

BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Trailblazer



FOUNDED 1959

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Campsite & Shelter Development Update

Richard Lutz

Ah, here we are again and the Buckeye Trail Association has been working hard to establish more campsites along the trail. This time, we have two updates for new campsites along the trail. One of the new locations is at the City of St. Marys and the other is courtesy of the Black Swamp Conservancy. Here are some more details!

The City of St Marys has given approval for overnight camping north of High Street along the Miami and Erie Canal. The new campsite is used occasionally for event volunteers along the canal. The City requires hikers to contact the police department in advance before setting up camp. More details on the specific location will be listed soon as a map update on the Buckeye Trail Association website at www.buckeyetrail.org/overview.php. Click on St Marys for up-to-date information.

The second new site is courtesy of the Black Swamp Conservancy at their

headquarters outside Pemberville, Ohio. The site is currently two miles off the trail but is one of the few options available in an area that is mostly farmland. The Black Swamp Conservancy asked to be contacted at least 24 hours prior to camping. More information on this site will be located soon as a map update on the website listed above, but under the link for the Pemberville Section.

With these and many other sites along the trail, please remember that our partners are extending a courtesy to us and the hiking community and they ask us to respect the rules and regulations for each site. The BTA owns and manages only a few sites along the trail so keeping all sites open and available to everyone is important for current and future users of the Buckeye Trail, American Discovery Trail and the North Country National Scenic Trail!



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President's Message

Connie Pond

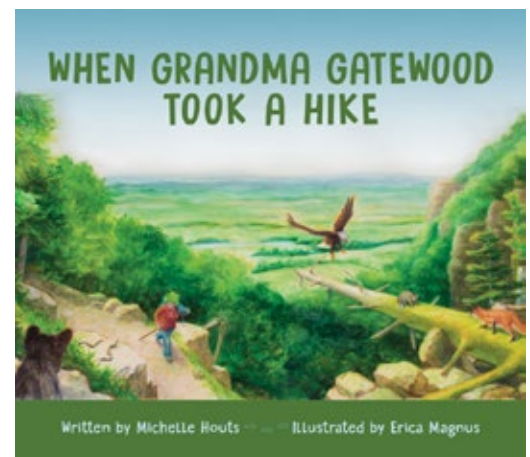


Connie Pond

Are you starting to wonder about what to give to the person who has everything? How about a copy of the BT's own book, *Follow the Blue Blazes*? From the startling rock formations and graceful waterfalls of Old Man's Cave, to Native American mounds, battlefields, and scenic rivers, this book provides a captivating guide to often-overlooked treasures around the state. Each chapter features an overview of a 100-mile section of the trail and three self-guided featured hikes. The overviews and the accompanying maps may be read consecutively to acquaint you with the entire course of the trail. Each short hike is outlined on an easy-to-read map with GPS coordinates and waypoints to guide the hiker, as well as explicit directions from parking lot to trailhead. The Buckeye Trail is readily accessible from Cincinnati, Dayton, Toledo, Cleveland, and Akron. Even a short trip can lead to an adventure near your own backyard.

While you are at it, how about a companion gift for the young hiker... *When Grandma Gatewood Took a Hike*. It took her two tries, but in 1955, sixty-seven-year-old Emma "Grandma" Gatewood became the first woman to solo hike the entire length of the Appalachian Trail in one thru-hike. Gatewood has become a legend for those who enjoy hiking, especially in her home state of Ohio, where she helped found the Buckeye Trail. Children ages 4-10 will delight in this narrative nonfiction work as they accompany Emma Gatewood on the adventure of a lifetime and witness her transformation from grandmother to hiking legend, becoming "Grandma" to all.

To purchase these books, while supporting the Buckeye Trail, go to buckeyetrail.org/store.



On the Trail

Andrew Bashaw



Andrew Bashaw

A peak fall day at Burr Oak State Park was only improved by the company of hikers from the five Buckeye Trail Chapters that converged for a joint backpacking trip. Hiking, backpacking and cross country navigation are my passions, but for this phase of life I am content to nurture a similar love of the outdoors with our daughter, which means gently increasing the number of nights away from home in a tent and the number of feet she will enjoy hiking in between her higher priority

of exploring what is interesting along the trail. She gives me an opportunity to see the Buckeye Trail through a different pair of eyes. With her I focus more on what could be adventurous for a new hiker rather than just the technical aspects of trail conditions that need to be improved (the curse of a hiker/trail adopter). I am very thankful to her for reminding me how to truly enjoy the trail experience.

Each of the BTA Chapter Leaders who helped initiate and carry out this particular backpacking trip also inspire me. My mind wandered down the trail of the Buckeye Trail Association and leadership. The definition of 'leadership' turns out to be really boring, but the definition of 'transformational leadership' seems a lot more applicable. Transformational leadership is "an approach that causes change in individuals and social systems. In its ideal form, it creates valuable and positive change in the followers with the end goal of developing followers into leaders" (James MacGregor Burns, 1978).

I also have in my mind that leadership involves giving of oneself in service to a cause that benefits others. I see a lot of selflessness in the BTA that creates joy and/or satisfaction for others. I like the quote attributed to John Quincy Adams, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." This is what I see in our BT leaders.

I am inspired by BTA volunteers and members like you for your leadership all along the BT. Running through a mental list are countless examples of individuals who exhibit positive leadership in service to the mission of the BTA. Here's what I see daily:

- Families leading children and friends out on their first adventure on the BT
- BTA Trail Adopters leading hikers by clearing the trail and painting those blue blazes
- The Blue Blaze Society leading the effort to give back in support of the good work of the BTA

- Elected BTA Board Members leading the BTA through complicated decisions, budgets and priorities
- Hike leaders organizing hikers on day hikes, overnight backpack trips and Section Hikes
- Leadership from nonprofit, agency, public land manager, and city partners in developing and promoting the BT
- Individual volunteers conceiving and implementing initiatives that engage new audiences for the BT
- Chapter Leaders helping to develop local events to get more boots on the trail while assisting with developing the structure for a solid chapter system at the same time.
- BTA staff leading us through the complicated needs of land owner negotiation, volunteer and membership program development, fundraising, event organizing, and more.
- Volunteers initiating and carrying out BTA Member Drives around the state
- Buckeye Trail Crew volunteers giving up a day or week and the cost of ibuprofen to clear, extend and connect our off road hiking experiences together.
- Teams of BTA members and volunteers giving up weekends and evenings to create wonderful events such as the EGGS Hike, Run for Blue Blazes Marathon, and Buckeye TrailFest.
- BTA Members like you who lead by example, supporting the development and improvement of the trail you love.
- And, of course, much more

Few of these activities are easy; most require patience and giving up some of the pure fun of hiking so that many others can be introduced to the joy and satisfaction to be found along the BT. So, while our Chapter leaders gave of their time and energy to help other BTA members discover and enjoy the trail at Burr Oak and I enjoyed following our daughter over the hills looking for magical creatures... Heritage Ohio and the Ohio Hill Country Heritage Area recognized the BTA and our inspiring practices. We will be honored with others this December at the Ohio Statehouse for our inspiring success story in Appalachian Ohio because of the type of leadership mentioned above.

The BTA is blessed with great leaders who are helping to transform the BT little by little, hiker by hiker, each day. Thank you for making the choice to support your trail through membership, you are leading by example. If you'd like to take the next step – encourage others to follow your lead in supporting our great cause to enjoy Ohio from the Buckeye Trail.

Hope to see you out on the trail this winter!

Hike 100 Challenge 2016

Amelia Rhodes

Throughout 2016, we've been celebrating the National Park Service's Centennial Anniversary with a Hike 100 Challenge on the North Country National Scenic Trail. Anyone who hikes 100 miles on the NCNST will receive a commemorative patch and certificate.

Over 5,000 individuals and families signed up for the Hike 100 Challenge. To date, we've had 1,052 finishers from 24 states plus Canada. So far, 78 of those finishers are from Ohio.

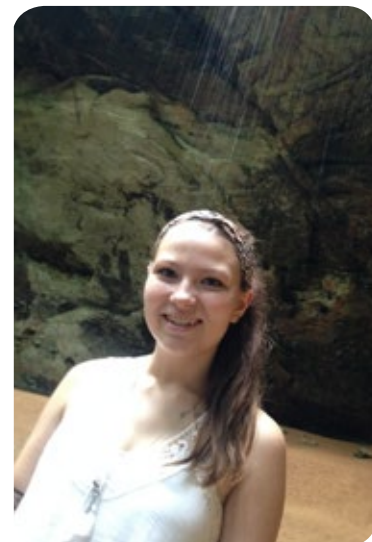
Here are a few inspiring stories from Ohio finishers!

"The miles I've logged so far have been very special ones. As an introvert by nature, I've had the great fortune to connect to a variety of people through Meetups who share the same goals in completing the hikes along the BT and NCT. Though these fellow hikers we meet come from vastly different perspectives and backgrounds, the support and acceptance is encouraging. Each one of the people I've joined along the way shares an adventurous, wandering spirit. It's as if we each share a feeling of relief when we begin to move, distancing our temporary workaday lifestyles with every step while a panorama of land surrounds us and moves alongside of us. It's wonderful."

- Kyle Browning

"It was a great way to spend our summer before my daughter started college. She began to look forward to where I had planned our next "walk-a-bout." My favorite place was Old Man's Cave, hers was Serpent Mound, but in the end we both learned new things about the trails and ourselves."

-Lisa Evans



Lisa Evans' daughter at Old Man's Cave



Richard Morgan persevering in spite of his broken ankle

"Initially began my quest with all good intent of completing the 100-mile challenge by late April. A broken ankle and slow recovery made my goal harder to reach. I managed to complete the task while wearing an orthopedic boot. I'm also working on completing the Buckeye Trail...for the second time."

-Richard Morgan

"My 66th birthday was celebrated on the trail with hiking buddy, Karen, 68. We accepted the North Country Trail's 100-mile hike challenge at the Buckeye TrailFest in May and are having the best year of our lives. We have walked through and explored historic Zoar, and the lakes of Atwood, Tappan, Clendening, and Piedmont. When possible, friends Margie and Cathy would join us. When the trail got tough, we would take a break with water and protein and giggles and set out with renewed determination. Our scrapbook overflows with amazing memories. Looking forward to the next challenge!!"

-Ginger Sayre

For more information about the Hike 100 Challenge visit www.northcountrytrail.org/hike100challenge. Stay tuned for details on a new challenge for 2017! We'll be announcing details on our website before the end of the year.



Ginger Sayre with her hiking buddy Karen



2017 Schedule of Hikes & Events



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

JANUARY

January 16, 2017

MLK Day Winter Hike at Hueston Woods

January 21, 2017

Hocking Hills Winter Hike

January 21-22, 2017

BT Circuit Hike

Location: Whipple Section

Contact: Jim Gilkey at 614-879-9912

January 25, 2017

Piqua Membership Drive

Description: See article on page 13

Location: 311 Draft House is located at 311 N. Main St., Piqua, OH 45356

Contact: Event Coordinator Chris

Schmiesing at cschmiesing@piquaoh.org for details or Andy Niekamp at andyniekamp@gmail.com for registration information

FEBRUARY

February 4, 2017

Findley Winter Hike

February 5, 2017

Strouds Run Winter Hike

February 11, 2017

BRRRRR Oak Winter Hike & Campout

February 18-19, 2017

BT Circuit Hike

Location: Norwalk Section

Contact: Jim Gilkey at 614-879-9912

MARCH

March 4, 2017

BTA Board Meeting

Location: 10:00 AM at the ODNR office at 2045 Morse Rd, Bldg. E-1, Columbus, OH 43229. It is ten minutes east of I-71 at the Morse Rd exit. The complex is located between Karl Rd and Cleveland Ave on the south side of Morse Rd. Folks will have to check in at the gatehouse, provide an ID and receive a temporary visitor's pass.

Contact: president@buckeyetrail.org

March 11-15, 2017

Buckeye Trail Crew: Old Man's Cave Section - Hocking Hills State Park

Description: New trail construction, heavy trail maintenance, vegetation management, bridge, puncheon, or boardwalk construction, rock work (boulders, steps, cribbing, walls, stepping stones, etc.)

Camping: Hocking Hills State Park Campground with heated showers and flush toilets (GPS coordinates 39.43806, -82.53761)

Meals: This is a chuckwagon event.

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

March 18-19, 2017

Warrior 150 Hiking Challenge: Hike #1

Description: See article on page 12

Location: Troy to Dayton on the BT, distance is 41 kilometers (25 miles).

March 25-26, 2017

BT Circuit Hike

Location: Whipple Section. Check BTA website for details

Contact: Jim Gilkey at 614-879-9912

APRIL

April 8-9, 2017

Buckeye Trail Crew: Old Man's Cave Section - Pretty Run

Description: New trail construction, vegetation management, rock work (boulders, steps, cribbing, walls, stepping stones, etc.)

Camping: Camping will be at the Pretty Run property (GPS coordinates 39.34975, -82.62427)

Meals: Bring your own food and water

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

April 22-23, 2017

Warrior 150 Hiking Challenge: Hike #2

Description: See article on page 12

Location: Spencerville to Minister on the BT along the historic Miami Erie Canal Towpath, distance is 41 kilometers (25 miles).

April 27-30, 2017

Buckeye TrailFest at Yellow Springs

Description: Visit the BTA Trailfest website for complete details buckeyetrailfest.org

April 30, 2017

BTA Annual Membership Meeting during TrailFest at Yellow Springs

MAY

May 6-10, 2017

Buckeye Trail Crew: Medina Section - Cleveland MetroParks, Brecksville Reservation

Description: Heavy trail maintenance, rock work (boulders, steps, cribbing, walls, stepping stones, etc.), tent platform construction

Meals: This is a chuckwagon event.

Camping: Cleveland MetroParks Ottawa Point Picnic area (GPS coordinates 41.30163, -81.60005)

Note: the portable hot shower will be available on site

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

May 20-21, 2017

BT Circuit Hike

Location: Whipple Section. Check BTA website for details

Contact: Jim Gilkey at 614-879-9912

May 20-24, 2017

Buckeye Trail Crew: Stockport Section - AEP

Description: Re-benching the trail tread, vegetation management, paint blazes

Camping: AEP's Hook Lake, Campground A (GPS Coordinates 39.72945, -81.70509)

Meals: This is a chuckwagon event.

Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org

JUNE

June 3, 2017

National Trails Day

BTA Barn Directions

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

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

Chuckwagon Reservations

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

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

June 3, 2017

Warrior 150 Hiking Challenge: Hike #3

Description: See article on page 12

Location: The Twin Valley Trail Challenge on National Trails Day near Dayton. Distance is 44 kilometers (27 miles).

June 3-4, 2017

Buckeye Trail Crew: Defiance Section - Farnsworth/Providence MetroParks

Description: Assist Toledo MetroParks to trim back foliage along the Towpath trail

Camping: Farnsworth MetroPark Boat Launch 8801 S River Rd., Waterville (GPS Coordinates 41.4769, -83.74926)

Meals: Bring your own food and water

June 3-4, 2017

Buckeye Trail Crew: Shawnee Section - Ballinger Property

Description: We will be mowing and pruning

Camping: Ballinger property, tent camping only (GPS Coordinates 38.81119, -83.26958)

Meals: Bring your own food and water

June 10, 2017

BTA Board Meeting

Location: Tecumseh Theater in the Historic Village of Shawnee

Contact: president@buckeyetrail.org

June 17-21, 2017

Buckeye Trail Crew: Road Fork Section

Description: New trail construction, re-benches the trail tread, vegetation management, bridge, puncheon, or boardwalk construction. This will take place at the Lamping Homestead, Caldwell Lake, or near Point 22 of the Road Fork Map.

Camping: Camping may be at Wolf Run State Park. Will update with any new information. Camping GPS coordinates 39.79133, -81.54037

Meals: This is a chuck wagon event.

June 22-25, 2017

E.G.G.S. Hike

Description: 4 hiking challenges consisting of 20, 40, 60, and 80 miles that need to be completed in 12, 24, 36, and 48 hours respectively

Meals: This is a chuck wagon event

JULY

July 8-12, 2017

Buckeye Trail Crew: Whipple & Road Fork Sections

Description: Trail maintenance of the Road Fork and Whipple Sections' off road areas. This will include chainsawing downed trees, mowing, weed-whacking, pruning, and possibly repainting blazes.

Camping: Camping will be at the Little Muskingum Watershed Association building, located at SR26 and Thomas Ridge Rd (T 88). Hot showers and flush toilets are available in the building. Donations to the LMWA for use of the facilities are appreciated. Camping GPS

coordinates 39.54184, -81.22484

Meals: This is a chuck wagon event.

AUGUST

August 18-20, 2017

BTA Board Retreat

Location: BTA Barn near Deersville. See directions on opposite page

Contact: president@buckeyetrail.org

August 26-27, 2017

Warrior 150 Hiking Challenge: Hike #4

Description: See article on page 12

Location: Caesar State Park end-to-end on the Buckeye Trail. No paved trail here. This one is all-on-dirt footpath in the woods. Distance is 35 kilometers (22 miles).

SEPTEMBER

September 9-11, 2017

Buckeye Trail Crew: St. Marys Section - Newport

Description: Construction of box steps at the site of the Newport BTA Bridge washout on the Miami and Erie Canal towpath, just west of point 10 on the March 2014 St. Marys Section map.

Camping: Camping will be at the Lake Loramie State Park Campground (GPS coordinates 40.36043, -84.35867)

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

September 16-17, 2017

Buckeye Trail Crew: Belle Valley Section

Description: TBD

Camping: TBD

Meals: TBD

OCTOBER

October 7, 2017

Run for Blue Blazes

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

October 7-8, 2017

Warrior 150 Hiking Challenge: Hike #5

Location: Yellow Springs to Dayton on the Buckeye Trail. Distance is 37 kilometers (23 miles).

October 14-18, 2017

Buckeye Trail Crew: New Straitsville Section

Description: Reroute trail off-road in the Athens Unit of the Wayne National Forest from West Old Stone Church Trail Head.

Camping: TBD

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

October 21-22, 2017

Buckeye Trail Crew: Old Mans Cave Section - Pretty Run Preserve

Description: Vegetation management; hopefully building a privy

Camping: Camping will be at the Pretty Run property (GPS coordinates 39.34987, -82.62431)

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

NOVEMBER

November 4-8, 2017

Buckeye Trail Crew: West Union Section - Edge of Appalachia

Description: Continue building new trail from where we left off in September 2016.

Camping: Near the maintenance building at 3223 Waggoner Riffle Rd. Camping GPS coordinates 38.74836, -83.46397

Meals: This is a Chuck Wagon Event, but new for 2017, there will be a \$2.XX charge for each meal to help defray escalating costs.

Note: The portable hot shower will be available on site.

November 11, 2017

Warrior 150 Hiking Challenge: Celebration Hike

Location: Downtown Dayton to the Dayton VA Medical Center. Distance is 8 kilometers (5 miles).

DECEMBER

December 9, 2017

BTA Board Meeting

BTA Board Meeting

Location: 10:00AM at the ODNR office at 2045 Morse Road, Bldg. E-1, Columbus, OH 43229. It is 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@buckeyetrail.org



Even more events
with BTA chapters on

Meetup

25 Miles on the BT

Karen "Tagalong" Power

"How's your ice?" Randall "Buckeye Commander" Roberts asked.

"Fine," I replied, fishing a bug out of the Styrofoam cup that held the last bits of refreshment from an ice cream stop on the edge of town in Woodville. After 20.6 miles of walking and talking, conversation was beginning to languish.

Buckeye Commander ("the Commander" for short) and I are both dedicated Buckeye Trail (BT) circuit hikers and regular participants in Jim Gilkey's BT monthly circuit hikes. We love Jim's hikes. We so appreciate that he does the logistical planning of determining start/end point locations, figuring out where to stage cars, finding campsites, and posting hikes.

Every so often, one of us (or both) need to miss one of Jim's scheduled hikes. This happened to be the case for the Pemberville section hike in August. The Commander, a newly elected BTA board member, was attending a board members' retreat, and I was off to Maine to solo hike the 100-mile Wilderness while Jim and the other "regulars" spent the weekend covering 25 miles of a section in Pemberville. Both the Commander and I needed to make-up the miles before the next hike. That's how we ended up on this one-day, BT death march.

I was fully aware of the Commander's history and background. He is a Navy Commander (ret.), city engineer for Oberlin, and, equally (if not more) significant, a 20-, 40-, and 60-mile patch holder for E.G.G.S. So, I knew if I suggested making up the entire 25 miles in a day, he'd be on board.

What was I thinking? Surely any forethought on my part would have revealed the many pitfalls of covering 25 miles in a day.

How to best share this experience? I decided to describe it as a series of phases, so here goes:

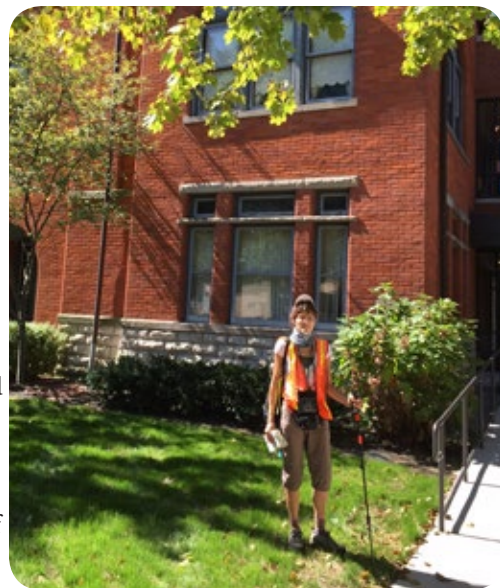
1. The "isn't this fun?" phase. This phase occurred at the start of the hike when I was fresh and without pain.
2. The "I need real food because I'll scream if I have to eat another protein bar" phase. This phase started about two hours into the hike when I realized that the only snacks I packed were protein bars. The feeling went away after lunch, but then came roaring back in full fury as soon as lunch was digested. By that time, I was out of protein bars.
3. The "I wish I would stop talking" phase. For some reason, I felt compelled to fill up air space with information, stories, and general commentary about the surroundings. Some stories I repeated twice because I forgot that the Commander had already heard them. I was sure he was wishing the same thing.
4. The "I hate hiking" phase. This phase occurred well after the mid-point. Body parts were now starting to hurt. Hot spots on the feet. Aching knees. Muscles in the calf that I was convinced would be numb by the time I reached the end of the hike. Stiff muscles in the back, shoulder, arm, upper thigh, buttocks. Yes, every body part was feeling the effects of the constant movement.
5. The "how much farther?" phase. I must have asked the Commander this question 15 times during the last seven miles. Each time, I would mentally compute distance, speed, and arrival time, thinking that the idea of making progress would somehow soothe my tired feet.
6. The "people on bikes and skates irritate me" phase. The bikers and roller bladers that we walked passed (or who passed us), looked generally happy. They were definitely making better time wherever they were headed and probably would arrive at their destinations without pain. For some reason, I found this irritating.

However, I did appreciate the Commander's words of encouragement:

- No, I don't think you're talking too much.
- Oh, come on! This is just like hiking the 20 miler at E.G.G.S. only without the patch.
- I'm starting to get blisters, too (which I didn't quite buy).

The best encouragement, however, was the wonderful day we had. The weather was perfect for hiking—sunny, with temperatures in the low 70s. We talked about hiking. We talked about the BT. I listened intently to the Commander's innovative ideas about promoting the BT. He's creative and has ideas that got me truly excited about the trail (ask him about his plan to hike the Little Loop in a day).

We paused for a photo in front of the restored Pemberville Town Hall and Opera House. I tried to imagine what this area looked like during the late 1800s at the height of the oil boom in Northwest Ohio. We stopped in Beeker's Country Store for kettle corn. I chatted with the counter clerk in Subway about the Buckeye Trail. We saw farmers in their fields harvesting the last of the tomatoes and cabbages. We passed a former railroad station in Elmore. The size of the building told us it was probably a very busy train station in its glory days. A biker stopped to chat with us simply because he said that we looked like BT hikers. Yes, it was a good day. And the hike was a good reminder for me of why I love hiking the BT. It is the best way to experience Ohio.



Tagalong at Pemberville Town Hall Opera House

Buckeye Trail Crew Update

Tracey Anderson

As our scheduled work parties came to a close, our volunteers enjoyed the beauty only Mother Nature can provide us: color changes, falling leaves and Ohio's unpredictable weather. Not only did we accomplish a lot of needed work, but we also enjoyed our campfires and sadly said our winter goodbyes. Here is a brief summary of what our volunteers have been up to:

Edge of Appalachia Work Party (September 7-11): Trail building continued in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy. Three quarters of a mile was completed from West Fork Road. This project is separate from the contribution of work that is part of the Clean Ohio Trails Fund grant project next year.

New Straitsville Work Party (September 21-25): With fourteen volunteers, normal trail maintenance (weed eating, trimming, trail clearing, trail re-benching and re-blazing where needed) continued. Prior to this scheduled work party, several volunteers worked independently in other areas assessing what still needed to be completed in preparation for the Run for the Blue Blazes Marathon.

Bowerston Work Party (October 15 – 19): Fifteen volunteers and six new volunteers (including our own Sally Sugar, who experienced her first trail work party) worked diligently to build 0.6 miles of new trail in order to keep our hikers safe and off road. This re-route involved moving a lot of dirt and large rocks as well as new blazing, of course. We hope you enjoy this beautiful new trail.



New trail construction at Edge of Appalachia

Richard Lutz



Sally Sugar benching trail at the Bowerston work party

Richard Lutz



Newly finished trail at Bowerston

Richard Lutz

With winter just around the corner, we encourage you to continue enjoying the Buckeye Trail. Our volunteers have worked rigorously to ensure your hike is memorable. The Buckeye Trail is truly beautiful, regardless of the season, and there is always something new to experience.

BTA Scholarship

Ruth Brown

Students who are BTA members or whose parents or grandparents are BTA members are eligible to apply for a BTA scholarship for college. Two \$500 scholarships are available each year. Details can be found on the Buckeye Trail website under the scholarship section at www.buckeyetrail.org/scholarship.php. The application must be received by April 1, 2017. The scholarships will be awarded at the end of April during the 2017 Buckeye TrailFest.

The one recipient of the scholarship in 2016 was Eric Berger who is attending the University of California, Berkeley with a double major in Environmental Economics and Policy & Political Science.

Join a Chapter of the BTA

Bob Litt

Recent issues of the “Trailblazer” have featured articles about local chapters; why the sudden emphasis on chapters?

From the BTA website: “Chapters are localized efforts taking on the challenge of the mission of the Association along the Buckeye Trail around Ohio. Chapters are busily building, maintaining, protecting and promoting the use of Ohio’s longest scenic hiking trail for our citizens, communities and partners in Ohio. They provide outdoor recreation, opportunities to volunteer, education, access to the varied resources Ohio, and local economic benefits along the Buckeye Trail.”

The BTA chapters use Meetup as a means of communicating event details. Please visit the BTA Meetup page at <http://www.meetup.com/pro/buckeyetrail/> to find chapter events.

What chapters currently are available? The following are the five local chapters that currently exist. It is anticipated that more may be added in the future.



Crooked River Chapter

www.meetup.com/Crooked-River-Chapter-Buckeye-Trail-Association

This chapter focuses on the Akron, Bedford, Burton and Mogadore sections of the BT.



Central Ohio Chapter

www.meetup.com/BuckeyeTrailFriends

This chapter offers additional central Ohio events as well as activities for all of the BT. Central Ohio comprises Franklin and adjacent counties: Delaware, Licking, Fairfield, Pickaway, Madison and Union..



Little Cities of the Forest Chapter

www.meetup.com/BTALittleCitiesChapter

This chapter focuses on southeast Ohio and the Stockport, New Straitsville, and Old Man’s Cave sections of the BT.



Miami Rivers Chapter

www.meetup.com/miamiriverchapter

This chapter focuses on the Cincinnati-Dayton area and the Williamsburg, Loveland, Caesar Creek, and Troy sections of the BT.



Muskingum Lakes Chapter

www.meetup.com/muskingumlakeschapter

This chapter focuses on eastern Ohio and the Massilon, Bowerston, and Belle Valley sections of the BT.



What are the benefits of belonging to a BTA chapter? This is a convenient way to connect with other BTA members in your geographical area. The meetup website provides a useful way to communicate about events and to target email to other BTA members. Some examples of how this communication tool may help: carpooling to an event, finding a person who will hike with you and shuttle from finish back to start point, or finding person(s) willing to help with trail maintenance.

What is expected of each BTA chapter? Expectations depend on perspective.

- The BTA board and executives expect each chapter to help build, maintain, promote and support the Buckeye Trail.
- Chapter leaders must be active/current BTA members.
- Members may expect the chapter to organize, communicate and help with local events.
- Each chapter should have at least one big annual event to encourage member participation and fun. An example for 2016 was the multi-chapter backpacking event at Burr Oak State Park held on 28-30 October.
- As part of promoting the BTA, each chapter should have an annual member drive and participate in public outreach communications.

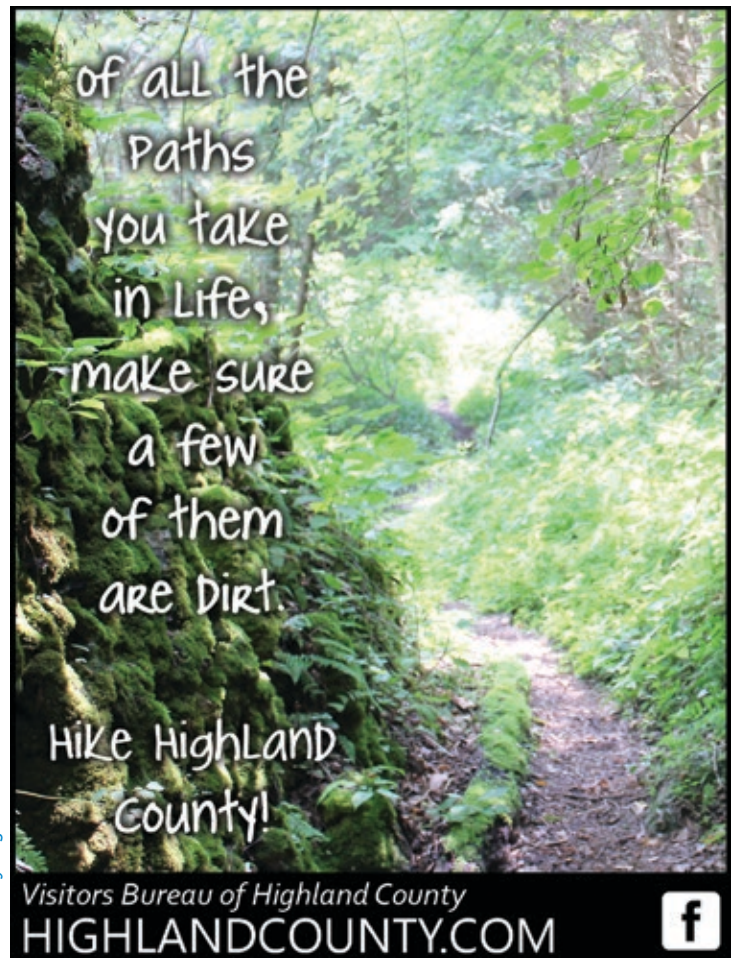
When do chapters meet? Each chapter decides when, where and how they meet. Often meetings may be informal get-togethers to enjoy food and beverages after a hike. Typically an annual meeting is scheduled for election of officers.

What does chapter membership cost? Membership in a local chapter is FREE to all BTA members. Chapters have the option to institute local membership fees in the future but at present there are none.

Conclusion: Active participation in a chapter is a great way to give back to the BT hiking community. Contact your local chapter leadership to find out more about how you can contribute. You'll be glad you did.



BTA accepts Crooked River and Central Ohio chapters



Warrior 150 Hiking Challenge

Andy Niekamp



Mark your calendars! The Dayton VA Medical Center celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2017. To commemorate this important anniversary a year-long series of events is planned including the Warrior 150 Hiking Challenge. Founded two years after the Civil War, and once called the Dayton Soldiers Home, the Dayton VA Medical Center provides services to over 39,000 veterans each year. Veterans are our nation's warriors, and to commemorate their valiant contributions and

service to our nation, you are invited to participate in the Warrior 150 Hiking Challenge. Five challenge hikes, with four on the Buckeye Trail, are planned in 2017 to test your hiking endurance and celebrate our nation's veterans. Hike with veterans, active duty military personnel, the Buckeye Trail Association, Dayton Hikers and the general public.

All hikes are free and open to the public. Event organizers are working with community groups to provide snacks, drinks, and support to hikers along the route.

The hikes can be completed in one or two days. To successfully complete the challenge you must complete four of the five challenge hikes. Any four of the challenge hikes will total at least 150 kilometers (93 miles). Participants will be recognized for completing the challenge.

This is a great way to experience the Buckeye Trail and get some exercise while showing you care about our nation's veterans. The events concludes on Veteran's Day in 2017 with a five mile celebration hike from downtown Dayton to the Dayton VA Medical Center. Get your hiking shoes on, show support to our Veterans, explore the Buckeye Trail and celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Dayton VA Medical Center.

For more information about the Warrior 150 Hiking Challenge, visit <http://www.warrior150challenge.com>

For more information about the Dayton VA Medical Center's 150th Anniversary and a complete list of events, please visit: www.daytonva150.com



DaytonHikers.org



Dayton Area
Backpackers & Hikers
Live To Hike ... Hike To Live

Warrior 150 Challenge Hikes

Challenge Hike #1: March 18-19

Troy to Dayton on the Buckeye Trail. Distance is 41 kilometers (25 miles).

Challenge Hike #2: April 22-23

Spencerville to Minster on the Buckeye Trail on the historic Miami Erie Canal Towpath. Distance is 41 kilometers (25 miles).

Challenge Hike # 3: June 3

The Twin Valley Trail Challenge on National Trails Day near Dayton. Distance is 44 kilometers (27 miles).

Challenge Hike #4 : August 26-27

Caesar State Park on the Buckeye Trail. No paved trail, all-dirt footpath in the woods. Distance is 35 kilometers (22 miles).

Challenge Hike # 5: October 7-8

Yellow Springs to Dayton on the Buckeye Trail. Distance is 37 kilometers (23 miles).

Celebration Hike.: November 11

Downtown Dayton to the Dayton VA Medical Center. Distance is 8 kilometers (5 miles).

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.

AUGUST 2016 - OCTOBER 2016

BARN FUND

Patricia Cook

Scott & Mary Anne Kamph

TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND

Bruce & Kimberly Altmeyer
Jim Gilkey

Henry Greeb
William Schultz & Leslie Floyd

GENERAL FUND

Kenneth Bordwell
Donald Chubb
Cleveland Hiking Club
Garry & Sydney Dill
Margaret Gursky
Patrick & Mary Hayes,
In memory of Elmo Layman & Sean Cottrell

Paul Imhoff Jr.
Dorothea Kratzer
Kroger Community Rewards
Daniel Linnenberg
Elizabeth Marchilena,
In honor of Wyatt Bartel's 2nd Birthday
Laura Dill Morton
Off the Clock Events

Pledgling Foundation
Mary Raver & Lee Otsubo
Lee Tucker
William Wershing
Carol Yegerlehner

RUN FOR BLUE BLAZES TRAIL MARATHON SPONSORSHIP

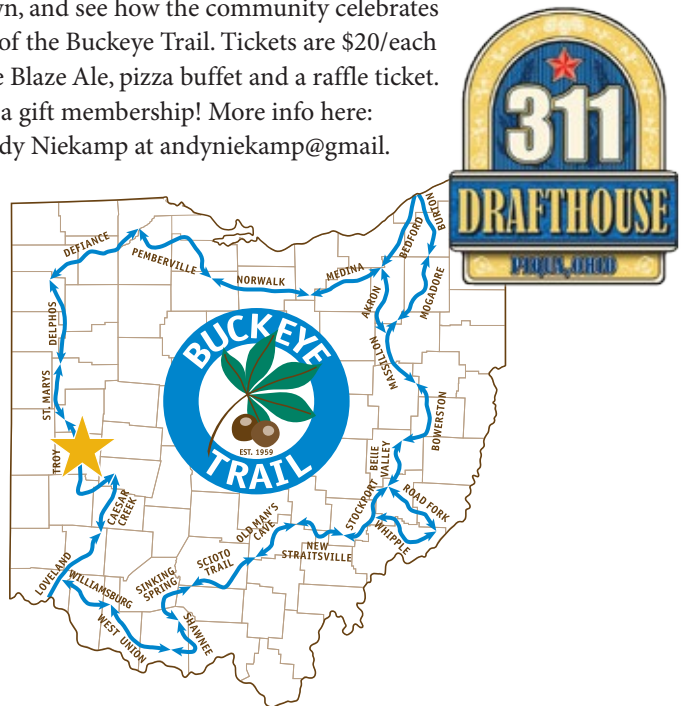
Athens County Convention and Visitor's Bureau
Cabin At The Crossroads
Robert Croye
Fullbrooks Cafe

Gioffre Companies, Inc.
Hocking Hills Tourism Association
Ohio's Hill Country Heritage Area
Peoples Bank

Piqua Membership Drive

Andy Niekamp

Make plans to attend the next Buckeye Trail Association membership drive in Piqua on January 25, 2017! Don't miss this fun evening of socializing, food, drink, five short Buckeye Trail presentations and a raffle drawing. It will be held at the 311 Draft House, one block from the Buckeye Trail. Come visit Piqua, an official Trail Town, and see how the community celebrates the trail. Meet fellow hikers, community leaders and land managers of the Buckeye Trail. Tickets are \$20/each in advance and include a one year membership in the BTA, one Blue Blaze Ale, pizza buffet and a raffle ticket. Are you already a member of the BTA? Then use your ticket to give a gift membership! More info here: <http://www.buckeyetrail.org/memberdrive/piqua.php> or contact Andy Niekamp at andyniekamp@gmail.com.



Welcome New Members!

Bev and Jerry Starcher

Daniel and Lisa Adkins, Newark, Gift from
Scott & Mary Anne Kamph
Kathryn Alger, Mantua
Kyle Altic, Antwerp, Gift from Deborah Altic
Mark Anstaett - ODNR, Columbus
Matt Barratt, Olmsted Falls
Shari Bearce, Chardon
Samantha Beeler, Athens
Nina Belli, Columbus, Gift from Herb &
Susie Hulls
William Brock and Family, Liberty Twp
Collin Burnett, Spencer
Francie Buschur, Galloway
Nick Buschur, Galloway
Abra Campbell, Westerville
Dan Campbell, Mt Gilead
Kevin Carr, Shreve
Todd Cartner - Cartner Photography,
Mogadore
Joy Chappelle, Westerville
Caleb Cole, Athens
Erin Corneliussen, Fairbanks, AK
Shona Cox, Westerville
Mark Cunningham, Dublin
Grant Dennings, Covington
Alan Dennis, Justin, TX
Kim Dennis, Justin, TX
Jeremiah Derr, Bolivar
Tracy Duffner, Lexington, SC
Matt Evans, Liberty Twp
Sieglinde Ewing, Columbus
Katherine Ferguson, Columbus
Nanda Filkin, Athens
Misty Funk, Lakewood
Mindy Gabriel, Columbus
Scott George, Hudson

Ellen Gerl, Athens
Gordon Gifford, Athens
Victoria Giordano, Chesterland
Marcia Goldstein, Athens
Gina Guzowski, Waterville
John Guzowski, Waterville
Daniel Harmon, Thornville
Misty Harmon, Thornville
Kayla Hawkins, Athens
Valerie Henneberger, Columbus
Erin Hess, Columbus
John Hickinbotham, Mansfield
Paul Holden, Athens
Courtney Holland and Family, Canal Win-
chester
Cynthia Holliday, Athens
Thomas Horvath and Family, Chesterland
Penne Huckleberry, Grove City
Todd Husat, Alliance
Leslie Jordan, Westerville
Jane Kiracofe and Family, Lima
Julie Kirby, Santa Fe, NM
Joelle Knoblauch, Millersport
Paul Kopchak, Columbia Station
Frank Kopus, West Liberty
Kathy Lamb, Lebanon
Audrey Larrimer, Athens
Eric Leach, Pickerington
Stephan Lewis, Athens
Kenneth Locke, Louisville
Tyler Mack, Dublin
Jeff McAdoo, Athens
Nicholas McCormish, Columbus
Donna Menigat, Lancaster
Jeremy Milam, Willowick
Jennifer Molinari, Athens

Andrew Moore and Family, Richmond, IN
Rocky Myer, Columbus
Vanessa Myers, Columbus
Adriana Navarro, Jackson
Susan Parsons, Westerville
Nicholas Pease and Family, Crooksville
Stephanie Pilarczyk, Chardon
William Ploughe, Canal Winchester
Douglas Reno, Blacklick
Julie Ridge, Hamiton
Nicholas Riegel, Dublin
Michael Robinson, Athens
Kellie Rohleder, Cincinnati
Vince Rucci - Vertical Runner, Hudson
Lucy Rucker, Mount Perry
Tim Rucker, Mount Perry
Dave Rutherford, Millfield
Emily Rutherford, Granville
Molly Ryan-Fisher, Columbus
Rachel Salberg, Athens
Gwen Schenck, Mantua
Rudolph Siegel, Cincinnati
Brian Smith, Columbus
Anne Smykal, Hinckley
Rob Smykal, Hinckley
Elizabeth Spangler, Millersport
Polly Stidhem, Dublin
Stephanie Suszek, Rochester Hills, MI
Angela Theaker, Upper Arlington
Linda Tingley, Rochester Hills, MI
Dawn Walz, Centerville
Ally Wendt, Columbus
Deb Wilch, Westerville
Christine Wilson, Dayton
Marcia Zuhse, Lakewood



Eastwood MetroPark Eagle Project

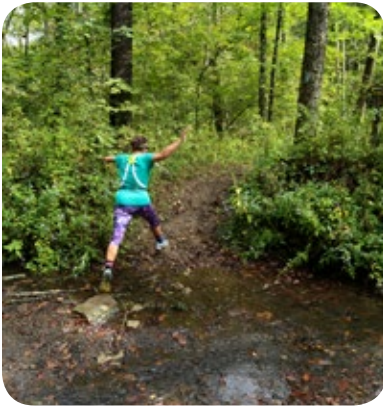
Jack Lynch, BSA Troop 193

The reason I selected to do my Eagle Project on the Buckeye Trail was due to my meeting with Mr. Joe Morrison, Park Manager of the Eastwood MetroPark. He made me aware of a project he would like to get done, which was to replace an old and disheveled staircase on the Buckeye Trail. I wanted to see this project through because I knew that the staircase could greatly benefit the hikers who use the Buckeye Trail. The project took approximately 40 hours on my part, and 100 total volunteer hours from 17 Boy Scouts and 8 adults. The building of the stairs took place over the weekend of October 15th, 2016. I am glad to have made a permanent mark on the Buckeye Trail, and I hope that future users are appreciative of the hard work put into it.



2nd Annual Buckeye Trail Run

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



Join us next year on
October 7, 2017!



Photos by Sally Sugar and Barry Unger

Happy Holidays from the BTA!

We are so thankful for all the support that BTA members, volunteers and hikers like you have given to the BTA!

Together the Buckeye Trail Family accomplishes so much thanks to folks like you. Each year we ask hikers to join the tradition of giving back to the Buckeye Trail by chipping in to support all of our good work. Hiking the BT, becoming a member, volunteering and contributing to the BTA are all helping to create a great future for our next generation.

Visit <http://buckeyetrail.org/appeal.php> to give thanks for all the memories created on your Buckeye Trail by making a year end contribution. Thank you!

