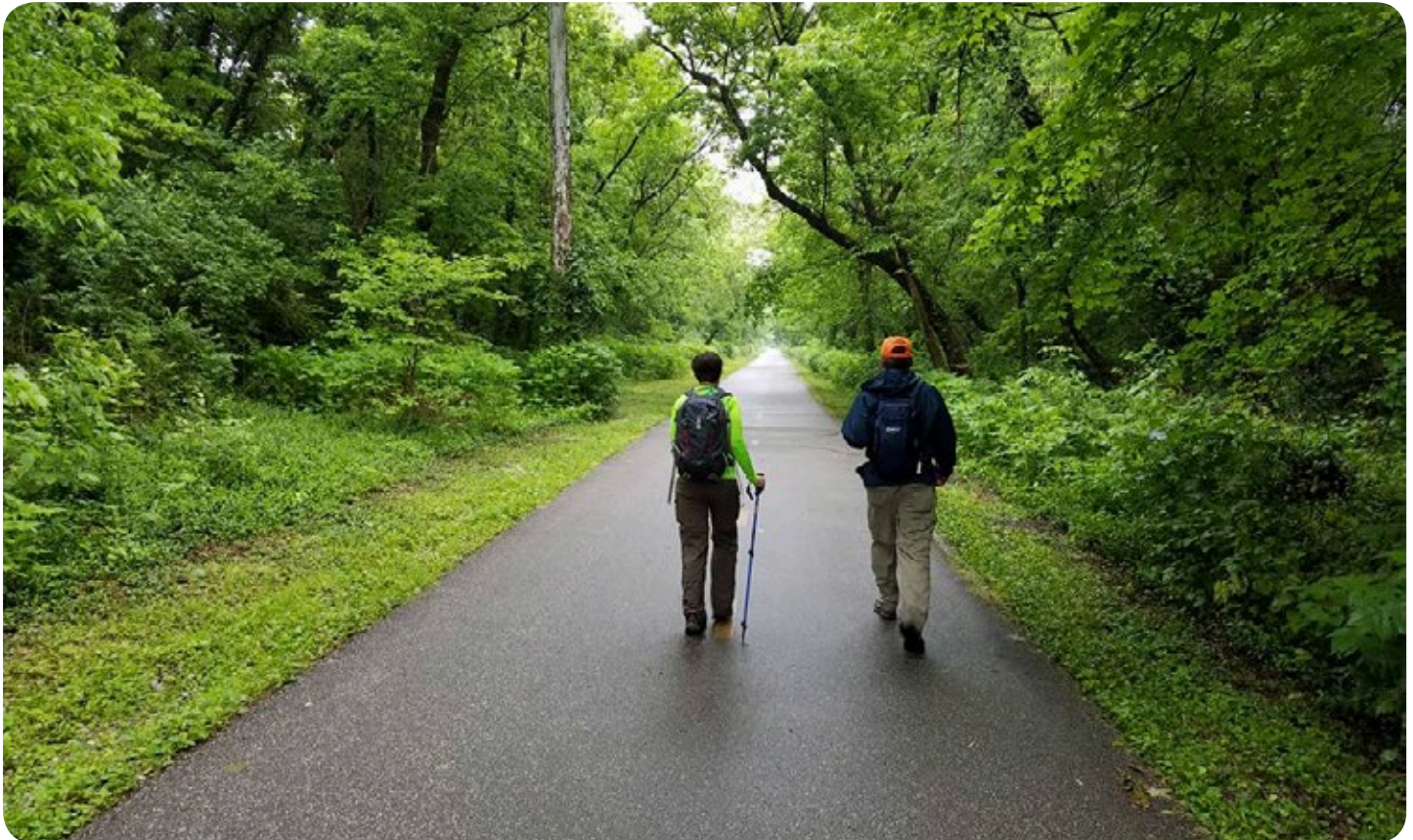


Trailblazer



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Kat and Randall on their EPICC Hike

Our EPICC Hike

Randall Roberts

This all started Labor Day weekend last year, although I didn't know it at the time. That was the weekend I met up with Hugh Endsley and his three friends on their third day of backpacking the entire Caesar Creek section. You may recall their article in the winter 2015 edition of the Trailblazer. Their adventure made me think, "Wow, they did 55 miles in three days. That's just crazy." Then, it hit me that Kat LoGrande and I were planning on hiking 60 miles at EGGS in 36 hours. Who were the crazy ones? That put our upcoming EGGS hike into perspective. It would be like hiking an entire section in one hike – just like the hike that spawned the idea of EGGS. I made the mistake of thinking out loud to Kat. "Wouldn't it be cool to power hike the Buckeye Trail? To take each section and do them as one continuous power hike?" My bad.

She responded with, "We should totally do that! We should pick a section you haven't completed yet and do it in one hike. It would be a great warm up for EGGS."

At the time, there weren't many sections I hadn't completed yet and I had plans on finishing several sections with Jim Gilkey's circuit hikes. Loveland was the only reasonable candidate. I realized it's relatively flat, it's paved and should be easily hiked at night, we should be able to make good time, there would be places to stop to eat, it's one of the shorter sections at 45.9 Miles, and I had a creative name for the hike: Eden Park into Caesar Creek – EPICC, perfect! I began making plans.

Continued on page 5



Dedication of "Grandma" Gatewood Monument

Ramona Conley



Grandma Gatewood marker with members of her family

The sun was shining on the Ohio Historical Marker dedication ceremony in Cheshire Park on Saturday, May 28 to honor the memory and legacy of our remarkable "Grandma" Emma Rowena Gatewood. The marker is absolutely stunning! It captures Grandma Gatewood's numerous accomplishments and contributions as well as a lovely poem that she authored.

Many thanks to all the individuals and organizations who came together to make this happen through financial, information and other means of support, including her beautiful family - Katherine Seeds Nash, Carolyn LaMott Little and their families, who traveled so far to share the day together, Jeanne Apple, Marjorie Gilliam Wood and families and Lucy Gatewood Seeds (the keeper of the history) who attended via video conference on her birthday. The efforts and contributions of Ohio History Connection/Andy Verhoff & Becki Trivison, The Buckeye Trail Association/Bob and Connie Pond and the awesome members of the BTA, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Cheshire Village Council / Mandee Roush & Mark

Coleman, Eden Valley Enterprises / Bette Lou Higgins and her wonderful "Trail Magic" and Ben Montgomery and his incredible New York Times bestselling book, "Grandma Gatewood's Walk", which was the initial inspiration for it all.

Lastly, to Grandma Gatewood, an independent, spunky, witty, determined, resourceful, resilient, amazing lady who has been a mentor to many and left her mark, literally, in so many positive ways. We cannot begin to thank her for how her example, legacy and vision of the Buckeye Trail has evolved and impacted the lives of so many and continues to do so.



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President's Message

Connie Pond

At the business meeting conducted on Sunday of Buckeye TrailFest weekend, some members expressed a desire for more members to be involved in committee work. The board just finished a weekend of meetings on Aug. 20-21 and I want to bring to your attention some committees that could use some assistance:

Long Range Planning: This committee considers the course of action of the BTA for future years. The committee Chair is Steve Walker at vp@buckeyetrail.org.

Beall Farmstead: At present, the BTA leases a century barn in Harrison County on Tappan Lake. Soon, the BT plans to lease the farmhouse and outbuilding as well. This committee will plan future use of this property. The Chair is Mary Hamilton at hamilton3310@roadrunner.com

TrailFest: This committee will be planning and volunteering in the adventure at Yellow Springs in April of 2016. The Chair is Mark Heise at mheise@yellow-springer.com

Scholarship: The BTA provides two \$500 scholarships each year. This committee advertises the scholarship, collects applications and chooses the winners. The Chair is Ruth Brown at bandrbrown@willard-oh.com

Also during the weekend, two new chapters were approved: Crooked Rivers and Central Ohio. Central Ohio activities will include hiking on various trails in central Ohio, as well as visiting the BT around the state. Crooked Rivers will concentrate in the NE part of Ohio. Welcome to both chapters! Look for more details in this newsletter for joining the MeetUp groups for these chapters.



Connie Pond

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On the Trail

Andrew Bashaw



Andrew Bashaw

Claudia and I are building a tree house for our seven year old, and I must say... it is pretty sweet. To be honest, I realize I am building it for myself as well, and Adelaide is excited to share the 'family' tree house with us... luckily. The tree house is big and tall and fancy. She has been great at helping to build it, holding the balusters while I screw them in. She's already caught a tree frog on the trunk that goes up through the center, her second - I've never caught a tree frog in my life, yet. A

little trail guides us up to the tree house and the view looks out through the tree branches on top of Gobbler's Knob, over the rooftops of town, to the forested ridges surrounding the Sunday Creek Valley. As she sits by her backpack drawing pictures, I do my best at carpentry to finish off what is already becoming a place of solace, natural exploration and an imagination space.

You've probably guessed already that it makes me think of the Buckeye Trail and why we do what we do. How old were you when you first heard of the Buckeye Trail? For most of us it was as an adult. How different would it be if we were kids when we engaged and understood what those blue blazes really meant? When Adelaide overheard that we are trying really hard to create more campsites along the BT to make it more 'backpackable' she took matters into her own hands. Out came the scissors, construction paper and glue... and VOILA! She created a three dimensional BT campsite complete with tent, stream, fire pit, and little fuzzy chickens for campers as well as a recognizable hand drawn BTA logo. Problem solved! One new BT campsite to hand to Richard Lutz. I understand that, as the Director's daughter, she has a unique perspective for a kid, and I hope I don't ruin it for her by pushing the outdoors too hard.

When building the tree house, I'm thinking of her future outdoor experience and how it can shape the rest of her life. In the late 1950's our founders were thinking the same thing, creating an experience for future generations of hikers and campers that will positively impact millions of lives. I was fortunate to speak to former Congressman Ralph Regula at his farm recently about his involvement during the early days of the Buckeye Trail, Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath, and Cuyahoga Valley National Park. While he has many accomplishments to be proud of, he spoke mostly of his time outdoors on trails and on the farm when he was young. Thinking of my childhood outdoors and what I hope for Adelaide I completely understood what the Congressman meant when he

said, "I wanted everyone to have that experience because I knew what it meant to me".

I think many of us keep this in the back of our minds as we volunteer or support BTA volunteers in a variety of ways. Like the tree house, we are doing it for ourselves today so that we have more and better places to hike and camp. We do it for the exercise, for the camaraderie, the solace, or the personal education. But when we give back to the Buckeye Trail, either financially, of our time or our sweat I think we realize we are giving a better experience to future generations.

The new Blue Blaze Society is being created to improve the financial future of the BTA so we can sustain and grow our good work. The new Crooked River and Central Ohio Chapters of the BTA are being created to engage more individuals and families in our outdoor adventures and volunteer opportunities. Our campsite and trail preservation efforts are geared towards protecting and increasing the corridor of the BT for future generations to enjoy in perpetuity. Our special events: the Live, Breathe, Hike Member Drives, Run for Blue Blazes Trail Run Marathon, Emma Grandma Gatewood Solstice (EGGS) Hike, and Buckeye TrailFest coming to Yellow Springs are about engaging current and new audiences to celebrate what we have and highlight opportunities for future growth.

While Adelaide could have just sat in the same spot where the tree house now stands to observe nature, the project helps make that spot into something special. It encourages her (and me!) to use it, to spend time up in the forest canopy. Adelaide

could not have built it on her own and with only a year or two of asking, this older generation finally followed through. We are now the new 'older generation' building, improving, and promoting Ohio's Buckeye Trail for upcoming hikers, backpackers and trail runners. Thank you for supporting and making this thin line around our state something special that encourages us all to get out and create our own life-impacting outdoor experience!

Be sure to get your own kids and grandkids out on their Buckeye Trail this Fall to figure what those blue blazes mean, create memories, find solace and friendship and impact the rest of their lives.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Bashaw".

Our EPICC Hike (continued)

Continued from page 1

The first thing I did was to reach out to the Caesar Creek Soaring Club and asked if they would allow us to use their facilities to camp for two nights – The night before the hike and the night at the end of our hike. I said we would gladly pay for the privilege. I received a very professional and courteous response from Jim Dudley, the club's secretary. "As for the cost, I will not speak for the Board but am confident that the cost will be nominal. A donation should suffice. How about coming to enjoy one of our Introductory Flights—the camping might just be included in the cost of the glider ride!" So I had to tell my wife that two nights of camping was going to cost \$95 but came with a free glider ride!

The next thing to work out was to find someone to give us a shuttle ride. Our plan was to leave a car at South Lebanon, so we would need to be picked up from there. Leaving a car there offered a chance to have cold drinks, food, a change of clothing, a means of driving to dinner, and a bailout option if things weren't going well at that point. Bob Simons graciously agreed to meet us at 6:30 a.m. in South Lebanon and drive us to Eden Park where we would start our hike at 7:30. He bought the latest map and even drove out the day before so he knew where we were going to meet, I really can't thank him enough.

At Eden Park, Arch Cunningham surprised us by meeting us and taking some photos. He had heard us talk at TrailFest about our plans. Captain Blue had sent me a text the night before, asking if we needed anything. He would later follow our progress on Facebook throughout the day, constantly asking if we were ready to be picked up yet.

A couple hours into our hike, Matt Patterson called and asked where we were. He had stashed a bike in Loveland and drove to meet us at 50 West Brewing Co. near Mariemont and hiked back

to Loveland with us. We were thrilled to have him join us. We stopped for lunch at MJ's on Main in Milford where Cheryl Wingham was waiting to have lunch with us. This too was a great surprise. As we neared Loveland, Chris McIntyre asked where we were. He parked his car in Loveland and had his wife drop him off so he could hike about 4 miles with us. We were thrilled to have him join us and he was excited to point out features on the trail.

Once in Loveland, Kat and I were on our own again. Matt thought about biking back to his truck and leapfrogging ahead of us to do another stint with us, but said once he got back to his truck, he would be 15 minutes from home and at an establishment that served great beer. He would later post a picture of himself enjoying one such beverage with the caption, "Look what I found," mimicking the post he made when he took our picture and posted it when first meeting up with us that morning. We didn't think we would see him again that day. But to our surprise, as we neared South Lebanon, there he was coming in our direction. He drove us the ½ mile to Chubby's Pizza and had dinner with us at 8pm. He then hiked another 2 miles with us as it began to get dark.

We experienced about an hour of sprinkling rain in the morning, but most of the day was in the mid 60's with overcast skies that kept the bike trail traffic down. The clouds cleared as the sun set and the full moon, purposefully planned, gave us enough light that we didn't need headlamps on the bike path. We completed about 48 miles in 19.5 hours, finishing at our tents at 3 a.m.

The next day we marveled at our accomplishment and enjoyed our 20-minute glider rides. I recommend the hike from Eden Park to South Lebanon. That's a good 30-mile hike. I'm not so sure I recommend going another 18 miles. I'm not just saying that to keep our record intact, then again, maybe I am.



The coffee mugs say it all - Randall and Kat toast their hike

New Central Ohio Chapter Formed & Hiking

Bob Litt

Borrowing the theme “Boots on the Trail” from Daryl Smith and the Miami Rivers Chapter, the new Central Ohio Chapter is offering hikes and various events to members of Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Pickaway, and Union Counties. The full objective is to build, maintain, protect and promote the Buckeye Trail and this will be achieved by getting more people hiking and then individuals may decide how, when and where they want to contribute.

The Central Ohio Chapter area is unique in that it does not contain a portion of the BT but highlights portions of the BT for outdoor adventures and volunteer opportunities. The Chapter may serve as a ‘catch-all’ as well as a service to the BTA’s Central Ohio audience. The Chapter may address unmet trail needs around the state, central Ohio and statewide partner relationships, and work in cooperation with other BTA Chapters.

The Central Ohio Chapter benefits from using the existing meetup group for Friends of the Buckeye Trail (www.meetup.com/BuckeyeTrailFriends) to communicate and promote local and statewide events. Andy Niekamp started the www.meetup.com/BuckeyeTrailFriends website in 2011 and it is a popular and frequently used communication tool. Since then the progress and success of 5 current chapters has led to each having



a separate meetup group and website to promote events in their regions. The Friends of the Buckeye Trail meetup group will transition to serve the Central Ohio Chapter. We seek continuous improvement in how we communicate and support the BTA, so please offer suggestions and feedback on how we can improve.

We are learning from the previously established chapters and will be setting goals for 2017 and planning events. A New Year’s Day hike will start the planning with an after-hike meeting at a pub to enjoy and share ideas.

Remembering Elmo Layman

Memorial Tribute to Elmo Layman, aged 79, who passed away on June 30, 2016 in Mesa, AZ.

Elmo was a dedicated member of the BTA who served on the BTA’s Board of Trustees for many years, worked with the BTA Trail Crew, and also served as Chair of our Scholarship Fund. Elmo and his wife Wilma went to Arizona for the winter for many years, and Elmo always continued his trail building work there by going out with various trail crews.

The Buckeye Trail Association recognizes the service of trail crew members, and Elmo was one of the “elite” crew members. His first work party with the BT was in May 1999 at Clendening Reservoir in the Bowerston Section. By 2002 he earned the award for volunteering 250 hours towards trail building; in 2004 he received the award for 500 hours; and then in 2007 he received the award for 1000 hours of trail building. He didn’t stop there, but continued to attend trail crew events until May 2015. After that he moved from Ohio to Arizona permanently. In

total, Elmo volunteered 1988.4 trail crew hours. That’s quite an accomplishment!

Elmo graduated from The Ohio State University with a teaching degree and retired as the Superintendent of the Urbana Community School District. He served on the BTA Board of Trustees from 2005 to 2011, and reflected his dedication to education by chairing the BTA’s Scholarship Fund. Under his leadership the fund provided scholarships for over 12 environmental study students. He continued to chair the Scholarship Fund until 2015.

One of our former BTA Board members said this about Elmo: “Elmo was a person who showed up for a lot of work parties, always worked hard, and after supper would retire to his RV and read. He was a man of strong opinions but was never overbearing about them and it was a pleasure to talk with him whether you agreed with him or not. I miss him.” We all miss him.



Tales from a New Buckeye Trail Adopter

Monte Wall, Trail Adopter "Newby" Scioto Trail pts. 6-7

Prior to the Zoar TrailFest event, I contacted the BT Trail Management Team with a request to become a trail volunteer. Living in Central Ohio, all BT sections are a minimum of a 1.5-hour drive, which must be factored into your day hike or work planning. After supplying information on why and where I wanted to cover the trail on my favorite Ohio section, I was aligned with a 2.5-mile section in the Scioto Trail section southwest of Tar Hollow State Park. Excited that I was now part of the BT Adopter Program, I first looked over my Scioto Trail section map to become familiar with the area.

Anyone who has hiked or worked the BT is aware that many areas of the trail are remote and you can't just drive, park and hike. Unaware of where it would be ok to park, hike or work for a few hours, I contacted my Section Supervisor for guidance. Obtaining what I needed, my wife and I set out early on a June Saturday morning to hike this short 2.5 miles. My initial thought was 2.5 miles—is that all I can obtain? I typically hike 7-10 miles, so why not maintain at least 5-10 miles? Parked, we geared up and on the trail we went. Excited and really without much trail maintenance experience, we picked up sticks and small branches, and with a very dull machete hacked at the many thorn bushes. After one mile the bushy overgrowth began and we quickly realized that we didn't have tools to accomplish what was necessary to clear a good path. Packing away the machete, we hiked onward through the brush

until we came to a clearing where BT blazing was no longer clear. With no clear foot path visible, no deer paths, high grass, sparse trees and very hot day approaching; we returned to the vehicle.







Along the way, we made note of many limbs overhanging the trail that required a large saw or chain saw and made notes on the variety of plant life along the entire trail. We viewed where the State Forestry department had clear-cut sections of Tar Hollow years back, and how the trees returned or undergrowth had taken root.

All in all, this first trip was a real eye-opener for my family since we really had never stopped to consider what it takes to maintain a 12-to-24-inch-wide pathway through the Ohio forest.

I returned in July to begin clearing path, but that will be covered another time.



New BT Trail Adopter Tips

-  Make time in your hiking schedule to become a Buckeye Trail Adopter.
-  Take ownership in some part of the BT and volunteer.
-  Wear head to toe coverage due to thorns and dirty conditions.
-  Join a Buckeye Trail Crew Work Party to work alongside others with many years of experience and skills.
-  Learn your Ohio trees, poison plants, thorn bushes, valuable plants and invasive species.
-  Slow down and enjoy yourself on your small section of the BT.

Blue Blaze Society 2016

Bob & Connie Pond
Garry & Sydney Dill
Scott & Mary Anne Kamph
Joe & Cindy Kruger
Travis & Mink Neely
Jim & Vivian Runk
Edward & Cheryl Sliva
Karin Tranquist & Patrick Coy
Pat & Mary Hayes
Jeff & Sarah Yoest
Jim Gilkey
Bill Schultz & Leslie Floyd
Amy & Joe Sugar
Liz & Tim DeBraul

Elmo & Wilma Layman
Ellen Bodnick
Melissa Johnson & Bob Kazar
Gene Wimmer
Terry & Nancy McCann
Robert & Cindy Johnson
Pauline Miller
Ellen Stutz
Louis Shinker
Franchot & Henrietta Ballinger
Carl & Gail Boesel
Dan & Sandra Imhoff
Herb & Susie Hulls
Mary Hamilton

My Pledge to the Trail

Robert "Bob" Johnson #1050, 2016 Member of the Blue Blaze Society

What happens when you reach that point in life when your body no longer allows you to hike any distance on our wonderful Buckeye Trail? Arthritis and worn knee joints have told me I have reached that point. But thank goodness I have a vast store of great memories from many hours and days on the Trail over the years. Oh, how I have enjoyed the solitude and beauty the Buckeye Trail offers in the many off-road sections of the hike! Like many of my fellow BTA members and hikers, I often think of the younger generations and if they will be able to experience the great outdoors to the extent we have. I see my grandchildren spending many hours chained to their electronic devices on beautiful sunny days and wonder where this rapid change in our society is leading us. In spite of this "half-empty glass" view of the world, I feel we all have a responsibility to continue our investment in the infrastructure and facilities for future generations to enjoy. To merely assume that future generations won't use them is wrong. Most humans have a desire and need to connect with nature and the outdoors at some level and if we continue to provide opportunities for this to happen, then people will use them.

For this reason, I have decided to put in my will to provide a portion of funds to construct a sleeping shelter along the Trail to make the trail experience more enjoyable for through hikers. Through a gentleman who is a BTA member and is involved in the construction of these shelters, I was encouraged to learn that through donations of materials, the BTA may be able to construct more than one shelter with the funds estimated to build one. I believe this addition to the Trail will ultimately make it more desirable for many others to plan their hikes on the Buckeye Trail. Upon making this bequest to the BTA, I later learned that it made me eligible to become one of the first members of the Blue Blaze Society. I am very proud that those who share my love of the Trail took the time to recognize that there are many out there who want

to see the Trail continue, improve, prosper and grow in the future. I urge any person who has enjoyed the Buckeye Trail in the past to consider this great legacy for the future and consider making the BTA part of their own personal legacy today.

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Buckeye Trail Crew Update

Richard Lutz

The last several months have been busy as always for the Buckeye Trail Crew and local chapters. Here are some highlights of the work parties and work weekends that have taken place since May!

Delphos Work Party: Fifteen people worked on various projects throughout the Delphos Section, including replacing a bridge near Junction, placing several tiles in wet spots to better drain the trail, re-benching at Flat Rock Creek and north of Road 72, and placing better materials to cross the canal to the Shelter south of Delphos.

Ballinger Work Weekend: 6 volunteers put two 8-foot benches (sitting and sleeping) in the shelter on the property. The volunteers also walked the trail on the property and did a few repairs that were needed as well as mowing and tree trimming. A small portion of the crew did some blazing in Shawnee State Forest on Sunday.

National Trails Day at Wildcat Hollow: On June 6th, ten BTA volunteers and Wayne National Forest staff converged on Wildcat Hollow and Burr Oak State Park to clear, blaze, mow, and re-bench trail as part of the Buckeye Trail Blitz on National Trails Day and to prepare the route of the 20-80 mile Emma 'Grandma' Gatewood Solstice (EGGS) Hike.

AEP ReCreation Land: With 14 people, the crew cleared, mowed, weed-whacked and trimmed back about 20 miles of trail. The crew also built a small bridge in the Belle Valley section east of Brookton Heights Road.

Farnsworth Metropark/Bend View Metropark: Eight people helped out this weekend by clearing the trail margins in Toledo's Bend View Metropark. The crew pruned back overhanging branches, etc. from the grassy margins alongside the gravel trail, including cutting down a few small trees overhanging the trail.

Whipple/Road Fork: Eighteen volunteers worked on the entire off road trail in the Road Fork and Whipple Sections (except for Archers Fork). The work consisted of mowing brush, weed-eating, branch trimming, and some blazing as well. The temperature was mercilessly hot and it was very humid during the five days, but they got the job done!

With a number of trail building and trail maintenance events coming up this fall, come out and join us as we continue to build and improve the trail!



Replacing one of the bridges near Junction across the canal (photo by Richard Lutz)

Dayton Hikers on the Buckeye Trail

Andy Niekamp

There is a new bridge on the Buckeye Trail in Eastwood MetroPark in Dayton!

It is located along the Mad River in the Troy section. Volunteers from the Dayton Hikers group and park staff from Five Rivers MetroParks worked together to build the bridge. The Buckeye Trail Association donated the materials. The bridge spans an area that is always wet. Hikers can now cross this area without getting muddy. The project was completed in two days, on July 8-9, and we also installed two Buckeye Trail interpretive panels in park. Make sure you check out the bridge when you attend the Midwest Outdoor Experience (www.outdoorx.org) there on October 1-2. Just follow the blue blazes to find it.



The crew proudly stands on their handiwork

The Dayton Hikers group gave a warm welcome to Sterling Deck and Martin Strange on their Warrior Hike when they came through Dayton on the Buckeye Trail.

The pair was greeted at Deeds Point on July 14 in downtown Dayton with flags waving and water fountains shooting. Sterling and Martin are hiking the entire Buckeye Trail to “walk off the war” with the non-profit group Warrior Expeditions. On short notice the Dayton Hikers group collected donations to pay for a hospitality package for them. The package included a stay at the downtown Crown Plaza Hotel, tickets to the Dayton Dragons game and spending money for food and drink. The following day Dayton Hikers member Darlene Aguilar hosted them on their “zero mile” day where they hiked with the Dayton Hikers group at Sugarcreek MetroPark. Sterling and Martin began their Buckeye Trail hike on July 4 at Eden Park. They plan to finish their journey on October 9.

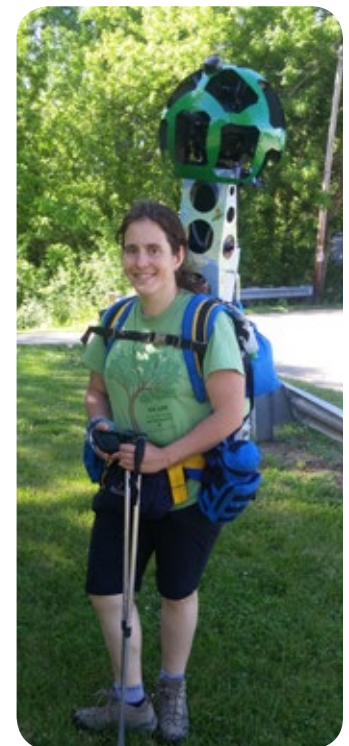
The Dayton Hikers group helped clear downed trees from the Buckeye Trail in Caesar Creek State Park.

More than a dozen fallen trees were removed from the BT on the afternoon of July 9. The trees came down during the EF-1 tornado and straight-line winds that wrecked the hiking trails in the park in late June. This job was especially difficult because both healthy trees and diseased Ash trees from the Emerald Ash Borer came down. Caesar Creek Section Supervisor, Joel Timmons, had several chainsawyer crews on the trail that day including Jamie and Byron Guy who took care of the nastiest blown down trees.

The Google Trekker comes to the Buckeye Trail!

Outdoor Adventure Connection has partnered with Five Rivers MetroParks to participate in the Google Trekker program. The goal is to map and photograph all of the trails in the Five Rivers MetroParks system including the Buckeye Trail. Users will be able to see a 360 degree panoramic “Street View” of the Dayton trails in Google Maps. Volunteers from Dayton Hikers carried the 49-pound backpack in June and July on the hiking trails, horse trails and mountain bike trails. The Trekker unit has 15 cameras and two GPS units. This is the first Google Trekker project in the state of Ohio. When completed, people from around the world will be able to take a virtual hike on the Buckeye Trail from Fairborn, through Dayton, to Piqua and beyond. More info:

<http://on.dayton.com/29MgFB5>



Google Trekker on the Trail



Warrior Hikers Sterling Deck and Martin Strange in Dayton

Ohio Legislative Trails Caucus Will Soon be a Reality

Steve Walker, BTA Vice President

Very soon, there will be a group of State Senators and Representatives from Ohio who support the Buckeye Trail and other non-motorized trails across the State of Ohio. During our meeting with him in April, Representative Sean O'Brien (D-63) indicated a willingness on his part to help in the creation of the Ohio Legislative Trails Caucus. Once TrailFest 2016 was over, discussions on this subject between Andrew Bashaw, myself and Nate Shipman, Legislative Aide to Representative O'Brien, began in earnest. The result is that Representative O'Brien will be sending out an e-mail to his fellow legislators in Columbus requesting them to join the Ohio Legislative Trails Caucus.

To do your part in making this a success, we'll be asking you, as BTA members, to contact your State Senators and Representatives in January to urge them to reply to Representative O'Brien's e-mail and sign on to be a member of the Ohio Legislative Trails Caucus. To find out who your State Representative or State Senator is, go

to <http://www.ohiohouse.gov/> or <http://ohiosenate.gov/index> and type in your nine digit Zip Code. Click on SEARCH and it will tell you who your representative or senator is. There will be an e-mail link on that page that will allow you to send a message urging your senator or representative to join the Ohio Legislative Trails Caucus by responding to the invitation e-mail sent out by Representative Sean O'Brien. If you need to find out your nine digit Zip Code, go to <https://www.usps.com/> and click on Look Up a Zip Code. Each one of us has a state representative and a state senator and we're asking you to contact both of them.

The more legislators we get to join this caucus, the better will be our chances to preserve, protect and enhance the Buckeye Trail. Please do your part in making Ohio's legislators aware of the Buckeye Trail by urging them to join the Ohio Legislative Trails Caucus.

Campsite & Shelter Development Update

Richard Lutz

Since the last issue, we continue to make progress in making the trail more "backpackable." There are two updates dealing with camping along the Buckeye Trail

First up are some changes in the Dayton area. Five Rivers MetroParks has made some changes for camping in their parks. Originally camping was only available at Taylorsville at the Shumard campsite. This was historically the only official campsite near the BT/NCT in Montgomery County. However, the Shumard campsite was recently removed and a permit system instituted for camping at Taylorsville and Eastwood MetroParks. This adds more benefits to our hikers since camping was never allowed at Eastwood MetroPark before! Hikers wanting to camp while backpacking will have to follow these instructions:

1. With at least 30-days' notice, hikers MUST complete a miscellaneous special permit application located at <http://metroparks.org/permits/>. A \$10 fee will apply.

2. Await final communication from the park manager of the two parks to confirm their camping permit.

Five Rivers MetroParks requests hikers complete the form with as much information as possible, including the proposed camping location, but most importantly, complete the application with at least 30-days' notice. This will begin the process with the park manager who will contact the applicant to clarify any information or suggest an alternate location. If dates are variable because of a long distance hiking schedule, please include that in the application. The permit system may be temporary since Five Rivers MetroParks is currently working on a Comprehensive Master Planning process, which may include identifying potential primitive campsite locations in each of the parks.

The other update is that Camp Widewater is now allowing hikers to camp on their property while through-hiking the trail. The camp

is located along the Miami, Wabash and Erie Canal towpath trail in Henry County, east of Napoleon. The camp is run by the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church. The Buckeye Trail Association would like to thank Camp Widewater for their hospitality toward hikers on our trail!

Work continues toward development of more campsites along the trail. 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. Stay tuned, we hope to have more updates soon!



So You Want to be a Trail Runner?

Vince Rucci

Guess what??? It's easy to get out and run trails! It all starts with a plan for achieving your goals and knowing where to find the best running trails. With trail running shoes and Smartwool socks on your feet, it is now officially "Go" time! In northeast Ohio, the trails are abundant and the Buckeye Trail provides the perfect gateway to trail running. Ascending and descending on trails is a great workout. Once your confidence is established and your base fitness allows for extending your adventures, you can begin to seek out more challenging trails.

Ratings of these trails is a scale of 1 to 5 (1 =easy and 5 = difficult)

Pine Lane Trailhead – Cuyahoga Valley National Park – Trail Rating 3

North on Buckeye Trail

Enjoy single track trails, stream crossings, and pine lush forest!

Boston Store Trailhead – Cuyahoga Valley National Park – Trail Rating 5

North on Buckeye Trail

Big climbs, access to waterfalls, and more big climbs!

Jaite Trailhead - Cuyahoga Valley National Park – Trail Rating 4

North on Buckeye Trail towards Ottawa Point

Oak Grove Picnic Area – Brecksville Reservation – Trail Rating 2

West on Buckeye Trail towards Rt. 21

The Buckeye Trail splits about 1 mile into the run.

Continue heading west and enjoy the views of Deer Lick Cave.

If deciding to head south, the run will bring you towards Ottawa Point.



Vince Rucci on a trail run

Following the Blue Blazes for a trail run is a great experience! Out and back trail runs allow for setting a distance/time goal, lowering the risk of getting lost, and establishing benchmarks for future trail runs. Remember to have fun, be safe, and enjoy the journey!

Welcome New Members!

Bev and Jerry Starcher

Joyce Appel, East Brady, PA
Paul and Margaret Beno, Euclid, OH
Lee Blair, Morral, OH
Janet Bly and Family, Bellbrook, OH
Sarah Bojorquez, Cincinnati, OH
Bryan Brightman, South Charleston, OH
Alicia Caton, Shawnee, OH
Mike Chapple, Granger, IN
Chris Chidsey, Brunswick, OH
Emily Collins and Family, Kent, OH
Greg DeVor, Rocky River, OH
Ian Dowden, Dublin, OH
Patrick Fanelli, Harrison, OH
Jerald Fennell, Elm Grove, WI
Mike Flanders, Cincinnati, OH
Andrea Goetting, Bowling Green, OH
Henry Greeb, Rockford, MI
Mark Henry, Columbus, OH
Paul Henry, Hermitage, PA
Christine Hill and Family, Kirtland, OH
Clark Hogan, Napoleon, OH
Steve and Janine Holekamp, Somerset, OH
Woodruff Jackson, Cincinnati, OH
Lorana Jinkerson, Marquette, MI
Bruce Jones, Peninsula, OH
Kristen Kepler, Tuxedo, NY, Gift from Hulls
Michelle Kirby, Lancaster, OH

Graham Korte, Cincinnati, OH
Jacob and Katelyn Lance, Dover, OH
Joshua Lawwill, Cincinnati, OH
LeAnn Leas, Wintersville, OH
Rose Lengyel, Bolivar, OH
Rosemary Lipnicki, Cleveland, OH
Carolyn Little, Arlington, VA
Nan Long, Columbus, OH
Kimberly Love-Ottobre, Newcomerstown, OH
Ted Lozier, New Philadelphia, OH
Greg Madachik, Lakewood, OH
Robert Maher, Athens, OH
Joan Marshall, Strongsville, OH
Sarah Matheny, Akron, OH
Jackie Maynard, Stow, OH
Edwin McCardel, Howard, OH
David McCoy, Glouster, OH
Jacob McCoy, Glouster, OH
Karen McNeal, Rootstown, OH
Louise Michaels, Bolivar, OH
Wendy Miller, Parma, OH
Tom Moberg, Fargo, ND
Erik Morris, Columbus, OH
Katherine Nash and Family, Orlando, FL
Bill Nightingale, Eastlake, OH
Angela Notte, Cleveland, OH

Marisa Pahoulis, Painesville, OH, Gift from
Tim Murphy
Joyce Parlette, Columbus, OH
Barb and Brian Pavsek, Maple Grove, MN
Larry Pio, Portage, MI
Ralph & Megan Protano, Fairview Park, OH
Jasmen Rand, Wintersville, OH
James Reed, Glouster, OH
Heather Rodenborg & Family, Delaware, OH
Jennifer Simpson, Malvern, OH
Peg Smith, Canal Fulton, OH
David Stock, Davison, MI
Kevin Sullivan, South Point, OH
Irene Szabo, Mt. Morris, NY
Doug Thomas, Bloomington, MN
Sally Thompson, Albany, OH
Ted Valarinos, Akron, OH
Nora Vetarius, Akron, OH
Melissa Wales and Greg Kessler, Athens, OH
Lynda Warner, Mayfield Hts., OH
Cathy Winters, Dover, OH
Richard Witt and Family, Columbus, OH
Sarah Yoder, Dover, OH
Gabriel Zannetti, Lancaster, OH
Carol Zazubek, Bloomington, MN



2nd Annual Buckeye Trail Run

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

Saturday, October 1, 2016

WHERE: Start and End at the BTA Office,
127B West Main Street, Shawnee, Ohio 43782

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!

Schedule of Hikes & Events



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

SEPTEMBER

September 17-21

Buckeye Trail Crew: Mogadore Section - West Branch State Park

Description: This work week will be installing a bridge across another wet area. We will meet at the day use parking lot of the Bridle Trails. Plan on meeting at 8:00 AM Saturday and Sunday to begin working.

Camping: Free camping at the end of the road leading to the Horse Camping area (2 miles from the Bridle Trail day use parking lot). N 410 8.901' W 810 8.238'. The gate leading to the camping area will be unlocked by 5 pm on Friday. Showers available in main campground

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

Contact: Steve Latza at green.boonie@gmail.com

September 21- 25

Buckeye Trail Crew: 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 Trail Run Marathon

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

Information: See page 13 for more information

October 15-16

Buckeye Trail Crew: 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: See camping information for September 17 event

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

Contact: Steve Latza green.boonie@gmail.com

October 15-16

Camp Tuscazoar

Description: Camp Tuscazoar will host its annual Fall Flapjack Flip pancake breakfast from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the camp dining hall to raise funds for the historic camp. Visit www.tuscazoar.org for more information

October 15-19

Buckeye Trail Crew: 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 and Norwalk Sections

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. It's about 10 minutes east of I-71 Morse Road exit. The complex is located between Karl Road and Cleveland Avenue on the south side of Morse Road. Folks will have to check in at the gatehouse, provide an ID and receive a temporary visitor's pass.

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



Even more with chapters on Meetup!

Chuckwagon Reservations

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

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



BTA 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.

MAY 2016 - AUGUST 2016

BARN FUND

Patricia Cook

TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND

Henry Greeb

GENERAL FUND

Adrian & Sandi Achtermann
Buckeye Winnies, Sandra Geesaman,
In memory of Gordon Rice.
Don Burrell
Rebecca Chapman
Donald Chubb
Jeanette DeSimone
Garry & Sydney Dill
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund

Kyle Forrester
GE Foundation
Harvey Harris
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Janet VanAntwerp.
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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.

Buckeye Trail Association

P.O. Box 5
Shawnee, Ohio 43782

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www.buckeyetrail.org/membership.html