 24-26 --- ⑭ --- St. Mary's Work Weekend near Ft. Loramie
- Nov 7-11 --- ⑮ --- Old Man's Cave Work Week at Boch Hollow



MEMBERSHIP FORM (for new members only)

- ADULT \$25.00 per year
- FAMILY \$30.00 per year
- STUDENT (full-time) \$10.00 per year
- ORGANIZATION \$35.00 per year
- SUSTAINING \$50.00 per year
- BUSINESS \$50.00 per year
- LIFE- INDIVIDUAL \$400.00

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

The Buckeye Trail is now on CafePress!

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

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



AND MORE!!