

Trailblazer



FOUNDED 1959
FALL 2015 VOLUME 48 NO. 3

Mr. Walker Goes to Washington

Steve Walker

In my three years as a member of the BTA, it's almost always been a surprise to see where service to the organization might lead me. When President Connie Pond appointed me to represent the BTA as a member of the North Country Trail Policy and Advocacy Committee at Trail Fest this year, I figured that I would be writing some e-mails and making a few phone calls as part of the duties. No one was more surprised than I was to receive an e-mail on July 6th from Andrea Ketchmark of the NCTA. She was wondering if someone from the BTA was willing to represent Ohio and participate in a fly-in on July 21st and 22nd to DC to advocate for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Re-authorization (Senate Bill 338 and House Resolution 1814) with members of Congress. The NCTA was also hoping that whoever represented Ohio would also advocate for the North Country National Scenic Trail Route



Representative David Joyce, Ohio's 14th Congressional District, Steve Walker, BTA/NCTA and Andy Williamson, IMBA

Adjustment Act (Senate Bill 403 and House Resolution 799). I've known many folks who have done things like this over the years but never thought that I'd be allowed the opportunity to do it myself. It was also gratifying that I might be able to pitch two causes that I strongly believe in. I sent in a bio of myself and was approved to come.

By coming early on Monday morning, I was able to visit The Wilderness Society headquarters and meet Brandon Helm (one of the primary organizers of the fly-in) and some of the other staff members who work there. From there, I met with Pete Olsen of the American Hiking Society for lunch in the Longworth Cafeteria and listened to how this process works. After some discussion during which he gave me a packet of materials, some of which were specifically related to the Buckeye Trail, we proceeded to Congressman Mike Doyle's office. Doyle is a Democrat representing Pennsylvania's 14th District.

continued on pg.2

IN THIS ISSUE...

- 3** Presidents Message
- 4** On the Trail
- 5** Thank You Buckeye Trail Association and Blaze Painters
- 6** Schedule of Events
- 7** Fort to Fort Backpacking Trip
- 8** The Odds vs. the Risk: A Lightning Trail Tail
- 9** Midwest Outdoor Experience Ad
- 10** Hike In, Pack On, Camp Out Progress - Six New Campsites for Buckeye Trail Hikers
- 11** A Much-Needed Bridge
- 12** Roster Update
- 12** Volunteer Challenge Update
- 13** Leaving a Legacy for the Buckeye Trail
- 14** Trail Crew Updates from May Through July
- 15** Blue Blazes Marathon Ad
- 16** Last One In is a Rotten Egg
- 17** Update on BTA Intern's Thru Hike
- 18** Donations
- 19** Welcome New Members!

Mr. Walker Goes to Washington

Continued from Page 1

My purpose was mainly to observe what Pete did there (pitch HR 799) but I was able to interject how much volunteer effort goes into trail building and maintenance.

Tuesday was the big day to pitch the bills for both issues. We started off with a briefing in the House Natural Resources Committee hearing room where we received our packets including scheduled appointments and received a pep talk from Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, the wife and successor to John Dingell, the longest serving congressman (59 years). After that, we went over our appointments with Kathy DeCoster from the Trust for Public Land who was to be our leader for the day. The appointment list for Tuesday is as follows.

11:00 A.M. - Sen. Sherrod Brown (D) - met with Tommy Brown (Legislative Correspondent)

1:30 P.M. - Rep. Michael Turner (R-10) - met with Jennifer Tripp (Staff Assistant)

2:30 P.M. - Rep. Bob Latta (R-5) - met with Madeline Barter (Legislative Counsel)

3:00 P.M. - Rep. Pat Tiberi (R-12) - met with Michael McLean (Legislative Assistant)

4:00 P.M. - Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-3) - met with Donnica Hawes-Saunders (Senior Legislative Assistant)

4:30 P.M. - Rep. David Joyce (R-14) - met with the Congressman and Chris Cooper (Senior Legislative Assistant)

5:00 P.M. - Rep. Bill Johnson (R-6) - met with David Rardin (Legislative Assistant). David asked a lot of questions and seemed very enthusiastic

On Wednesday, our group met at Sen. Rob Portman's office at 11:30 A.M. for a 25-minute meeting with Sarah Pearce, one of Sen. Portman's Legislative Correspondents. Pete Olsen and Matt Liddle from REI joined us for this one as we pitched both Senate bills.

I accompanied Pete to two more visits that he had scheduled for that afternoon. At one, I was able to help pitch HR 799 to Eleanor Bastian (Legislative Director) from Rep. Diana DeGette's office. Rep. DeGette represents Colorado's 1st Congressional District.

At 4:00 P.M., Pete and I were scheduled to visit with Ohio's Congressman Tim Ryan (D-13). We met with Ryan Keating (Senior Advisor/Deputy Chief of Staff). Ryan Keating was very positive and said he thought that he could make this happen. We were in and out quickly and just missed the congressman. In any event, he decided to co-sponsor both House bills, so it paid off.

All in all, I met with staff from 12 offices and flew out of Ronald Reagan National Airport at 8:30 P.M. on Wednesday. It is a high energy experience and I didn't really get back to earth until the afternoon of the day after I got back. The whole experience made me realize that trail preservation is about more than just trail building and maintenance. There is constant pressure to develop more land for residential and commercial uses. Buckeye Trail Association members need to be part of the conversation with elected and government officials regarding the future of our trail and Ohio's natural spaces. As a BTA member, you help advocate for those very things.



Trailblazer

Published Quarterly by the
Buckeye Trail Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 254
Worthington, Ohio 43085
740-394-2008
Circulation: 1,200

Liz DeBraul
Editor

Tim DeBraul
Production

DEADLINES

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

SUBMISSIONS

Liz DeBraul
672 Whisperlake Rd.
Holland, OH 43528
trailblazer@buckeyetrail.org

ADVERTISING

Andrew Bashaw
740-777-6BTA (6282)
director@buckeyetrail.org

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.

Check us out ...



trailtalk.buckeyetrail.org



twitter.com/hikethebt



buckeyetrailfriends.org



youtube.com/user/BuckeyeTrailTV



facebook.com/buckeyetrail



Trailblazer is printed
on recycled paper.

BTA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OFFICERS

Constance Pond, *President*
Scott Kamph, *Vice President*
Ruth Brown, *Secretary*
Linda Paul, *Treasurer*

TRUSTEES

Steve Walker, Liz DeBaal, Garry Dill
Kathy Hamilton, Pat Hayes,
Byron Henry, Herb Hulls,
John Knouse, Jeff Yoest,
Heidi Hetzel-Evans, Ryan Krapf

BTA STAFF & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Andrew Bashaw

Buckeye Trail Association Executive Director
PO Box 5, Shawnee, OH 43782
740-777-6BTA (6282)

Buckeye TrailFest

Liz DeBaal, Steve Walker

Awards & Recognition

Mary Hamilton

BTA Century Barn

Mary Hamilton

Budget, Finance & Long Range Planning

Scott Kamph

Bylaws

Mary Hayes

Cartography

Herb and Susie Hulls

Computer Service Coordinator

Steve Miller

Mail Secretary

Garry Dill

Nominations

Jeff Yoest

Sales Manager

Barry Unger, *Interim*

Scouting Liaison

Rick Mark

Scholarship

Elmo Layman

Trail Maintenance Supervisor

Jim Sprague

Trail Management Team

Pat Hayes, *Interim Chair*

Trail Preservation

John Knouse

Trail Preservation Fund

Bill Schultz

Trail Preservation Specialist

Richard Lutz

Trail Town Coordinator

Angie Sheldon

Volunteer Coordinator

Barry Unger

Webmaster

Mary Hayes

President's Message

Connie Pond

Last year, the BTA was given a great treasure. Velda Vogt donated the bronze plaque commemorating the completion of the Buckeye Trail, then from Lake Erie to the Ohio River. The date of the ceremony was October 1970. Those in attendance or on the Board of Directors were: Harry L. Armstrong and Ralph Regula, Ohio State Senators; Fred E. Morr, Director of Ohio DNR; John P Bay, President; Roy P. Fairfield, Vice President; Donald Vogt, Secretary; Bob Merkle, Treasurer; and James D. Hedberg, Thomas A Page, Warren D. Taylor, James Hucker, David E. Young, Al Zaleski, Robert A Paton, and Emma Gatewood.

Forty-five years later, on September 26 at 1:00 pm we will be hosting a ceremony to rededicate our trail to the citizens of Ohio. We are affixing the plaque to a boulder and placing it at the Northern Terminus of our trail in Headlands Beach State Park at the entrance to the trail that takes hikers through the sand dunes to the shore of Lake Erie. This is my invitation to you to attend and celebrate with us. Also, since time is marching on, if any of those named on the plaque (or relatives) can join us in September, it would be a great honor.



Connie Pond

Also, I come with “hat in hand” and ask if you could chip in. Send any donations to commemorate the Buckeye Trail Association’s achievement to Buckeye Trail, PO BOX 254, Worthington, OH 43085 with “Rock” in the memo. I thank you in advance for your help. We will list all donors to the ROCK in the December issue of the Trailblazer.



On this post, State Senators Harry L. Armstrong and Ralph Regula painted the last blazes completing the Buckeye Trail from Cincinnati, on the Ohio River, to Mentor, on Lake Erie. Fred E. Morr, Ohio Director of Natural Resources, accepted the Trail on behalf of the people of Ohio.

On the Trail

Andrew Bashaw



Andrew Bashaw

Who is the Buckeye Trail Association? Obviously members like you, but there are two other important groups as well. Buckeye Trail Volunteers are another obvious and integral part of the BTA, most of whom are also BTA members. The third, and by far largest, group is composed of the variety of Buckeye Trail hikers. Would we have a BTA without them?

You have heard me say it before, “hundreds of volunteers devote thousands of hours so that millions of hikers can enjoy Ohio’s Buckeye Trail.” The statement is true; through our work in developing our volunteer program we know that we do have a few hundred longer term volunteers, not counting the one-time volunteers who put in great efforts during a single event. We know for certain now that volunteers are recording their hours in our software – reaching our ‘Year of the Volunteer’ challenge of 10,000 hours... and still counting. How many hikers do we have on the BT? That is more difficult to answer without an extensive trail counting effort, but with just the popular segments of the BT in amazing places like Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Hocking Hills State Park and the Little Miami Scenic Trail, it is safe to say “millions” without exaggerating.

But does this large user group even know they are hiking on the BT? Do they understand that volunteers have made it all possible since 1959? Do they know that there is a relatively small corps of members like you who make it a point to support such a great idea through membership? For the most part, no, they aren’t aware of what those blue blazes guiding them from one end of the park to the other really represent. This is a challenge...and an opportunity! What would the BTA look like if we eventually had 10,000 members instead of a little over 1,000? True, there would be more membership contributions, but there would also be more personal value of the BT and the BTA shared with more people in Ohio, and what an affect that could have.

I believe the BTA is on the right path when we are able to clearly identify a problem, put our heads together and focus on solutions overcoming a challenge. Overcoming challenges is something that comes naturally to BT hikers, members and volunteers. Look to Grandma Gatewood completing the Appalachian Trail,

the founders of the BTA in the earlier years, EGGS Hikers persisting through Tropical Storm Bill on a 20-80 mile hike, Ryan Krapf adapting his BT thru-hike after injury to carry on, your volunteer BTA Trustees weathering the throes of an ever-evolving BTA, BTA volunteers meeting the 10,000 hour challenge, and members like you working to support the development of campsites along the BT. Pretty inspiring stuff on individual and organizational levels!

The opportunity I would like your support for over the coming year is to instill the value of the BT and the good work of the BTA in the rest of Ohio’s hiking community. Why is it important to you to support the BTA by being a member and what do you get out of being a BTA member? What will it take to share that message with others in Ohio’s hiking community? I’m sure there are a variety of reasons and ideas—please share yours with me. We don’t expect everyone to be an avid hiker AND a devoted volunteer AND an active BTA member... but the overlap between those groups is truly something that makes the BT and the BTA unique in our state.

Thank you for hiking, volunteering and supporting Ohio’s BT... let your hiking buddies know that you do. Don’t forget that there is a 20% discounted BTA Membership for members of other great Ohio-based trail and hiking organizations, and we have gift BTA memberships available if someone you know may need a little kick-start.

Hope to see you on the Buckeye Trail this Fall!



Thank You Buckeye Trail Association and Blaze Painters

Carol Conway Yegerlehner

The Ohio Volkssport Association has had a program since January 2013 to include, if possible, at least 1K on the Buckeye Trail as part of a 10K walk. To date, we have had over 40 Walking Events around the state on the Buckeye Trail. In my area of Fairborn, Yellow Springs and Xenia, besides regular events, we have three walks and two bike rides as Year-Around Events on the Buckeye Trail that you can do any day during daylight hours.

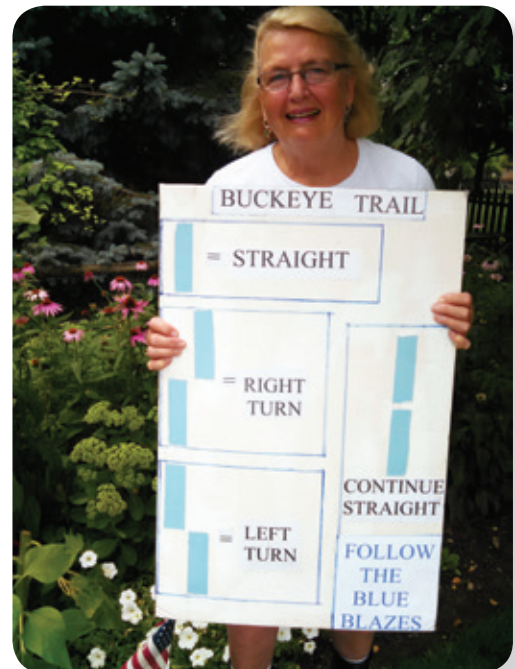
What is a Volkswalk, you might ask? A Volkswalk is a measured walk of 10 km for all ages. The 10K is usually divided into two 5K loops with a window of 3 hours to Start and 3 hours to Finish. Trails are marked or you are given written directions. Events are non-competitive and participants can go at their own pace and the distance they are comfortable with. You can walk for free or pay \$3 to have a specially issued stamp put in your Walking and Event Books. Volksmarching/walking got its name from its origin in Germany; “Volks” meaning people and “march” meaning walk. It was brought back to the States by G.I.’s in the 1970’s. There are Clubs around the world. Just last March, I did several “Walks” in Antarctica, thanks to Walking Adventures, Inc. No Blue Blazes there and surprisingly, it wasn’t as cold as “Blue Blazes”!

This brings me to the Buckeye Trail markings. Ohio Wander Freunde, a Volksmarch Club in Fairborn, has had several events in Fairborn and Dayton, where we send walkers out following the Blue Blazes and not Volkswalk arrows. In October, we will walk from Minster to New Bremen and back following the Blue Blazes. Xenia Walking Club had an event starting from Ash Cave to Cedar Falls and back. Bulls Run Ramblers, a Middletown Club, likes events on the Trail in Loveland. I made a poster with the signs using “Buckeye Blue” paint so Volkswalkers would know what to look for. Everyone has enjoyed the challenge.

The Buckeye Trail Volkswalk program ends December 31, 2015. Once again, thank you Buckeye Trail Blazers for all you do to keep us on the trail and for giving us new and interesting areas to walk. For more information on Volkssporting in general, go to the American Volkssport Association website, AVA.org.



David Miltenberger at Lock #1 North, New Bremen, measuring the canal trail for the October 17th, Minster to New Bremen and return Volkswalk. Starts at Four Seasons Park in Minster, 9 - 12, finish by 3.



Carol Conway Yegerlehner with poster to teach Blue Blaze directional signs.

Schedule of Hikes & Events



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

SEPTEMBER

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

Meals: Bring your own food.

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: Steve Latza at green.boonie@gmail.com

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.

Camping: At the BTA barn.

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

September 19-20

Fort to Fort Backpacking Trip - St. Marys (Fort Barbee) to Fort Amanda State Memorial.

Description: This is a great trip for beginning backpackers, for those wanting to get a few Buckeye Trail miles knocked out, and/or for those interested in Ohio's rich canal history. See page 7 for more detail.

Meeting Point: The large parking lot on the north side of West South Street in St. Marys will be our starting point. Directions from I-75 to the parking lot can be found here: <https://goo.gl/maps/QBTAQ>.

Contact: Darryl Smith at 513-321-1539 or at miamirivers@buckeyetrail.org

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

OCTOBER

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: Steve Latza at green.boonie@gmail.com

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

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

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@](mailto:stc@buckeyetrail.org)

buckeyetrail.org

NOVEMBER

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@](mailto:stc@buckeyetrail.org)

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

DECEMBER

December 5

BTA Board Meeting

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

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

Fort to Fort Backpacking Trip

Darryl Smith

St. Marys (Fort Barbee) to Fort Amanda State Memorial September 19th and 20th

This hike was once part of the Clear Water Trail, a scout trail from the 1970s. The Clear Water Trail had more than one route, one being from Wapakoneta to Fort Amanda along the Auglaize River, the other being a derivative of our route from St. Marys to Fort Amanda.

This is a great trip for beginning backpackers, for those wanting to get a few Buckeye Trail miles knocked out, and/or for those interested in Ohio's rich canal history. Using the Buckeye Trail for the first and last ten miles, we will walk along the historic Miami Erie Canal and see such sites as the canal boat in St. Marys, Forty Acre Pond, Lock 14, Bloody Bridge, and the Six Mile Creek Viaduct before hopping on Kossuth-Amanda Road and following the old supply route between Fort Barbee and Fort Amanda, both War of 1812 fort sites that were part of William Henry Harrison's important supply chain to Fort Meigs.

The trip will be an out and back as we tackle nearly fifteen miles each day. Water, restrooms, a shelter with benches, and plenty of shaded areas to set up your tent await us at Fort Amanda, part of the Ohio History Connection system and managed locally by the Johnny Applesseed

Metropolitan Park District. While the daily miles may be on the long side for new backpackers, the route is extremely flat and you have all day to get to Fort Amanda and enjoy the historical sites along the way.

This event is being hosted by the Miami Rivers Chapter of the Buckeye Trail Association and all are welcome to join in the fun. Those wanting to enjoy this trip as a single day hike can also attend. You will of course need to arrange a shuttle from Fort Amanda back to St. Marys, or drop off a bicycle at Fort Amanda, drive to the starting point, hike to the park, and bike back to your car at St. Marys.

Meeting Point – The large parking lot on the north side of West South Street in St. Marys will be our starting point. Directions from I-75 to the parking lot can be found here: <https://goo.gl/maps/QBTAQ>. Enter the link into your browser, and then you can change the starting destination to reflect where you are coming from. St. Marys is an easy drive from I-75 in the western part of Ohio. Please be certain to arrive a few minutes before 11:00 a.m. so that we can get started at 11:00.

Post trip – There are a couple of places in St. Marys that promise good food and good beer for those wanting a well-deserved meal and libation.

The Odds Versus the Risk: A Lightning Trail Tale

Andy "Captain Blue" Niekamp

I bought two lottery tickets in Greenwood Lake, New York on Sunday night, May 31, 2015. I was feeling like the luckiest guy in the world after surviving a lightning strike on Black Mountain in New York on the Appalachian Trail (AT) earlier that day. I was fortunate to be able to walk off the mountain. Dozens of people each year across the U.S. aren't so lucky. Lightning kills, and being caught in an electrical storm is risky business. It's a reminder that came to me hard and fast that afternoon in Harriman State Park, New York. Here's my story.

I was making good progress Sunday morning. My goal for the day was to hike an ambitious 19-mile trek from New York 17, a highway road crossing of the AT, to Bear Mountain State Park along the Hudson River. Rain and possible thunder storms were in the forecast that day, and this section is not as easy as the elevation profile suggests. The terrain is rugged with lots of boulders and short, steep climbs that would be slippery in the rain. As an experienced long-distance hiker working on my fourth end-to-end completion of the AT, I was aware of the risk. Over the past 26 years and 8,400 miles of AT hiking, I have endured many thunderstorms. My hope was that I could make the 250 foot ascent up and over Black Mountain before the thunderstorms hit. The climb was not a long one and wouldn't take a lot of time. I was undeterred by the danger, but looking back now I realize that I was more complacent than concerned about the risk.

Good hiking weather prevailed throughout the morning, and I was moving quickly. By early afternoon, I was 10 miles in. I took a short break at the William Bryant Memorial Shelter where I met three other northbound hikers. We exchanged pleasantries, and I kept moving, determined to meet my day's mileage goal.

A light rain started about 45 minutes later but quickly became increasingly heavy. Stopping to put on my rain gear, I could hear the sound of thunder in the distance. I happened to spot one of the three hikers I had met earlier at the shelter. Papa John (PJ) had decided to wait out the thunderstorm on lower ground. He hated hiking in thunderstorms. I hated hiking in thunderstorms and should have stopped at that point. But I convinced myself that "it wasn't that bad," and pressed ahead. I turned a blind eye to my personal safety.

I reached a flat, open, exposed area and, on a clear day, would

have stopped to take in the spectacular views of the valley. But the storm would soon be on top of me, and serious concern began to take hold when I realized that the descent down the other side of Black Mountain was not imminent. I had one more rise to climb. By this time, the rain was pouring, and water was accumulating fast in the hollow of the trail. The trail had become a stream.

I was wet, soaked from head to toe. The concern of a lightning strike became more palpable. I decided to carry my hiking poles instead of placing them in the ground and headed toward the final rise. A quick scramble up and over would take me to the safety of the lower areas.

Then it happened. I felt a tremendous electrical surge hit my entire body. My back arched. Every muscle in my body clenched. The intensity of the contracted muscles could have broken a bone. I gasped for air. I was blinded by an orange flash of light and lost most of my hearing. The jolt knocked me backwards on my backpack down an incline. I smelled a whiff of something burning. The excruciating pain lasted a brief millisecond. Yet, in the aftermath, I had no pain except for a sensation of complete numbness in my feet. I lay sprawled on the ground fully conscious of what had just happened.

As the thunder, lightning, and rain continued, there was no time to panic. I scrambled to take evasive action. Moving any significant distance to lower ground was not feasible, and the tall trees overhanging the trail were potential electrical conductors. I took my only option. I threw my poles as far away from me as I could to get rid of any metal around me. I retreated to a low, grassy area and unfurled my foam sleeping pad. I assumed a low body position on the ground, praying the pad would insulate me from a second or third strike, should they come. But I knew that there is no safe place outside during an electrical storm.

I waited. The thunder storm started to move. It was no longer directly above me. As the danger passed, my wilderness first aid responder training kicked in. I knew that lightning strikes are very serious. Untreated cardiac events are often fatal. Serious burns can occur at the entry and exit points of the electrical charge. Strikes have other serious side effects, too, that affect the body's entire neurological function.



The Odds Versus the Risk: A Lightning Trail Tale

Continued from Page 8

I took a quick assessment. I had no apparent injuries that I could diagnose and was slowly regaining strength and sensation in my feet. I was able to talk, to stand, and to walk. I knew I was only one mile from the Palisades Parkway. But I made the wise decision to call 911. The dispatcher patched me through to the State Park Police who would help me get medical attention. As I waited for instructions from the ranger as to the meet-up location, I spotted PJ. I waved him over to explain what had happened. The threat of lightning had passed, and he agreed to walk out with me in case I collapsed on the mile-long hike down to the Palisades Parkway, the nearest road. I felt Ok, but heart failure or stroke was a real possibility so soon after such major trauma. I was transported to Nyack Hospital in an emergency vehicle. Lucky for me, my blood work, EKG, and chest x-rays came back normal, and I was discharged a few hours later without requiring medical treatment.

I have replayed all of the “should haves” in my mind a dozen times. I should have checked the weather radar; I should have sought shelter at the first sound of thunder; I should have retreated to a lower elevation when I realized the summit of Black Mountain was flat. I should not have allowed the mile goal that day to obscure my judgment.

I do a lot of hiking, and I lead group hikes including hikes on the AT. I would have never taken this risk with others. Their safety is always my primary concern. As difficult as my disregard for my own personal safety is to admit, I want fellow hikers to avoid making the mistakes I made by sharing my experience and concluding with important reminders for all back country hikers from the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS).

“Backcountry Lightning Risk Management” by John Gookin of NOLS lists these four precautions (pp. 4-6):

1. Time visits to high risk areas with weather patterns. Study weather patterns and know what the forecast is for your hike area. Be prepared to change your hiking plans if a storm is forecasted.

2. Find safer terrain if you hear thunder. When you hear thunder, move to lower ground. It means that the storm is ten miles or less away. Avoid ridges and peaks because lightning tends to hit higher points of contact. Lower ground reduces your risk. If possible, descend on the side of the mountain without cloud coverage. If possible, avoid wet ground. Current travels faster along wet terrain.

3. Avoid trees and long conductors once lightning gets close. Avoid standing near bushes and trees. Plants generate a charge that attracts lightning. Never stand in water, under power lines, or near metal surfaces.

4. Get in the lightning position if lightning is striking nearby. Any electrostatic sensation on hair follicles should be taken as a warning of imminent danger. Take steps to minimize the impact. Put your feet together and assume a crouch position,



FRIDAY & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2 & 3

midwest **OUTDOOR** experience

PRESENTED BY **WAGNER SUBARU**

JOIN US FOR THE REGION'S LARGEST OUTDOOR ADVENTURE FESTIVAL!

REI Outdoor School • orienteering • camping
live music • gear • demos • Osprey Backcountry Zone
craft beer & food trucks

Experience backpacking and more than 20 other outdoor activities!

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

OUTDOORX.ORG

wrapping your arms around your legs. The lightning position will not reduce your risk but it may lessen the severity of the serious injury you suffer.

These tips are ways to reduce the odds of incurring a strike, but keep in mind, the risk of a strike is always present. The best precaution is to be indoors.

By the way, my hopes of a lottery winning didn't transpire. Statistics say that there's about a one in 3,000 life-time chance of being killed by a bolt of lightning. The odds of winning the Power Ball lottery in New York are a lot higher. Another lesson learned--getting struck by lightning is more likely (and more dangerous) than winning the lottery.

Gookin, J. (2010, April). Back country lightning management. Paper presented at the 21st International Lightning Detection Conference and the 3rd International Lightning Meteorology Conference, Orlando, FL. Retrieved from http://www.nols.edu/nolspro/pdf/Lightning_Gookin_WRMC2010printmaster.pdf

Hike In, Pack On, Camp Out Progress - Six New Campsites for Buckeye Trail Hikers!

Richard Lutz

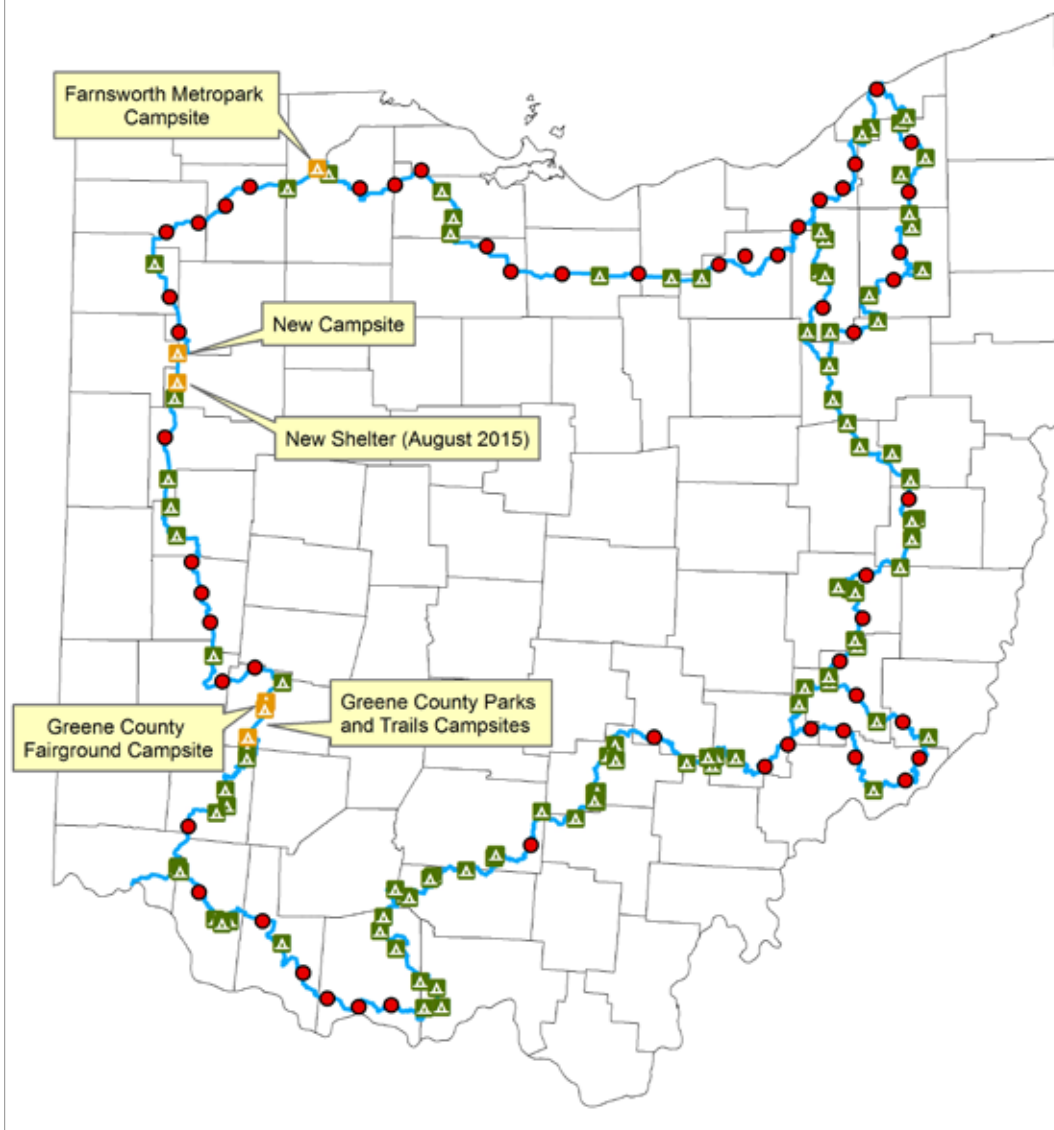


As all of you know, a new focus of work for the Buckeye Trail Association is to find and preserve new campsite locations to make the Buckeye Trail more backpackable. Thanks to the investment of BTA members like you, we not only met our goal of \$5,000—we exceeded it. Because the BTA membership generously contributed over \$8,000, the Columbus Foundation responded in kind by approving a Green Funds grant for the project for \$5,000. I will

be keeping you updated on new campsite developments in the upcoming year thanks to your help.

Thanks to your support this spring we already have progress to report! For the first update, the BTA has received permission to build a shelter on canal land property just south of Delphos! Your Buckeye Trail Crew will be working on this in late August and hope to have it completed by the end of the five day work party. Also in development, the BTA has been given permission to use canal property north of Pohlman Road near the remains of the Jennings Creek Aqueduct. Both of these sites are located in the Delphos Section between map points 6 and 9 (November 2014 map). Thanks goes out to Sam Bonifas and the Miami & Erie Canal Lands staff of ODNR for helping us accomplish these new campsites in an area that was lacking sites.

continued on pg.11



Hike In, Pack On, Camp Out Progress - Six New Campsites for Buckeye Trail Hikers!

Continued From Page 10

Complementing the work of the BTA, Greene County Parks and Trails have recently established primitive campsites in Constitution Park and Old Town Reserve for a fee. In between those sites camping has been established at the Greene County Fairgrounds. Toledo Metroparks has also joined the effort by providing camping at Farnsworth Metropark!



View of Jennings Creek and the remains of the Jennings Creek Aqueduct from the new campsite north of Delphos.

There are a number of projects in process and hopefully we will have more details on those in the next issue. In the meantime, if you know of a location where a cooperative landowner would happily help hikers by allowing us to develop a campsite or know of property that may be for sale in an area where a campsite is needed, feel free to contact me at gis@buckeyetrail.org or 740-394-2008.



Sam Bonifas looking at the location of the new shelter along the Miami and Erie Canal Towpath south of Delphos.

A Much-Needed Bridge

Mary Hamilton

On Saturday, July 19, 2015, Caleb Pace and Boy Scout Troop 84 along with some parents completed Caleb's Eagle project by building a beautiful footbridge over a creek at Wye Bay on Tappan Lake. They were very fortunate to have a friend who had a miniature back hoe to help lift the bridge in place after the build. Caleb drafted the presentation for approval to the Scout



The condition of the previous bridge

Council, obtained funding from the Muskingum Watershed Conservation District with a proposal, and then enlisted the troop, family members, and fathers of scouts to help. It was a beautiful day, and as you can see from the pictures, a great bridge was constructed. Melissa Pace, Caleb's mother, provided lunch for all the workers.

Thank you so much, Caleb, for your great endeavor!



Scouts from Troop 84 proudly show off the fruits of their labors. Caleb Pace is fifth from the left.



Roster Update

Barry Unger

You may or may not know that the Buckeye Trail keeps rosters for each of its 26 sections of trail. What's on these documents? The names of all of our trail Adopters and the points and road crossings that they maintain! Since last October I have been working with our Adopters and Volunteer Leaders to update our section rosters. When I started this project, we had approximately 160 Adopters listed along the trail as "active," which means that they maintain their assigned points of the trail. After the update, we know that we actually have 97 active Adopters along the trail. Why is this important? We now have a better idea of the condition of the trail around the state. Prior to the update, we could only assume that everyone listed was out maintaining—now we know for sure who is! This helps our Adopter Program tremendously as well. I am sure at least a few of you had to wait a week or even two before you found out that the section of trail you wanted to adopt was open; now we know right away and placement only takes a few minutes!

Personally, I found this was an exciting project to do. I spoke with so many of you about the trail during throughout the past nine months. I enjoyed hearing the many stories about the BT and how it has affected your lives. It is encouraging to hear from those of you who do not physically maintain the trail anymore, but you assist many other ways, such as shuttling hikers when you see them or offering tools and help to new Adopters in your area.

If you never responded to a call or email about your adopted section of trail, it is not too late to keep your name on the roster.



Trail Adopter Don Turner out working on the trail.

Shoot me an email at volunteer@buckeyetrail.org and I will update the list.

Our goal is to have 100% of the trail adopted—now is the time to join our Adopter Program! If you, or someone you know, loves to hike and can get on trail a few times a year, send them my way.

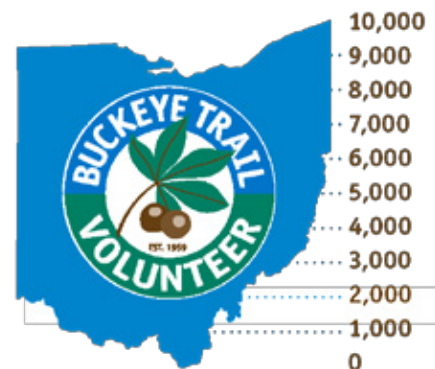
Thank You to the many Adopters who took the time to answer my call or email, I truly enjoyed having the opportunity to talk with you!

Volunteer Challenge Update

Andrew Bashaw

In the fall of 2014 the BTA membership was invited to invest in the development of the BTA Volunteer Program. You answered that call and we met our appeal goal and then some! In return, BTA Volunteers were given the challenge of recording 10,000 hours before October 1st, 2015 and they have done it by early August!! Because of your investment, others were encouraged to support the BTA's Volunteer Effort. Quidel's QCares Program, the National Environmental Education Fund, and the North Country Trail Association Field Grant Program all chipped in to fund our initiative to develop a Buckeye Trail Adopter Training Series that is still going. REI also chipped in to support the great work of the Buckeye Trail Crew. All together, you and our funders accumulated \$25,000 to support BTA Volunteers who have given a value of \$225,500 to Ohio's hiking community! Thank you!!

Please join us on October 3rd at the Midwest Outdoor Experience in Dayton, OH, right on the BT, to help us celebrate our accomplishment and look ahead to next year!



Leaving a Legacy for the Buckeye Trail

Andrew Bashaw

Over the past few years, the BTA has received two generous planned gifts from the estates of Pauline Miller and Ellen Stutz that have strengthened the BTA and our impact. I was not fortunate enough to know either Pauline or Ellen, but from what I could discover about them both had an enduring love of the outdoors. I think it is safe to say that they felt strongly enough about the kind of experiences one finds out on the Buckeye Trail, and with the people of the BTA, to give what they could so that we continue growing and providing great experiences for generations to come. Several other BTA members like you have expressed interest in one or more ways that they could leave a lasting legacy for the BTA to continue our important mission to build, maintain, protect and promote Ohio's Buckeye Trail. We have highlighted in past articles a story about IRA distributions for members approaching or over 70 ½ years of age and our relationship with the Columbus Foundation that can help facilitate even the most complicated of gifts. Here we would like to remind you of how simple it can be to help sustain and grow the Buckeye Trail no matter the size of your gift. When you update your will you can simply add these few sentences:

"I give and bequeath to The Columbus Foundation 1) the sum of \$(Amount), or 2) (Percent)% of my estate, or 3) all the residue of my estate, real or personal, which I own at the time of my death or over which I have the power of disposition. The Columbus

Foundation shall make distributions therefrom in accordance with the provisions of the amended Articles of Incorporation of The Columbus Foundation of Columbus, Ohio, and any amendments or additions thereto at any time made. Disbursements shall also be in accordance with the stipulations of the originating document of the 1) Buckeye Trail Greatest Needs Fund or 2) Buckeye Trail Preservation Fund."

Our Greatest Needs Fund at the Columbus Foundation is exactly that, funds set aside for your association's greatest needs – staffing, program development and other strategic investments in the future of the BTA. Our Trail Preservation Fund is also straightforward – funds are used towards preserving a permanently-protected corridor for Ohio's Buckeye Trail.

There are many stories of the positive feelings a person gains in this lifetime from knowing that they get to choose how their legacy will live on and benefit many others who would enjoy a Buckeye Trail experience. Please let us know if you have questions on how you can leave a legacy for the Buckeye Trail, contact Lisa Jolley at the Columbus Foundation for greater detail, or join us at Buckeye TrailFest 2016 where we will have an open conversation about the importance of creating a planned gift for the Buckeye Trail.

Lisa Jolley, Director of Donor Services and Development, The Columbus Foundation

614-251-4000, ljolley@columbusfoundation.org



Stephen & Karen Walker and others day hike at the BTA Pretty Run Preserve.

Trail Crew Update from May Thru July

Richard Lutz

The Buckeye Trail Crew is certainly doing its part to rack up the volunteer hours towards our 10,000 hour goal. Don't forget that volunteering with the Crew is a great way to learn new skills, meet other volunteers and discover lesser known areas along the BT. No experience is required, work only as hard as you like, tools and on the job training are provided, and at selected work parties the Chuckwagon does not let registered volunteers go hungry! Here's what they've accomplished since May.

AEP ReCreation Lands

16 volunteers worked on heavy Buckeye Trail maintenance at AEP ReCreation Lands. Some of the highlights were putting in a several short bridges south of Campground K and mowing the BT between Campground K and just outside Reinersville in the Stockport Section. The Crew also fixed the BT north of Campground K to Chapel Drive in the Belle Valley Section.



The Buckeye Trail Crew building a "new" short bridge at AEP ReCreation Lands.

Old Mans Cave at the BTA Pretty Run Preserve

A small hearty crew of five volunteers went out, maintained and cut back vegetation on the BT while enjoying the surroundings. A few posts were installed along the trail to help hikers along the way.

Edge of Appalachia Preserve System

The Buckeye Trail Crew continued working east of Blacks Run Road and 28 volunteers completed another 4,600 feet towards completing the trail in the Preserve for 2015.

Edge of Appalachia Preserve System and BTA Ballinger Preserve

The crew continued their work with 23 people and completed nearly a mile of new BT in the preserve for the year. After completing this, the crew proceeded to Strait Creek Bluffs Nature Preserve and cut back vegetation and reblazed the trail. Later during the work party the crew started work on building trail at the BTA Ballinger Preserve and found a new friend along the way!



The Trail Crew finishing up trail building at the BTA Ballinger Preserve in Adams County.

BTA Ballinger Preserve and Providence Metropark

At the Ballinger Preserve a crew of eight finished up a half mile of new BT started during the Edge of Appalachia Work Party and blazed the trail. Along with the trail work, the crew did some maintenance on the shelter on the property by fixing the gutter. At Providence Metropark a crew of six trimmed back branches and saw the unusual scene of sheep being walked on the trail!



Photo: Pat Hayes

Something a little different you don't see everyday. Sheep being walked along the Buckeye Trail at Providence Metropark!

The work starts again at the end of August with the building of a trail shelter south of Delphos and trail clearing in the Delphos Section. Come join the Crew for this one or any of the upcoming work parties for the rest of the year!

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!

Last One In Is a Rotten Egg

Randall Roberts

I started section-hiking the Buckeye Trail in 2008 pretty much by myself. I had no idea it would lead me to a social network spanning the state of Ohio. I met several hikers at the 2013 Trail Fest including Kat LoGrande, who I've hiked EGGS with twice now.

This year I was the last to complete the 6th Annual Emma Grandma Gatewood Solstice (EGGS) challenge hike. I'm quite proud of this actually, because I finished! Not everyone did. To be fair, Kat and I were the last ones in. We started together and we finished together just as planned. She beat me to the sign-in table as I was busy hugging my wife and son who had surprised me that morning by making the three-hour drive from Strongsville. They left just after midnight. We had made great progress up until dusk and they didn't want to miss my finish – little did they know, they still had plenty of time. They arrived in camp around 3:30 a.m. and we finished at 8:51am.

The EGGS hike is a challenge hike where hikers can sign up for various distances with time limits to complete their respective hike. Originally, a 40-mile in 24 hours, the challenge was expanded in its 4th year to include a 20-mile challenge in 12 hours. In 2014, 60 miles in 36 hours was added and this year they insanely (in my opinion) added an 80-mile challenge in 48 hours.

Last year I considered volunteering for the weekend. I mentioned this to Kat at the 2014 Trail Fest and she said she was thinking about signing up for the 20 mile hike. I had only hiked that distance once before. It had taken me only 6.5 hours but that was on flat terrain. I knew Burr Oak was hilly from the two winter hikes I had done there previously. I wasn't highly confident, but I told Kat, "Well if you're doing it, so will I." I'm not sure if I said that to encourage her, or to encourage myself.

In 2014 Kat and I didn't have any formal agreement to hike together. I had only met her twice – Trail Fest 2013 and 2014. I had no idea if we were compatible hikers. Sure, she was fun to be with around a camp fire, but would she hike too fast? Too slow? Want to take too many breaks? Too few? You know how it goes. It turns out that we are very compatible on the trail and probably a benefit to each other. Last year we joined up with three others and the five of us stayed together for most of the hike, eventually splitting up into a lead group of three—myself, Kat and Joe Bash—and another group of two; all five of us finished under the 12 hour time limit. My GPS indicated we had hiked 26 miles that day. We had one planned detour – taking the longer road walk around the East branch of the Sunday Creek crossing due to reported high water – ironic, given the weather this year, that we were concerned about getting wet last year. There was also an unplanned detour as we got to talking on the road leaving the Wildcat Hollow checkpoint

and instead of turning into the woods to the north side of the lake, we continued on the road for a mile, mile and a half.

Hiking 26 miles in 11 hours gave me confidence that we could do 40 miles in 24 hours. It was just another 14 miles with 13 more hours to do it in. So Kat and I started making plans for the 40 mile hike. We talked about our strategy during a meet-up hike in Peninsula. We met at Wildcat Hollow a few weeks before to hike it during the day so we would be familiar with it at night. We shared our excitement and apprehensions on Facebook in the weeks and days leading up to the hike. Andrew commented to me that he had been following our posts and loved our enthusiasm and excitement. I realized he didn't read the sarcasm we were putting down. "It could rain from Midnight to 6am! In the mud, in the dark, crossing streams, going up and down hills.... oh yeah, this is going to be great!"

This year, Tropical Storm Bill drenched us twice, once for a couple hours and the second time for about 3 or 4 hours. The 3 pairs of socks I brought didn't help much. After each change, they became soaked as we sloshed through the trail that was sometimes completely under water or crossed streams that were over our boot tops. We lost the trail a few times at night, but caught it before we got too far off, thanks to having the track saved on my GPS from the practice hike a few weeks before. I struggled at one point during the night to the point my hiking partners were worried enough to call for help, but I convinced them that we were so close and I wasn't that bad off. Karen Dahco hiked with us nearly from the start and throughout



Randall and Kat rest for a spell

Photo: Karen Dahco

the night. We waited for Dan Herris to catch up to us at midnight after we found out he was hiking alone. We also knew he had a working cell phone. Mine had died, Kat didn't have reception and Karen's battery was low, so we were a bit concerned should we need help. At the end, Karen and Dan hiked ahead of us as Kat's feet were blistered and she hurt going downhill. I was exhausted and went slow uphill. Maybe she could have finished faster without me, or maybe I could have finished faster without her, but honestly, maybe we wouldn't have finished it at all without each other's support and company. We might not even have tried.

One of the things we talked about at the end was how supportive everyone always is. It's nice finishing last. There were a lot of people at the top of the hill cheering for us. I heard the yell "40 milers coming in!" But as Kat said, "Even if we didn't finish, they would still have been supportive." I was asked a few times if this was my first time doing the 40 mile. My response was consistent and emphatic, "Yes, and my last!" But the next day, I felt pretty good and the day after that I started thinking, "I bet we could do the 60 mile next year." And with that, I sent Kat a message...

Update on BTA Intern's Thru Hike

Ryan Krapf

Greetings, all. It's time for an update on the progress of my time as a BTA Intern on the Buckeye Trail. Having completed the Akron section during my final training hikes, I set off from Headlands Beach State Park in Mentor on May 17th, heading clockwise. Days passed before I reached areas through which I had not previously hiked; I relished the opportunity to rise early and hit the trail quietly, sharing the mornings with owls, deer, and spiderwebs.

I got my first taste of the rains which would lead to a record-setting June in our area as soon as I entered the Massillon section. While camped along the Ohio & Erie Towpath Trail, a thunderstorm as intense as any I have ever encountered while on a trail rolled through overnight, flooding my tent and forcing me to seek shelter on the porch of a local business. Most days, the rain was kind enough to hold off until nighttime, and I hiked in relative comfort.

Those familiar with Northeastern Ohio know that our terrain is gentle, making big miles each day possible, and giving me hope that my thru hike would proceed smoothly. Thus, the rapid transition south of Zoar to more frequent climbs was a surprise that let my body know the canalways were gone, not to be seen again until Milford. The heat and humidity began to roll in and one afternoon found me seeking refuge in the shade outside the Deersville General Store, savoring a much earned ice cream cone.

Imagine, if you will, that there you are out on the trail, sweating like crazy, a long way from home, miles off trail from camping at the BTA barn, and just needing to sit for a while. Wanting some connection to other people, even if for just a moment, you check your phone and see a text making sure you're ok and saying that the section supervisor "...wants to hook up with you for support purposes." The relief is overwhelming, and so is your gratitude. This is the experience I had with Steve and Karen Walker coordinating with Scott Pendleton to assure I was in good hands for the evening. Certainly not exclusive to these folks, this incredible kindness and willingness to help on any level is the backbone of BT supporters and what will lead to the strongest future for the trail and its community.

Unfortunately, the day after some of the most helpful trail magic that I have ever experienced, I severely injured my leg and required several weeks at home to recuperate. The extended break

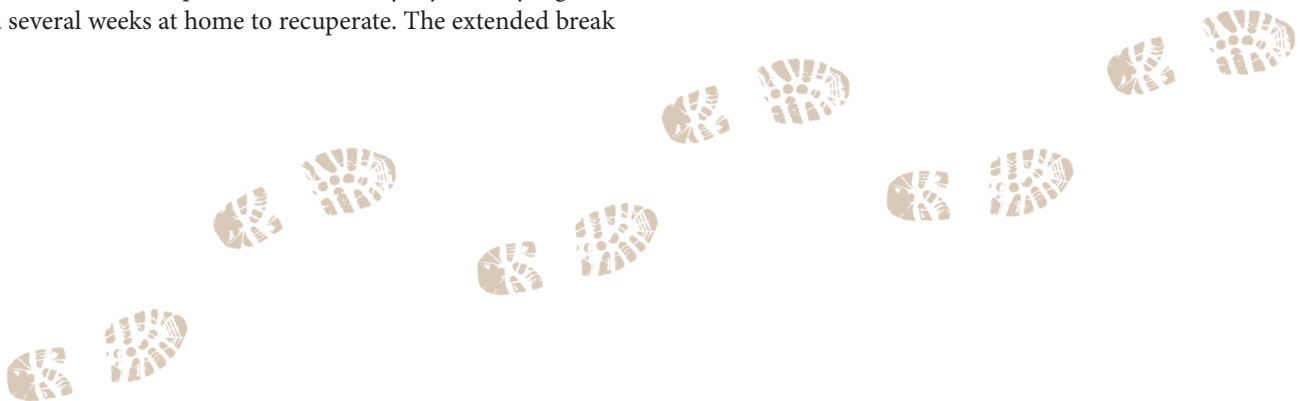
made me realize that my dreams of thru-hiking the Buckeye Trail would have to be put on hold for now. As disappointing as the time off trail became, this hike was crafted around specific goals which still need to be met. Fully embracing the fact that the BT permits various methods of adventure, my wife dropped me off with my bicycle at Eden Park in Cincinnati, and I continued clockwise from there. Biking where I could, hiking when necessary, I eventually finished back at Hinckley Reservation in the Medina section!



Ryan Krapf

Here I sit, having traversed the trail from the Ohio River, clockwise to Salt Fork SP. Successful thus far in obtaining desired data, further work remains. Throughout this whole experience, one question which many of you have asked is, "How can I help?" I am beyond grateful for the offers, but there are others who could use assistance more than myself: Chuck Hewitt's notes for the production of the BT data book have proved immeasurably helpful, though he needs further confirmation of their accuracy; and, of course, the BTA is working hard towards developing and protecting areas for camping. If you are willing and able to help with these, please contact the BTA to get in touch with the appropriate parties.

Happy trails,
Ryan Krapf



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.

HIKE IN, PACK ON, CAMP OUT : 5/02/2015 - 8/1/2015

David Ambrose	Karl Feller	Bob & Connie Pond
Johannes & Dawn Assen	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Fleegal	Mary Raver
Robert & Sylvia Bahr	Jerry & Linda Forrider	Christina Rizzo
David & Suzanne Baker	William Gartroza	Charlotte & Quincy Robe
Dwight & Katherine Barkhurst	Janice Geho	Tom & Diane Rohr
Jeff & Kathy Bartlett	Jim Gilkey	James Rowe
Andrew & Claudia Bashaw	Margaret Gursky	Lowell & Ellen Satre
Remigijus & Danute Belzinskas	Harvey Hanna, Jr.	Petra Schmalbrock
Lynn Bird	Harvey Harris	Richard & Susan Schmidt
James & Dori Bishop	Pat & Mary Hayes	Sharon Schnell
Terry Blackstone	Jonathan & Joanne Herrmann	Susan Schnittke
Kenneth Bordwell	Dale Holwick, Jr	Bill Schultz & Leslie Floyd
Betty Bowers	Herb & Susie Hulls	Mark & Marcia Shubert
Bob & Ruth Brown	James Immelt	Frederick Silver
Mr. and Mrs. Loren Brown	Dorothy Ipavec	Rosemarie & Robert Simons
Gayle Burke	Ted Jacobson	Edward & Cheryl Sliva
Flora Rhodes Burkholder	Kenneth Janosko	Colleen & Ted Smith
Robert & Shirley Burris	Gerald & Jeanne Kalkbrenner	Larry & Margaret Smith
Timothy Chamberlain	Scott & Mary Anne Kamph	Kent & Sharon Spieth
Donald Chubb	Robert & Karen Kieffer	Earl Staddon
Daniel & Robbin Clark	John & Janet Knapke	Bryan Staib
Virginia & Matthew Collings	Josh & Lara Knights	Peggy & John Stratton
Liz & Tim DeBraal	Paul & Catherine Knoop	John & Mary Sturgis - Wishbone Farm
Alan Deemer	Daniel Linnenberg	Karin Tanquist & Patrick Coy
Jeanette DeSimone	Robert Litt	Pamela Temple
Phyllis & Edward Devlin	Marie & Maurice Maddock	David & Lyn Thomas
Dennis & Susan Dew	Joyce & Robert Maruna	Cliff Thorniley
Miner Dickason	William & Ethel Masica	Lee David Tucker
Garry & Sydney Dill	Kevin & Maxine McKee	Karen & Steve Walker
Cecil Dobbins	Robert Merkle	Jack & Dorothy Watkins
Burt & Gloria Dowden	Martha Metz	Nancy White
Joyce Dupont	Bob Morrison	Eugene Wilson
Stephen Emerick, PhD - Life Development Centers, Inc.	Larry & Sophia Morton	John Winnenberg & Cindy Hartman
Randall & Mary Edwards	Travis & Mink Neely	Gary & Gwendolyn Wooddell
Mike Fanelli	Clara Jean Paryzek	Susan Kay & Clifford Yeager
Richard & Lois Fawcett	Linda Paul & Paul Dingle	C.J. Yegerlehner
	Scott & Donna Pendleton	Jeff & Sarah Yoest

SPECIAL EVENTS : 5/02/2015 - 8/1/2015

Mary Ellen Beardmore & Akil Sharif	Jeff Yoest	Jackie O's Pub and Brewery
Joe Carter	Express Employment Professionals	REI
Columbus Kayak	Thu Nguyen	Velda Vogt
Clintonville Outfitters	Classic Brands	
Petra Schmalbrock	Hocking College Foundation	

TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND : 5/02/2015 - 8/1/2015

Sandra Barlett	Jeanne Henry	Harold Watson
Don Burrell	Joseph Pastore	

GENERAL FUND : 5/02/2015 - 8/1/2015

Batelle Employee Matching	Jack McMillan	Jeff & Sarah Yoest
Gary S. Greenlee	Owens-Illinois Charities Foundation	

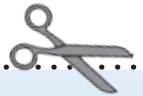
Welcome New Members!

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



MEMBERSHIP FORM (for new members only)

ADULT	\$25.00	per year	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	_____
FAMILY	\$30.00	per year	<input type="checkbox"/>	Address	_____
STUDENT (full-time)	\$10.00	per year	<input type="checkbox"/>	City	_____ State _____ Zip _____
ORGANIZATION	\$35.00	per year	<input type="checkbox"/>	E-mail	_____ Phone (____) _____
SUSTAINING	\$50.00	per year	<input type="checkbox"/>	If gift membership, name of donor _____	
BUSINESS	\$50.00	per year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Do not send me e-mails	
LIFE- INDIVIDUAL	\$400.00		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Do not share my name with other groups	

PAY BY:

- Check
 Online at buckeyetrail.org/store

Please tell us where you got this Newsletter:

- Friend: _____ State Park: _____
 Library: _____ Other: _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO & MAIL TO:

Buckeye Trail Association

P.O. BOX 254, WORTHINGTON, OHIO 43085

OR JOIN ONLINE AT:

www.buckeyetrail.org/membership.html

Buckeye Trail Association

P.O. Box 254
Worthington, Ohio 43085

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
US Postage
PAID
Cleveland, Ohio 44101
Permit No. 754

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



Trail Fest 2016 will be held May 12th through 15th, 2016 in Zoar, Ohio.