

Trailblazer



FOUNDED 1959
SUMMER 2016 VOLUME 49 NO. 2



The Wall family and friends, gathered for a hike

The BT 50

Monte and Tiffany Wall

I hike the BT and celebrated my 50th on the trail.

My wife asked me in early 2016, where I like to hike on the BT. My answer was “anywhere new.” She then asked, “If you had to return somewhere to hike again, where is that location?” My response was, “Burr Oak”.

My 50th birthday was on April 18, so on Friday, April 15 we ventured toward the Logan area, hiking around different trails. Next was a trip to Athens to hike another location and at the end of day, a visit to the Dairy Queen in Glouster. My wife asked to see Burr Oak State Park, so I spared no time to drive her over to Dock #1. Little did I know that I was playing right into her birthday planning. We spoke with the local marina team about the area and the weather and my wife asked hiking trail questions. I had hiked there many times and wondered why the questions were not focused on my skills and knowledge....but that's left to another day. We ventured off from map Pt 12 on a short hike toward Pt 11. Again, little did I know that the birthday plot was unfolding according to her plan. We spent around 1.5 hours hiking and talking about the area, water, trails, etc. I didn't know at the time, but she was stalling, so we returned to the marina area after 4PM.

Returning down the path and right after the long set of wooden steps between points 11-12, she ventured off-trail, down a service road and up a short hill. Knowing my wife, this was really out of character and it threw me off guard. My mind began to race. Was she lost, dehydrated, didn't she worry about territorial guard dogs? Before I knew it, we were up the hill and walking directly in front of a number of homes that overlooked the lower Buckeye Trail path. As she turned, directly in front of me was a small brown home I had walked past many times while hiking in Burr Oak. But, on the front door was a sign with “Happy 50th Birthday”! My loving wife of nearly 30 years had listened to my hiking stories and love of the BT and Burr Oak area, and she had located a Vacation Rental by Owner (VRBO) directly on the BT.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, my entire family and a number of long-time hiking friends who had joined us hiked the BT from our vacation home.

Thank you to everyone who maintains each section of the BT and your tireless efforts to make my family and friends happy on my special 50th Birthday.



Mapping a New Direction

Ryan Krapf, Cartography Team Chair

Greetings, friends! The Cartography Team, responsible for development of BT section maps, would like to announce the introduction of a new feature on BuckeyeTrail.org. A link has been added to each page in the right-hand column, to encourage feedback from trail users. Should one encounter an issue with either our section maps or with the trail itself, clicking on the link "Report Trail Problem" takes the website visitor to a page from where an email will be sent to either the Cartography Team or the Trail Management Team, depending on the nature of the issue. Please feel encouraged to contact the Cartography Team with questions, comments, or suggestions regarding our section maps.

Additionally, the decision was recently made to remove individual maps from each section's page on BuckeyeTrail.org. Too often, we encountered difficulty in maintaining the accuracy of the maps on the website; where we intended these to be rough guides, many users interpreted these maps as truth. While we develop new and exciting features for our trail community, official and up-to-date Buckeye Trail maps can be found in our store: <http://buckeyetrail.org/store.php>.

Thank you and happy hiking.



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

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President's Message

Connie Pond

It has been a busy spring.....I just got back from TrailFest in Zoar where it was a happening: friendships, food, hospitality, good camping, great accommodations and even SNOW. It was a bit chilly.

Put Glen Helen at Yellow Springs on your calendar for next April 27 – 30 for TrailFest 2017. Glen Helen and Clifton Gorge are two of the new hikes in *Follow the Blue Blazes*. As I was researching Glen Helen, I learned that the spot was once a successful spa and recreation center. Folks would flock to the area for the curative powers of the magic waters. Then, in the late 1920's, Hugh Birch bought up acreage in the area and named the glen for his daughter Helen. The nature preserve, Glen Helen, was given to Antioch College in 1929 and named a National Natural Landmark in 1965. I give the waterfall in this Glen a Number One rating of all I have seen on the Buckeye Trail. I found a great little pamphlet "Guide to Historical Spots in Glen Helen" in their gift shop for only 50 cents. And, NO, I did not buy the pamphlet in 1970! This is a magical place.

Clifton Gorge, the second hike in the Chapter 5 feature, is located next to Glen Helen. I can imagine that during TrailFest next year, there will be a long hike from the Glen to Clifton Gorge. When planning the hike, I drove and found great parking. The gorge hike has many story boards along the route, or you can carry a copy of *Follow the Blue Blazes*. The hike in the book starts on the gorge rim and then goes down to the river. Perhaps we can book the restaurant at the mill for a lunch during TrailFest next year. That would be fun: a hike and a lunch.

Bob and I are looking forward to visiting around the state to promote the Buckeye Trail through the book, *Follow the Blue Blazes*. We have been to the northwest and central Ohio. We would love to get around to other areas of the state. I can be reached at president@buckeyetrail.org. If not before, see you at the Glen!



Connie Pond

On the Trail

Andrew Bashaw



Andrew Bashaw

The seventeen year cicadas are just now digging themselves out in eastern Ohio. I wonder what this generation of cicadas will think of the Buckeye Trail compared to their parents. A lot has changed for the BTA since 1999, our 40th anniversary. That year, our BT was being prepared for designation as Ohio's Millennium Legacy Trail and Emily Gregor was retiring as President of the BTA Board of Trustees.

Those cicadas never knew of a BTA Barn restored and remodeled by BTA volunteers on the shore of Tappan Lake. They didn't experience the route of the BT on what we call the 'wilderness loop' today. They didn't feel the footsteps of Brent and Amy Anslinger, Andy Niekamp, Mary Warren or Lisa Strohm's thru-hikes of the BT yet. They sang from tree tops not yet protected as part of the BTA Pretty Run Preserve, over miles of off-road BT not yet developed in AEP ReCreation Lands by the Buckeye Trail Crew, and throughout the forest surrounding the Village of Shawnee where there was no BTA Office or professional staff.

Soooo much happens during the evolution of the BTA and BT every year, and yet it seems to happen too slowly for all of us walking about above ground—we either take it for granted or are at times impatient with the rate of progress. Just this year, we have seen BTA membership grow 20%, had a successful Buckeye TrailFest highlighting the historic Village of Zoar, our newest Buckeye Trail Town, and partnered with Glen Helen Nature Preserve to welcome the route of the BT. We are also working on the development of two new BTA Chapters in Central and Northeastern Ohio to add to our Miami Rivers, Muskingum Lakes and Little Cities of the Forest Chapters. From a cicada's point of view we are growing by leaps and bounds... and there is a lot more on the way this year!

Personally I am very proud and humbled to be a part of such a great organization of volunteers supported by members like you. I hope you share the feeling of being part of this Buckeye Trail Family. So, what will we all have to show the next generation of seventeen year cicadas in 2033? That depends a lot on you.

We have two members thru-hiking the BT right now and two or three more planning their thru-hikes this year. How many more hikers will we have throughout the years? Will we recruit and retain 10,000 members? Will we have endowment funds that support our staffing needs and general operations to support our volunteers? How many more miles of the BT will be relocated off road and permanently protected across private lands with campsites every 10 miles? Will the BT be completely covered by BTA Chapters and partner organizations? In part, this depends on all of us to prove the value of BTA membership and the experience out on the trail, both hiking and volunteering.

What do you want to do? If nothing else... take a hike, enjoy it and share that experience with a friend. Want more? Volunteer with the BTA in a way that suits your interests. More still? If you believe in what we are trying to accomplish so much, help us recruit the next generation, one BTA member at a time to increase our corps of support and increase our diversity so we reflect the population of Ohio.

Great things are afoot on the Buckeye Trail, and great people like you are as well.

Hope to see you on the Buckeye Trail this Summer,



BT Continues to Become more 'Backpackable'

Richard Lutz

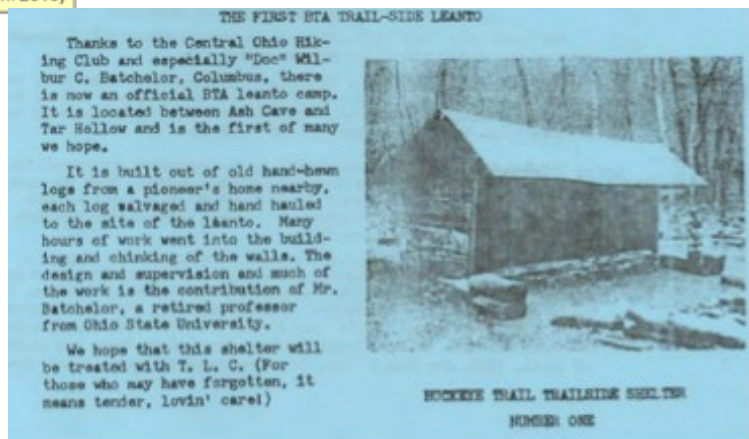
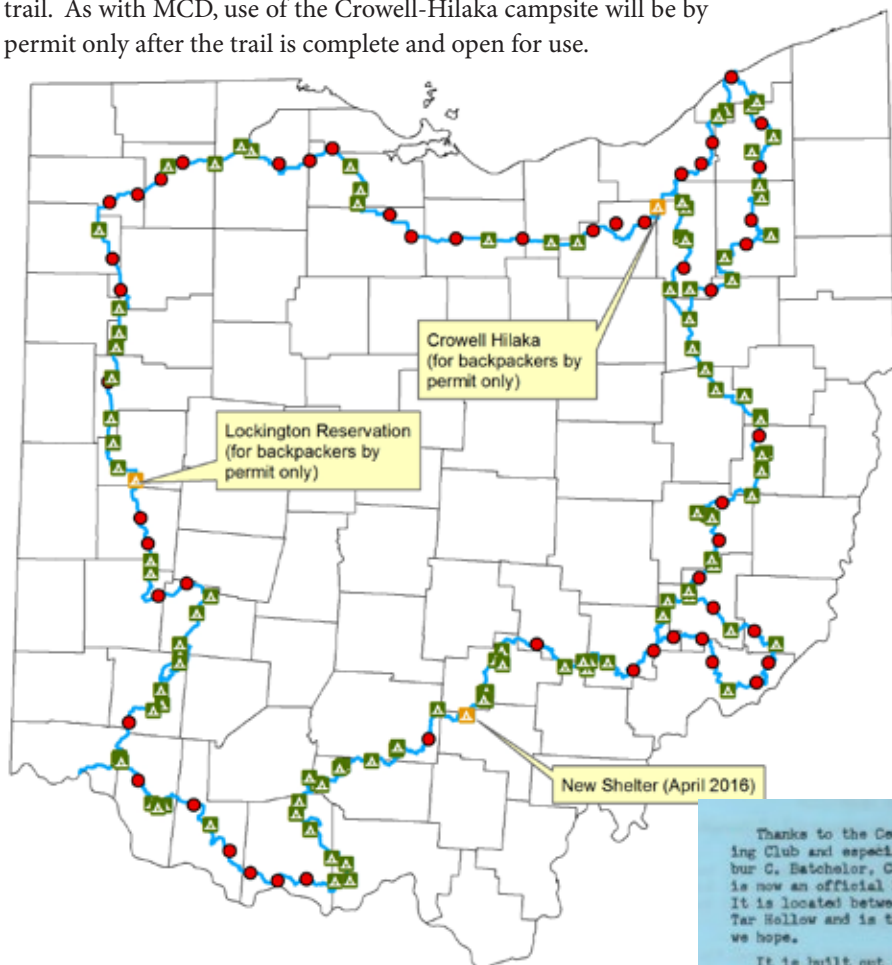
Since the last issue there have been some new developments along the trail dealing with campsites. With two recently signed agreements, Buckeye Trail hikers will have access to two new camping locations along the trail. There is a new shelter being built along the trail as well.

With the newly signed agreement with the Miami Conservancy District (MCD), we will have a campsite location available at Lockington Reservation in Shelby County for backpackers using the trail. The site will be available via a permit system that the BTA is developing according to our agreement.

Additionally, as part of our recent agreement with the Richfield Joint Recreation District, camping will be developed at Camp Crowell-Hilaka at an Adirondack shelter for backpackers using the trail. As with MCD, use of the Crowell-Hilaka campsite will be by permit only after the trail is complete and open for use.

Finally, another backpacking shelter was built at the 'BTA's Pretty Run Preserve in northern Vinton County in early May. As a historical note, this is not the first time a shelter was built on the property. Back in the 1970's, we built a shelter on the property that we now own thanks to Ohio's Clean Ohio Fund; however the original shelter rotted out because it was sitting on the ground! The new shelter will be off the ground and built to the same standard as the others we've recently constructed.

We continue to work on several other potential sites and hope to have more information in future issues of the Trailblazer. In the meantime, if you know of anyone who can help make the BT more 'backpackable' by filling in some gaps with a place to throw up a tent for the night, please contact the Trail Preservation Committee at preservation@buckeyetrail.org.



Schedule of Hikes & Events



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

JULY

July 16-17

Defiance Section - Providence/Farnsworth MetroParks

Description: Help cut back foliage along trail

Camping: Farnsworth MetroPark

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

July 23-27

Road Fork and Whipple Sections

Description: Chainsaw and weed whack both off-road pieces

Camping: Little Muskingum Watershed Association property

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

July 30-31

BT Circuit Hike

Location: Road Fork Section (July 2011 map)

Saturday: Meet at Archer's Ridge Church on CR-2 about 1000 feet east of Point 6. (N39.75328°-W081.42728°). Leave at 9:00AM to car pool to a parking lot on Main St and Wolf Run Drive, Point 1. The hike is about 9.7 miles.

Sunday: Meet at BT campsite on Hoot Owl Ridge Rd. (T-270) about 500 feet west of Point 10. (N39.66177°-W081.34067°). Leave at 8:30AM to car pool to Archer's Ridge Church. The hike is about 9.5 miles.

Camping: BT camp site on Hoot Owl Ridge Rd, west of Point 10.

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

AUGUST

August 13-14

Mogadore Section - West Branch State Park

Description: Build additional trail near the spillway for the Dam on Michael J. Kirwan Reservoir. Meet in parking lot past red gate at the end of Newton Falls Road at 8:00am Saturday and Sunday. See July 9 Work Weekend for directions.

Camping: Camping is free. See June 11 Work Weekend for camping information.

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

Contact: Steve Latza green.boonie@gmail.com

August 19-21

BTA Board Retreat Meeting

Location: At the BTA Barn near Deersville, OH

Contact: Presidentpresident@buckeyetrail.org

August 20-21

BT Circuit Hike

Saturday: Meet at grassy area first house west of Point 14 on Elmore Rd. (N41.41942°-W083.41904°). Leave at 9:00AM to car pool to Nelson Rd. and Chamberlain Rd, Point 18. The hike is about 12.6 miles.

Sunday: Meet at Aldrich Pond, Div. of Wildlife parking lot, 0.3 miles east of CR-82 on CR-149. (N41.44737°-W083.25424°). Leave at 8:30AM to car pool to Point 14. The hike is about 10.8 miles.

Camping: Stony Ridge KOA Campground, 24787 Luckey Rd., Perrysburg, OH 43551

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

SEPTEMBER

September 7-11

Delphos Section

Description: Install plastic tiles in several locations, clear towpath trail along T-203 on eastern edge of Mandale and install marker in the Defiance Section, marking the western-most point of the BT main loop.

Camping: TBD. The portable shower will be available.

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

September 10-11

BT Circuit Hike

Location: Road Fork Section (July 2011 map)

Saturday: Meet at SR-537 and CR-13, Point 17. (N39.64030°-W081.21162°). Leave at 9:30AM to carpool to campsite on hoot owl ridge Rd., just west of Point 10. The hike is about 10.8 miles.

Sunday: Meet at Ring Mill Campground, Point 21. (N39.60803°-W081.12196°). Leave at 9:00AM to carpool to Point 17. The hike is about 8.9 miles.

Camping: Ring Mill Campground in the Wayne National Forest, Point 21.

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

September 17-21

Mogadore Section - West Branch State Park

Description: Continue building trail around the lake.

Camping: At West Branch State Park at the back meadow of the horse camp area.

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

September 21- 25

New Straitsville Section - Burr Oak State Park

BTA Chuck Wagon Event

Description: Trail maintenance weekend

Camping: At the Group campground near boat dock 3

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 October 3, 2016

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

OCTOBER

October 1

Run for Blue Blazes

Description: A full marathon, half marathon, 10K, and 5K in Shawnee, OH

Information: See page 8 for more information

October 15-16

Mogadore Section - West Branch State Park

Description: Relocate the trail from some wet areas and maybe install hand rails on a couple of the bridges. Meet at the camping location at 9:00am Saturday and Sunday morning.

Camping: Camping is free. See June 11 Work Weekend for camping information.

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

Contact: Steve Latza green.boonie@gmail.com

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 15-19

Bowerston Section

Description: This is a work party to move 0.4 miles trail off of SR22 and onto the dirt near Piedmont Lake. Also work to build 0.6 miles of trail along Clendenning Lake to make a loop with existing trail.

Camping: At the BTA Barn on Tappan Lake.

Meals: TBD.

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org.

October 22-23

BT Circuit Hike

Location: Pemberville Section (Mar. 2012 map) and Norwalk Section

Saturday: Meet at trailhead in the Fremont Community Complex at 600 St. Joseph St., south of State St. (N41.33488°-W083.09501°). Leave at 9:30AM to carpool to Aldrich Pond parking lot on CR-149, south of Point 18, Pemberville section. The hike is about 13.2 miles.

Sunday: Meet at trailhead on Riddle Rd (CR-292), west of Bellvue, south of US-20 (N41.28548°-W082.89803°). Leave at 9:00AM to carpool to trailhead at 600 St. Joseph St. The hike is about 11.4 miles.

Camping: Lazy River Campground, 1885 S. River Rd, Fremont. (N41.31888°-W083.15374°).

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

NOVEMBER

November 12-13

BT Circuit Hike

Saturday: Meet at trail crossing at SR-260, Point 26. (N39.53693°-W081.16335°).

Leave at 9:30AM to carpool to Ring Mill Campground. The hike is about 9 miles.

Sunday: Meet at the trailhead on CR-9, Point 31. (N39.47503°-W081.17718°). Leave at 9:00AM to carpool to SR-260 at Point 26. The hike is about 9.4 miles.

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

DECEMBER

December 10

BTA Board Meeting

Location: ODNR, 2045 Morse Road, Bldg. E-1, Columbus, OH 43229 at 10:00AM

Contact: President at president@buckeyetrail.org

December 10-11

BT Circuit Hike

Location: Norwalk Section

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

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.

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.

2/1/16 - 5/1/16

BARN FUND

Brice Gordon

Carolyn Heffelfinger & Bill Kavage

TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND

Kevin & Mary Jo Bowman
Jim Immelt

Lori Post
Edward and Cheryl Sliva

Julie Tome

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John Winnenberg & Cindy Hartman
Deborah Wright
Yellow Springer, LLC Mark Heise



2nd Annual Buckeye Trail Run

Full Marathon • Half Marathon
• 10K Run • 5K Run

Saturday, October 1, 2016

WHERE: Start and End at Shawnee, Ohio

TIME: 9:30am sharp

ENTRY FEE: Pre-registration before August 1: \$60 Full Marathon; \$40 Half Marathon, \$30 10K; \$20 5K. Add \$10 after August 1. Race Day registration from 6:30–9:00am

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

PACKET PICKUP: At the BTA Office, Shawnee Ohio, September 30th from 2:00–7:00pm or October 1, after 6:30am.

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

Food and Drink available after runs Information for Motels, Bed & Breakfasts, Camping and course map are available at www.buckeyetrail.org/run4blue.php.

PRE-REGISTER TO RECEIVE A FREE HI-TEC T-SHIRT!

A New Chapter Emerging in the Northeast

Randall Roberts

How can I give back to the Buckeye Trail? Wouldn't it be nice if I had a chapter near me? How can I help promote the Buckeye Trail?

What happens when these thoughts cross your mind repeatedly? The answer is, you start talking about it on your hikes and you get others interested too.

I had the opportunity to hike with Steve and Karen Walker, the co-leaders of the Muskingum Lakes Chapter, a lot over the last twelve months—from Fort Hill to Milford, to be precise. This year, I've also hiked several times with the Miami Rivers Chapter leader, Darryl Smith, on the West Union and Williamsburg Sections. As I began to think about a "Little Loop chapter," I picked their brains for tips on starting a successful chapter. I took that information back with me and talked to Bedford Section Supervisor Bob Morecki, Kat LoGrande, Bill McGovern and others as we hiked the Bedford Section. I talked to several others at TrailFest including Jim Sprague, Pat Hayes, Andy Hagat, and David Thorndike. This new chapter will cover the Akron, Bedford, Burton, and Mogadore sections which comprise most of the "Little Loop."

As I write this, so many ideas are going through my head and you probably have even more. Over the next few days, I will continue to reach out to individuals who may be interested in being leaders within the chapter's early beginnings. Over the next few weeks, we will formally invite Buckeye Trail members to join the Chapter and attend a kickoff event. Over the next few months, with the help of the core leadership and new members, we will identify wants and needs and how best to accomplish the Buckeye Trail Association's mission and vision on a local level. Over the next few years we will continue to foster relationships with members, stakeholders and

other partners within our local area for the mutual support and benefit of all. Over the next few decades... well you get the idea. The momentum is building and we are making this happen.

The name of this new Buckeye Trail Chapter will be the Crooked River Chapter in honor of the Native Americans who named the Cuyahoga River. The river provided a valuable resource and means of transportation for the Native Americans and early European settlers.

There will be a kickoff event held on July 16 at a location and time still to be determined. Check the website for updates or contact me directly at bthikerroberts@gmail.com if you want more information.



New Trail Signs Ordered!

Jeff Yoest

The second batch of BT informational markers is now being ordered! This is another effort to acquaint the public with the Buckeye Trail, and hopefully also recruit new members. The goal is to place these signs on the trail all around the state, preferably in areas of high pedestrian traffic. They can be free-standing on a post, as illustrated, or a panel on a vertical surface. Do you know of a location where one could be placed (with the blessing of the landowner)? Please contact Jeff Yoest at jeffyoest@columbus.rr.com if you have a potential site.

TRAILFEST 2016

Steve Walker (Photos by Mary Hayes, Sally Sugar, and Karen Walker)

It is hard to believe that there have been five TrailFests already. Time has flown since that first one in 2012 in southwest Ohio. This year, TrailFest took place in the historic Village of Zoar on May 12th through 15th. In spite of hopeful planning, it seems like springtime in Ohio always promises some rain. It's a blessing and a curse and we all know why. No one was too surprised when it even snowed for a few minutes on Sunday morning.

This was the first TrailFest at which there were three lead-in hikes starting on three consecutive days. One began on Monday, May 9th at the BTA Barn in Deersville. It was led by Chris McIntyre, who was called in at the last minute to substitute for John Rethman, the organizer of the hike. John managed to make it on Wednesday evening in time for camping at Atwood Lake Campground and the final day's hike into Zoar on Thursday. On Tuesday, Mike Fanelli and his brother Pat were shuttled to Canal Fulton after eating lunch at the Firehouse Grille & Pub in Zoar with Scott Kamph, their shuttle driver. They hiked in via the John Glenn Trail in Navarre and the NTR Canoe Livery in Bolivar. The North Country Trail Association (NCTA) Hike began on Wednesday morning with hikers gathering in Zoar and before being shuttled to Minerva to begin the trek into TrailFest. Leading them was Keith Brown, the 90-years-young President of the Great Trail Sandy Beaver Canal Chapter of the NCTA. They camped at the park in Magnolia on Wednesday night and were joined by "Michigan" Cheryl Krendler from Kentucky and Bruce Matthews, Executive Director of the NCTA on Thursday morning for the last day's hike to Zoar along the North Country Trail. All hikers were invited to a welcome reception hosted by Mary Hamilton and the Muskingum Lakes Chapter after they arrived at TrailFest to much fanfare.

On Thursday evening, about 75 people attended the Buckeye TrailFest Membership Drive in the Firehouse Grille and Pub Banquet Room. Mayor Scott Gordon welcomed the new members, and told some of the history of Zoar, and later led a tour of the Zoar Gardens. On Friday afternoon, he was back at the School House to receive Zoar's designation as the newest Buckeye Trail Town, the first one on the eastern side of the state. Also present as a speaker at

the designation ceremony was Chris Abbuhl, Tuscarawas County commissioner.

For the Friday evening entertainment, Betty Lou Higgins screened her PBS documentary "Trail Magic" at the historic 1853 Zoar United Church of Christ. It tells the story of Emma "Grandma" Gatewood, one of the founding members of the BTA and the first woman to through hike the entire Appalachian Trail. It will be broadcast soon on the PBS affiliate in the Athens, Ohio area.

The North Country Trail Association, a major sponsor of TrailFest 2016, hosted the Saturday afternoon reception at which several people received patches and certificates for completing the NCTA's Hike 100 Challenge. Among those receiving a patch was Karen Walker, who was also recognized for her completion of the Buckeye Trail that very afternoon, after section-hiking it over eleven-and-a-half years.

After the NCTA reception, everyone gathered in the Dining Tent for supper, the live auction and the awards ceremony. Following that was a short speech by Stark County Commissioner Richard Regula who spoke on behalf of his father, retired Congressman Ralph Regula, who was instrumental in the establishment of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Congressman Regula was also a BTA vice president back in the 1960s. The keynote speech was delivered by Dan Rice, President and CEO of the Ohio and Erie Canalway Coalition.

The community of Zoar showed its hospitality and welcomed TrailFest attendees and the Zoar Community Association, our host for Buckeye TrailFest 2016, was very responsive and cooperative. The Buckeye TrailFest 2016 Committee would like to thank all who attended and helped and we all hope to see you again next year in Yellow Springs.





MOONVILLE



— RAIL TRAIL —

EST. 2001



Situated deep in Ohio's Appalachian foothills, the 16-mile Moonville Rail Trail is freely open to hikers, horses, and mountain bikes year-round. The trail begins at the Red Diamond Austin Powder plant, near the village of Zaleski in Vinton County, passes through rolling hills and the infamous Moonville Tunnel, ending near Grosvenor in scenic Athens County.

Get involved! The Moonville Rail Trail Association welcomes any volunteers willing to help maintain the trail, offer services or expertise, or donate financial support. Visit www.moonvillerrailtrail.com for more information about how you can preserve the historic Moonville Tunnel and create a freely accessible rail trail for all to enjoy.



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HOCKING HILLS STATE PARK, WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST,
BUCKEYE TRAIL'S PRETTY RUN PRESERVE



Ohio Natives "Walk Off the War" on the Buckeye Trail

Michelle Revoir



Sean Gobin - CNN Heroes

Historically, military units would experience a lengthy journey home after fighting a campaign abroad. During this journey home, warriors would process and come to terms with their war-time experiences. But in today's age of modern transportation, military personnel can find themselves back home within a few days of serving in a combat zone.

In 2012, after returning from three combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, veteran Sean Gobin hiked all 2,185 miles of the Appalachian Trail. Sean, who founded Warrior Hike as a result of his hike, was recently named a 2015 CNN Hero. The program's first year of operation in 2013 put 14 veterans on the Appalachian Trail.

The Warrior Hike program now supports seven long-distance hikes, a paddle down the Mississippi River, and a bike ride across the country. Ohio will see its first Warrior Hikers this year.

"The intent is to have veterans hike a trail in their home state and connect with the communities in that state," Gobin said. "When they finish hiking, they have an entire network of people they connected with who can help facilitate the next chapter of their lives."

Two Warrior Hikers will participate in the initial hike of the Buckeye Trail. Army veteran Sterling Deck spent 20 years in the service, deploying multiple times to Iraq. Deck will be joined by another Iraq War veteran, Martin Strange, who served as an Infantry Machine Gunner in the Marine Corps.

Deck hiked nearly all of the Continental Divide Trail before being forced off due to weather. "The CDT was really a shot in the dark. I'd never really done a long trail, you know, hike more than ten days," Deck said. But he is ready for the change of pace the Buckeye Trail will provide. "I wanted to do the Buckeye Trail because it's more about getting in touch with locals, people at VFWs. I'm assuming that there's going to be more of that than the CDT since it's not out in the middle of nowhere. It's my home state, too. I know the state, but I don't know the Buckeye Trail."

"We all want to do something for Veterans," said Buckeye Trail Executive Director, Andrew Bashaw. "What I want to see is the opportunity given, the awareness, to every single Veteran and Active Duty service member in the state of Ohio, that we exist and we thank you for your service. If you want to give back this way by helping to build and maintain the trail or use the Buckeye Trail as a way to get away and find yourself again, that is what the Buckeye Trail is for."

The Warrior Hikers will begin their thru-hike on July 4 at Eden Park in Cincinnati. They will hike over 1,400 miles of trail, expecting to complete their trek on Oct 9 in Milford.

For more information on Warrior Expeditions, visit www.warriorhike.org or www.facebook.com/warriorhike.



Name: Sterling Deck
Hometown: Hamilton, OH
Branch: United States Army
MOS: Common Ground Station Analyst
Service: 1993-2013
Deployments: Iraq



Name: Martin Strange
Hometown: Bowling Green, OH
Branch: United States Marine Corps
MOS: Infantry Machine Gunner
Service: 2005-2009
Deployments: Iraq



Cutting the bench for new trail through Crowell-Hilaka

First 5-Day Work Party of the Year!

Medina Section Work Party at Richfield Joint Recreation District's New Park

Mary and Pat Hayes

I remember my first ever work party for the BTA! Can it really be 10 years ago? My, how time flies!! That first work party was at the end of March in the Defiance Section. We were working on the tow path trail and it was snowing – not hard, but enough so that the ground was slightly covered and we wondered what we were possibly thinking by being there.

What a difference ten years make! The trail crew made the decision to host work parties only in the southern part of the state during early spring. The first 5-day work party of this year on April 16-20 was hosted in the Medina Section, and for northeast Ohio in April, the weather was almost perfect for trail building. We had sunny skies and daytime temperatures in the 50s to 70s. In fact, Saturday and Sunday were warm (think high 70's). We worked to build new off-road trail through the 336 acre former Girl Scout camp, Camp Crowell Hilaka, now owned and administered by the Richfield Joint Recreation District. Our new trail winds through a valley along a beautiful creek with several waterfalls, crosses over the dam for Lake Linnea, and continues through a pine tree forest.

The only thing better than the weather was that 21 volunteers showed up over the five days to help build. With the help of ten experienced trail crew volunteers and eleven first time volunteers, the group was able to build 0.9 new miles of off-road trail. The work included benching, wet area work (awesome rock job, Chris Nazier

– new volunteer!), grubbing brambles, clearing, and finishing the trail tread. While we made good progress, there is still about 0.1 mile left to finish before the trail is completed. This last part to be finished will take the hiker to an adirondack shelter for overnight camping (only by permit). Another work party will be scheduled in the near future to complete the trail and install blazing.

You can't have a work party without Trail Angels! We didn't even have the trail built yet and they appeared. Pat and Sandy Norris (Pat is an RJRD Board member) came out to our camp site and brought those wonderful and funny Snicker bars. Were you grumpy, feisty, snippy, rebellious, dramatic, or a drama mama? There was a bar for you. We looked for the tired and sore bars, but didn't find any. Tom and Vanessa Arthur and their daughter Catherine hosted a dinner for the workers on Tuesday. The lasagna was delicious and dessert was a cake with Buckeye Blue flowers and the words "Thank You Buckeye Trail Volunteers." Tom worked all five days with the trail crew.

The best things about work parties, besides the satisfaction of creating the new trail, is spending time with old friends, spreading the word about the BTA with whoever happened upon the work crew, helping new volunteers, and making new friends.

The History of our Buckeye Trail

Andrew Bashaw

One of the highest values that BTA members like you consistently express is history on the Buckeye Trail. Not just our BTA history beginning in 1959, but our members value the history of the places and communities we find along the Trail. I like to think that the only thing that the moundbuilders of Serpent Mound, or the Zoarites of the Ohio & Erie Canal forgot to do was to paint the blue blazes of the BT... but all good things come in time.

While collecting, researching and relating the entire history of the BT would be a lifetime of work, we're beginning an effort that could use your assistance. The BTA has been approved to author an Arcadia Publishing photo history book of the Buckeye Trail, thanks to BTA volunteer Norm Fox of Nelsonville. We have also recently been approved for an Ohio Humanities Council planning grant for a pilot project to help tell the deeper story of how history impacts us today, thanks to BTA volunteer Jenny Smith of Cincinnati.

Together these efforts won't just document historic places and events along the BT, we will attempt to foster an understanding of how our shared natural history and cultural heritage along the BT impact



Shawnee, OH - West Main Street

our lives today. How does a better understanding of a prehistoric Indian mound or the development of our canals impact the lives of hikers, volunteers and communities along the BT today? Answering that kind of question will help us create an even richer trail experience for everyone.

Interested in history and the Buckeye Trail? You can help!! Norm will be diving into photo archives around the state and creating captions like the one here about

the historic Village of Shawnee. You might be able to help him discover old photos worth scanning and assist in developing caption text. Contact Norm by email at foxn@hocking.edu and let him know you are interested. The Ohio Humanities Council pilot project will be developing over the summer to early fall to engage BTA members, volunteers and hikers in the year to come, so stay tuned!



Shawnee, OH - railroad track and center view of town 1909

Trail Crew Update

Richard Lutz



New trail built by the trail crew to reroute the trail near us 35 in the Scioto Trail Section

The new year has begun for trail building and maintenance along the trail and the Buckeye Trail Crew and local chapters are as busy as always. Here are some highlights of the first three work parties of the year!

Scioto Trail Work Party: 15 volunteers relocate 0.4 mile of the trail near US 35. The old route was heavily logged and has been closed because it was becoming extremely hard to maintain. Overall, this shortens the trail by 0.4 mile and improves the trail with a more enjoyable hiking experience.

Caesar Creek Work Weekend: 13 volunteers worked on Saturday to clear 2.5 miles of trail between the Furnas Shore boat ramp and the Hopewell Day Lodge. On Sunday, a group of 5 volunteers performed the same type of maintenance heading north from the marina boat launch to the southernmost saddle dam. The group reestablished the desired minimum of 3 feet clearance on each

side of the trail, removing honeysuckle using chainsaws and hand tools. Overall, the crew led by Section Supervisor Joel Timmons improved nearly 14% of the total trail through Caesar Creek during the first of eight work events planned over the next 18 months.

Crowell Hilaka Work Party: For more information on this work party, see the more detailed article “April 16-20 - First 5-Day Work Party of the Year! Medina Section Work Party at Richfield Joint Recreation District's New Park” in this issue of the Trailblazer.

As a special note, the Edge of Appalachia Work Party has been moved to September 7th-11th. Stay tuned as the summer looks just as exciting for maintenance and construction along the trail. If you get the chance, come out and join us!

Eric Berger: Scholarship Winner

Ruth Brown

Eric has a passion for outdoor activities and the environment which is exhibited in the various activities he was involved in at Upper Arlington High School. He has finished his freshman year as part of the Class of 2019 at the University of California, Berkeley with a double major in Environmental Economics and Policy & Political Science. He is involved in student government and intends to seek a position with local Bay Area legislators or one of the many environmental NGO's (non-government non-profit voluntary citizen's organizations) located in San Francisco within the next year.



BTA Inagural "Hike the Capitol Square Trail

Steve Walker

One of the highlights of my journey as a Buckeye Trail Association member were the two days that I spent in Washington last July advocating for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Since that time, my mind has been constantly thinking about how we might tell the story of the Buckeye Trail to those we elect. After making my report on the DC trip at the board retreat last August, I asked if anyone might want to join me in this new effort. Ruth and Bob Brown and Andrew Bashaw all indicated an interest in taking the next step.

Although I have been actively working on the planning for TrailFest 2016 since that Board retreat, the idea of engaging with our elected officials on behalf of the Buckeye Trail was never far from my thoughts. The subject was brought up occasionally during phone calls to Shawnee that were part of TrailFest business and it was always simmering in the back of my mind. I was hoping for the right opportunity to get the effort started, but didn't know exactly how or when that would be.

It turns out that I wasn't the only one who was looking for a way to get our political effort going. On March 9th, I received an e-mail from our Executive Director, Andrew Bashaw, regarding an upcoming event taking place in Columbus on the evening of April 19th. It was going to be a reception celebrating the fifteenth anniversary of the Clean Ohio Fund, a bipartisan effort to protect Ohio's green spaces and farmland and reclaim other parts of Ohio that were former industrial sites. I called Andrew that same day and suggested that we attend the reception and spend the earlier part of the day in Columbus to visit some of our elected officials and acquaint them with the Buckeye Trail and the BTA. Later, I contacted Bob and Ruth Brown and Scott Pendleton to see if they would be interested in taking part. Bob, Ruth and Scott were all for the idea so I started to make plans for April 19th. A week or so later, I found out that Richard Lutz, GIS Specialist for the BTA, was also planning to attend the Clean Ohio reception so I kept him informed of the plans as they developed.

With collaboration on the part of all who were involved, we were able to meet with elected officials or their senior staff



BTA members enjoy the Clean Ohio Reception from seven different offices starting at 9:30 A.M. and continuing through 4:30 P.M. with a break for lunch. The elected officials we met with personally included State Senators Troy Balderson (R-20) and Scott Oelslager (R-29) and State Representative Sean O'Brien (D-63). After our day's "hike" around the Capitol, we enjoyed the Clean Ohio reception in the Statehouse Museum Gallery. Scott Pendleton could not join us but did meet with State Senator Lou Gentile (D-30) the next day to talk about the Buckeye Trail.

In our discussions with Representative O'Brien, we talked about the possibility of establishing an Ohio Legislative Trails Caucus to better advocate for the Buckeye Trail and other trails operating in the State of Ohio. The process of developing that caucus is now beginning.

It was a very successful first effort in our new ongoing engagement with Ohio's political leaders and we hope to "Hike the Capitol Square Trail" on a regular basis. If you're a BTA member and want to support "Ohio's State Trail" and would like to advocate on its behalf with your elected officials, please let Andrew or I know and we'll take the next steps together. The e-mail contacts are muskingumlakes@buckeyetrail.org or director@buckeyetrail.org.

Report Your Volunteer Hours Online!

We now have a new way to report those ever important volunteer hours. Every year there are volunteers who don't report their hard earned hours. These reports help the program maintain and apply for additional funds. Please take a few minutes to check out the online system.

This online reporting tool is available at buckeyetrail.org/volunteerhours.html

Welcome New Members!

Bev and Jerry Starcher

Rita Atlagovich, Columbus
Jim Beardsley, Sunbury
Clyde Beckel, Prospect
Frank Beier, Findlay
Anthony Bidinger, Orient
Bethanie Bidinger, Orient
Dan Binder, Bexley
Mark Bisang, Athens, gift from Herb Hulls
David Breinke, Carmichael CA
Scott Brockman, London
Cheryl Brockman, London
Amy Bue, Boardman
David Buzzee, Columbus
Bob Carpenter and Family, Cincinnati
Ryan Carrigan, Athens,
gift from Sally Sugar
JoAnne Cassell, Columbus
Hunter Chapman, Westerville,
gift from Bob Litt
Jay Clements and Nicole Loy, Xenia
Mark Converse, Gahanna
Shannon Cook, Millfield
Charles Cunningham, Salley
Michael Daughterty, Warren
Sterling Deck, Monroe
Joby DeCoster, Columbus,
gift from Jonathan Johnson
Karina Descartin, Dayton
Keith Dirham and Family, Medina
Dave Dorsky, Columbus
Ed Dressler, Yellow Springs
Jeffrey Edwards, Massillon
Tina Fahy, Galloway
Rebecca Falin, Painesville
Jon Farmer, Bellefontaine
Scrappier Farver-Ridgway, Amesville
gift from Claudia Bashaw
John Ford, Dublin
Gisela French, Pataskala,
gift from Heide Sloan
Eric Frey and Family, Toronto
Lynn Gagnon, Medina
Brian Gingerich and Family, Shaker Hgts
Scott Gordon and Family, Zoar

Cara Hanson, Athens
Gary Hattery, Hilliard
Carolyn Heffelfinger, Sunbury
Cinderella Hietter, Westerville
Margaret Hoff, Millfield
Eunice Hornsby, Plain City
Patty Hube, Lebanon
Jamie Hunyor, Athens
Mark Issel, Delaware
Steve and Mary Ivory, Bellevue
Janis Jenkins, Canal Winchester
Jason Karger, Wooster
Bill Kavage, Sunbury
Leah Keiter, Athens
Lynda Kemp and Jeff Kosan, Dayton
Austin Kennedy, Youngstown
Eben Kent, Columbus
Brittany Kimbleton, Blacklick,
gift from Monte Wall
Kathy Layman, Stockport
Paul Lehman, Westerville
James Lightle, St Mary's
Hubert Litt, Jefferson, gift from Bob Litt
Joe Mantey, Vermilion
Kathryn Mantey and Family, Vermilion
Marvin Mantos, Louisville,
gift from Melanie Mantos
Sarah McGrew, Athens
Sean McKinney, Kingston
Bill Merriman, Westerville,
gift from Jeff Yoest
Kathy Meyers, Dublin
Jon Miller, Xenia
Tracy Miser, Fresno
Wilson Monnin, Sidney
Sandy Mozingo, Ohio City
Tanya Muckelrath and Family, North Canton
Connie Mulder and Family, Portsmouth
Doug Mullett, Powell
Julie Mundorf, Stow
Isabel Nazarian, Granville,
gift from Birgit Nazarian
Karen Neeley, Dayton
Amy Nelson, Kingston

Loretta Nemeth, Perry
Wendy Orlandi, Westerville
Steven Parlette, Columbus
Jamie Platt, Madison
Dave Pond, Heath, gift from Connie Pond
Lori Post and Family, Little Hocking
Rob Rau, Columbus, gift from Amy Sugar
Charles Rayburn, Wapakoneta
Mary Reed, Athens
Tammy Roberts, Columbus
Mathew Roberts, Athens
M Schmidt and Family, Akron
Cathy Shaw, Worthington
Moya Shea, Yellow Springs
Christopher Smith, Pataskala
Cynthia Somers, Pataskala
Tina Spencer, Wright-Patterson AFB
Shannon Stewart, Glouster
Martin Strange, Kent
Superior Clay Corp, Uhrichsville
Connie Surckla & Gary Hemmi, Painesville
Kenny and Jan Tkach, Wakeman
Julie Tome and Family, Malta
Bev Trovato, Shawnee
Dawn Truesdale, Worthington,
gift from Gary Dill
Jeff Vancouver, The Plains
Laurie Vancouver, The Plains
Kate Vancouver, Athens
Signe Wasserman, Coolville
Michele White, Westerville
Earl Woodruff, Pataskala
Anita Woodruff, Pataskala



TrailFest 2016 Art Contest

Kathy Hamilton

For this year's BTA TrailFest the planning committee made the decision to use local talent and vendors as much as possible. Those who attended TrailFest 2016 and purchased a TrailFest shirt are wearing the art of the young lady who won the art contest held to find this year's shirt design. Our winning artist is a 9th grader from Dover named Sarah.

When asked what interested her about submitting to the contest she wrote, "I entered the contest because I love the outdoors and drawing. I love how art has a story behind it. So what's better than drawing what you love? I'm so thankful that you've picked my drawing, and I'm honored to have my artwork place on t-shirts that I can share with everyone."

As the winner of the contest, Sarah received a \$100 cash prize, a t-shirt, and a one year student membership to the Buckeye Trail Association. Congratulations to Sarah for a job well done!



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 _____ | | | |
| CORPORATE | \$500.00 | per year | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Do not send me e-mails | | | |
| LIFE | \$400.00 | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Do not share my name with other groups | | | |

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