

BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Trailblazer



FOUNDED 1959

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IN THIS ISSUE...

- 2** President's Message
- 4** On the Trail
- 5** Campsite & Shelter Development Update
- 6** The Little Loop Challenge
- 8** 2017 Schedule of Events
- 9** 2018 Schedule of Buckeye Trail Crew Work Parties
- 10** New Trail Easement in Morgan County
- 11** BTA Searching for Trustee Candidates
- 11** Go BIG & Be Kind to the BTA for the Columbus Foundation's Big Give
- 13** Barn Update
- 14** New Members
- 15** BTA Funds Report

President's Message

Steve Walker

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over. Most summers go too fast but this one really flew. The weekday evening hikes in the Massillon Section will soon be only memory except for the numerous photos that Karen takes. We had 2



great encampments at the BTA Barn and the NCTA Celebration in Marquette in late July was a chance to make new friends.

We've just finished the 2017 Board and Staff Retreat and a lot of business was taken care of including the preliminary 2018 Budget. Many hikers joined us from around the State of Ohio including members of the Miami Rivers Chapter, Crooked River Chapter, Central Ohio Chapter, Little Cities of the Forest Chapter and the Muskingum Lakes Chapter who all had a chance to meet their Board, hike the Buckeye Trail, eat some of Mary Hamilton's great cooking and attend the All Chapters Meeting on Saturday evening. (see pictures)

Among the many things that I've done since becoming president was volunteering in the BTA office one day a month. After many discussions with our executive director, Andrew Bashaw, I came to the conclusion that the Buckeye Trail Association might benefit if he could take a sabbatical. I made the offer in June to cover the office for him and we decided that I would spend a week in July at BTA headquarters so that he could stay away from the office and ponder the future of our organization. My promise to him was that I would not bother him during that week and that he should endeavor to not answer his phone for official BTA business. I can only speak to the fact that I did not call or text him that entire week. On Thursday evening, I was surprised to find the fruit of his labor for the week in my inbox. It was a tremendous set of documents and you'll need to read his column to understand.



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COVER

Two hikers participating in the annual Emma Grandma Gatewood Solstice Hike (E.G.G.S.), power through their 20 mile hiking challenge. Photograph by Sally Sugar.

While in the office that week, I was able to observe how our staff functions doing the day to day business of the BTA. It quickly became clear to me that the staff are diligent workers and are dedicated to their duties. They are always looking at ways to improve their performance. As a minor effort on my part to make them aware that I appreciate their efforts, I fixed breakfast for Barry Unger, Sally Sugar and through hiker, Andrew Prill, on Thursday morning (see picture). By necessity, they end up doing a lot of regular work that is far below their skill sets and that brings me to the point that I'm trying to make.



The BTA is made up of volunteers who do the job of maintaining the Buckeye Trail, looking after BTA properties, meeting with local officials and leading events and hikes. Of course, that work is never done and the many folks that make those things happen are to be commended. With that being said, it's very apparent to me that our office staff need our volunteer help as well. This will enable them to do the important things that they are trained for. That is the most efficient use of their time. I've committed to at least one day a month in the office and I'm hoping that there are lots of other BTA members out there who will join me in that commitment.

I'm certain that some of the work does not have to be done in the office if it's not practical for you to come to Shawnee. Many office duties are taken care of by people in their own homes. That list is longer than you might think and I'm not going to take the space here to show it. If you want to be a part of the effort to help our staff to do their jobs better and grow our great organization, please let me know by e-mailing me at president@buckeyetrail.org or calling me at 330-844-7901. I hope that I see you on the Buckeye Trail (or in the BTA office).



On the Trail

Andrew Bashaw



Andrew Bashaw

Taking a break at a Buckeye Trail Crew Work Party, hanging out after a hike at local brewpub, sitting around a campfire, taking notes during a phone call or meeting, facilitating a brainstorming, or reading a Facebook or handwritten note of constructive criticism over the last 10 years... there is no lack of great ideas flowing from BTA members and volunteers of all varieties on what the BTA could or should do to reach our potential. If only we had the capacity to organize and

implement all those ideas...

Thanks to Steve Walker's offer to take some time to gather your thoughts together I had the opportunity to sit down and ponder on the BT. I broke free for a moment from the cycle of reacting to the day to day issues that occur to keep the BTA running, supervising staff, answering urgent requests, preparations for impending events and so on. I started off by writing a laundry list of everything that the BTA does on a regular basis, from organizing the Buckeye Trail Crew effort to the crews of volunteers that organize and promote special events. I came up with nearly 100 different 'programs' on a similar level which confirmed my awe of all of our volunteers and staff and how much they do for Ohio's Buckeye Trail.

One piece of what I came up with is listed below, general statements of what I hear our members, volunteers, hikers, and the unsung partners of the Buckeye Trail, expect, want, or envision.

- An organization that communicates well internally and externally what it is doing and where it is going
- An organization that is run responsibly and efficiently, a collaboration between volunteer leadership and passionate staff.
- A well maintained Buckeye Trail with plenty of volunteers who are properly supported and recognized
- A local BTA Chapter System and/or partners that cover the whole BT that help achieve the mission and vision of the BT locally
- Plenty of hikers achieving their day, section, or thru-hiking goals safely, exceeding their expectations of the quality of experience inspired to support the BTA.
- A permanently protected corridor for the BT in partnership with a multitude of landowners who manage the BT consistently across boundaries.
- That the BT is well known, acknowledged and demonstrably appreciated by the communities we pass through, public agencies and decision makers and the general

public.

- A BTA membership that grows to and sustains at 10,000 members that feels their membership contribution is a wise investment in the growth and maintenance of the BT and BTA.
- The BTA is financially secure with core annual expenses covered so that additional one time financial gifts and grants can be designated more towards great projects on the trail.
- To see the BT and BTA properly acknowledged and respected for nearly 6 decades of achievement
- To see the BTA provide external support and recognition befitting its standing as a leader, respected partner and authority
- A continuing evolution, not a revolution, of the Buckeye Trail Association in terms of budget, professionalism and productivity that retains and fosters our greatest asset, you, our people on the BT.

BTA volunteers, staff and partners are working on all of these interrelated big ideas all of the time. Some we do better than others. None of them have been completely achieved and some have only recently been initiated. My point in sharing this is to remind you that I do not claim to have any original ideas, these are the types of things we hear from you in much more detail. Summarizing them here is hopefully a precursor of more to come, engaging the guidance and participation of your hardworking BTA Board of Trustees, and then reaching out to members, volunteers and partners in the year ahead to focus our teamwork towards initiatives that move us in the direction you expect, want and envision. When you ponder the BT and BTA of tomorrow and the next 60 years what do you see? Do you see your thoughts generally covered in the list above or is something missing? You have positively impacted the Buckeye Trail already by supporting the BTA with your membership, do you see an opportunity to increase your impact?

It can be frustrating for a potential volunteer to offer great ideas or assistance to BTA volunteer leaders or staff that have maxed out the time and energy needed to provide support or guidance. However, we need to be able to include that energy to achieve those big ideas listed above. In the coming year you will be invited to engage in one or all of the items above, your constructive criticism is welcomed, but for now this is just a seed to plant in your mind as you wander along the BT, ponder its future, and your impact.

Hope to see you on the Trail this Fall!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Bashaw". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Andrew Bashaw
Executive Director, Buckeye Trail Association

Campsite & Shelter Development Update

Richard Lutz

Once again, I bring you more camping updates, all of them good news! This issue we have three new updates including one new site and two other camping locations that existed at some point and are now back. None of them would be possible without our partners around the state of Ohio. So here are the updates:

Cleveland Metroparks

A new backpacking campsite has opened in the Brecksville Reservation. There are 3 tent sites that have the capability to house 4 individuals each. The site is via permit only. More information and details on the new site are located at: <https://clevelandmetroparks.com/parks/visit/activities/event-activity-types/backpacking>

Nimisila Reservoir Campground

At the beginning of July, Summit County Metroparks reopened the campground at Nimisila Reservoir. The site had been shut down since the transfer of operations from ODNR to Summit County Metroparks. Sites can be reserved online through Reserve America or at the park district's administrative offices (975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron). Call for office hours and details: 330-867-5511. For more information, visit the park district's website at: <http://www.summitmetroparks.org/camping.aspx>

Independence Dam State Park

Also at the beginning of July, ODNR's Independence Dam State Park reopened their campground. There are 25 campsites in the campground at the eastern -end of the main area of the park. Site costs and more information can be found out by visiting their website at: <http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/independencedam>

Once again, a special thanks goes out to Cleveland Metroparks, Summit County Metroparks, and Independence Dam State Park. These three sites add to a more backpackable Buckeye Trail.

The BTA's Trail Preservation Fund helps the BTA develop campsites, protect the trail through easements and property purchase, build trail and keep it open for everyone. If you would like to contribute towards the fund, visit our website at buckeyetrail.org/preservation.php and click on the "donate" button. If you would like to help in the camp site development process (or trail development as well), please feel free to contact the Trail Preservation Committee at preservation@buckeyetrail.org. Stay tuned, as we continue to develop additional campsites along the trail!



The Little Loop Challenge

Randall Roberts



“WE DID IT! The whole Little Loop in one day,” read a post on social media on July 15, 2017. A year ago, I read about an attempt to hike the Appalachian Trail in one day by dividing the trail into segments between road crossings and having people pledge to hike those individual segments. I don’t know if they were ever successful, but I thought, “We could do that on the Buckeye Trail.” Then I realized how difficult it might be to get enough people interested in hiking the more remote areas of the trail. “I bet we could do the Little Loop,” I convinced myself. With that, I set the plan in motion.

I had fun pitching the idea to the Board and other hikers, “I have a plan to hike the entire 257-mile Little Loop in one day.” You can imagine the looks I got. I know people were thinking, “Randall’s finally lost it, he’s been in the sun too long.” But after explaining the idea, people were interested and excited. We discussed initial concepts and logistics at our Crooked River Chapter meetings and eventually scheduled meetings specifically for our “Big Event on the Little Loop” as we were calling it, eventually deciding on naming it simply, “The Little Loop Challenge.”

Dividing up the segments was easier than you might think. Thanks to Google Earth and my personal knowledge of the trail augmented with information collected by Matthew Edmonds, I generated a spreadsheet with GPS coordinates which David Thorndike used to create a schematic map. As hikers registered for the event, we used these documents online to track which segments were assigned and which were still available. We definitely gave Andrew the heavy task of helping us set up the complex registration. Registration packages ranged from a “No Frills” package for \$10 to the Deluxe Package for \$60 which included a section map, a moisture wicking T-shirt, a BBQ dinner, and an annual membership to the BTA.

Talk about teamwork! Several chapter members offered ideas and feedback, invaluable in making this event happen as we worked our way through the planning and execution stages. Jo Rawley, Andy Hagat, Sally Sugar, Jimmy “Sunny” Sunyak, and David Thordike all chipped in to take the T-shirt and patch designs from proof-of-concept to final product. The event brought us eleven new members as 60 people participated in the challenge, ten of whom were from outside the area. They made it possible to completely cover the entire Little Loop in one day – 1/6th of the entire Buckeye Trail.

We reserved a shelter in the center of the Little Loop at Silver Springs Park in Stow and it was fun updating a big paper map as participants called after completing their segments. Many people signed up for multiple segments and some sent a text message as each segment was completed. We set 6pm as the time we wanted everyone finished. With an hour to go, most of map was highlighted as completed but there were still several segments unreported. “Ninety percent of the precincts reporting and it’s too close to call,” I joked.

We started wondering if some of us would have to drive out and quickly hike remaining segments. We weren’t going to award patches to anyone unless it was all covered. We started calling and messaging asking, “Hey, did you finish your segment?” Just before 6pm we heard from our last hiker who had actually finished earlier and just forgot to let us know. It was her husband who let us know after he got a message from us. The announcement was made, “We did it!” It was an amazing feeling.

So, what’s next? We plan on having this as an annual event. Our goal was to promote the trail, grow membership, and have fun doing it. I’d say we were successful. We even raised a little bit of money for the BTA. This year, the focus was on logistics. Next year we hope to improve on the promotion and sponsorship. We would like to challenge the other chapters to hold their own challenge on the same day, and eventually, well, just think about it, it would only take 300 hikers doing 4.8 miles each to hike the entire Buckeye Trail. Wouldn’t that be something!



The Inaugural Little Loop Challenge 2017

2017 Schedule of Hikes & Events



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

OCTOBER

October 7, 2017

Run for Blue Blazes Trail Run

Description: A full marathon, half marathon, 10K, and 5K beginning and ending in the historic village of Shawnee, surrounded by the Wayne National Forest

October 14-15, 2017

Buckeye Trail Crew - Mogadore Section

Description: This weekend we will continue to build trail at West Branch State Park.

Camping: Camping is free for anyone attending this event. We will be camped out at the end of the road leading to the Horse Camping area (2 miles from the Bridle Trail day use parking lot). Coordinates for the road leading to the horse camp. N 410 8.901' W 810 8.238'. If you want to camp out the entire weekend you can arrive as early as Friday night after 5:00PM. The gate leading to the camping area will be unlocked by then. We will also be able to use the regular campground showers to clean up each day.

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

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

October 14-15, 2017

Buckeye Trail Circuit Hike - Akron Section

Description: Saturday - Meet at Lock 29 Trailhead parking lot, Point 8, in Peninsula. Coordinates: (N41.24350 - W081.54981). Leave at 9:30AM to car pool to parking lot on Vaughn Road, north of Point 2. The hike is about 10.4 miles. Sunday - Meet at Lock 29 Trailhead parking lot. (see Saturday description) We will hike south to Botzum (Mounds) trailhead. Board the train back to Peninsula. Hikers could also board the train at Peninsula, ride it to Botzum train station and hike north to Peninsula on the BT. The cost is \$3.00 one way. HIKERS going south will leave at 10:00AM. The train will depart at 9:50AM to travel south. Please arrive early. The hike is 8.9 miles

Camping: Portage Lakes State Park, SR-93 south of Akron.

Note: The Mounds Trailhead - Botzum Train Station is 1600 feet south of Point 12.

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

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. We will leave for work at 8:30am and quit at 3:30pm.

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

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

October 21-22, 2017

Caesar Creek Grand Re-Opening of the Buckeye Trail

Description: Come experience the "new" Buckeye Trail at Caesar Creek as we celebrate the conclusion of our 2 year plan to resurrect this trail. Historically one of the worst stretches of Buckeye Trail sections in the state, those who attend will find it to be near the top for its overall trail conditions and fabulous water views. Miles of trail have been reshaped and fortified to withstand years of traffic. Our 2 day celebration will include the option of backpacking the entire Buckeye Trail in the park (23 miles) or participating in section hikes on Saturday and Sunday.

Camping: Camping at the horse camp is available for registered backpacking and hiking participants.

Meals: Bring your own food and water

Contact: Joel Timmons at caesarcreek@buckeyetrail.org

October 21-22, 2017

All Chapter Backpack Hike

Description: This event will be held in conjunction with the grand re-opening of the Caesar Creek Section. More details to follow.

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 of 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. Meals will be provided free (donations accepted) for the first 20 volunteers to sign up with Jay Holwick at holwick@columbus.rr.com by Oct. 30, 2017. Please note: if you are arriving Friday, the Friday night meal is NOT included - please bring your own.

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

November 18-19, 2017

Buckeye Trail Circuit Hike - Stockport Section

Description: Saturday - Meet on Wells Road about ½ mile north of Point 27. Coordinates: (N39.54852 - W081.94234). Leave at 9:30AM to car pool to parking lot, Point 21 in Chesterhill. The hike is about 10 miles. Sunday - Meet at Wildcat Hollow Trailhead, Point 4, New Straitsville Section. Coordinates: (N39.57266 - W082.03284). Leave at 10:00AM to car pool to Wells Road (Shew's property) about ½ mile north of Point 27. The hike is about 9.1 miles.

Camping: Shew's property ½ mile north of Point 27

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

DECEMBER

December 9, 2017

BTA Board Meeting

Contact: President@buckeyetrail.org

December 9-10, 2017

Buckeye Trail Circuit Hike- Akron Section

Description: Saturday - Meet at Summit Lake Trailhead parking lot, Point 20. Coordinates: (N41.05972 - W081.54124). Leave at 9:30AM to car pool to Mounds (Botzum) Trailhead, south of Point 12. The hike is about 10.3 miles. Sunday - Meet at Wolf Creek Trailhead at Snyder Ave., Point 24. Coordinates: (N41.00324 - W081.60719). Leave at 10:00AM to car pool to Summit Lake Trailhead, Point 20. The hike is about 7.6 miles.

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

Even more events
with BTA chapters on
Meetup

2018 Buckeye Trail Crew Work Parties!

APRIL

April 14-15, 2018

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

Description: New trail construction, re-benching of some existing trail tread, heavy trail maintenance, and vegetation management. We will leave for work at 8:30am and quit at 3:30pm.

Camping: Camping will be at Pretty Run property. Camping GPS coordinates 39.34987, -82.62431

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

April 21-22, 2018

Buckeye Trail Crew: Scioto Trail Section

Description: Re-benching the trail tread and heavy vegetation management between Davis Rd. and Pike Lake Dam. (Points 32-36, Feb 2102 Scioto Trail Section map). We will leave for work at 8:30am and quit at 3:30pm.

Camping: Camping will be at Scioto Trail State Park.

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

April 26-29, 2018

2018 Buckeye TrailFest

Location: Camp Oat'Okwa in Hocking County OH

Contact: See the TrailFest web site for more details.

MAY

May 5-9, 2018

Buckeye Trail Crew: Boweston Section

Description: Vegetation management, clearing dead falls, and re-benching tread as needed on the north and south sides of Clendenning lake. (Points 18-21)

Camping: Camping will be at the BTA Barn at Tappan Lake

Meals: TBD

May 19-23, 2018

Buckeye Trail Crew: Stockport Section - AEP ReCreation Lands

Description: Re-benching the trail tread, Vegetation management, Paint blazes. We will leave for work at 8:00am and quit at 3:00pm

Camping: Camping will be at AEP's Hook Lake (Campground A) Camping GPS coordinates 39.72945, -81.70509. The portable hot shower will be available on site.

Meals: This is a chuck wagon event. Meals will be provided free (donations accepted) for the first 20 volunteers to sign up with Jay Holwick at holwick@columbus.rr.com by May 16, 2018. Please note: if you are arriving Friday, the Friday night meal is NOT included - please bring your own.

JUNE

June 2-6, 2018

Buckeye Trail Crew: Akron Section - Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Description: Re-benching the trail tread as needed, heavy trail maintenance, and drainage clearing.

Camping: TBD

Meals: This is a chuck wagon event. Meals will be provided free (donations accepted) for the first 20 volunteers to sign up with Jay Holwick at holwick@columbus.rr.com by May 30, 2018. Please note: if you are arriving Friday, the Friday night meal is NOT included - please bring your own.

JULY

July 21-25, 2018

Buckeye Trail Crew: Road Fork & Whipple Sections

Description: Trail maintenance of the Road Fork and Whipple Section's off road areas.

This will include chain sawing of downed trees, mowing, weed whacking, pruning, and possible freshening of blazes for a little over 30 miles in the heat of July. We will need all the help we can get. We will leave for work at 8:00am and quit at 3:00pm.

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. Meals will be provided free (donations accepted) for the first 20 volunteers to sign up with Jay Holwick at holwick@columbus.rr.com by July 17, 2018. Please note: if you are arriving Friday, the Friday night meal is NOT included - please bring your own.

AUGUST

August 4-8, 2018

Buckeye Trail Crew: Defiance Section - Independence Dam State Park & Toledo Metroparks at Providence or Farnsworth Parks

Description: Clearing vegetation from about 3 miles of trail from Independence Dam State Park until the trail crosses the canal on a bridge.

Camping: TBD

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

SEPTEMBER

September 22-26, 2018

Buckeye Trail Crew: New Straitsville Section - Burr Oak State Park

Description: New Straitsville section trail maintenance week in preparation for the

BTA's Run for Blue Blazes Trail Marathon on Oct 6th. We will leave for work at 8:30am and quit at 3:30pm.

Camping: We will be camping at the Burr Oak State Park Group campground near boat dock 3.

Meals: This is a chuck wagon event. Meals will be provided free (donations accepted) for the first 20 volunteers to sign up with Jay Holwick at holwick@columbus.rr.com by Sept. 18, 2018. Please note: if you are arriving Friday, the Friday night meal is NOT included - please bring your own.

OCTOBER

October 13-17, 2018

Buckeye Trail Crew: Road Fork Section

Description: We will be building new trail along the north side of Caldwell Lake as well as heavy trail maintenance, vegetation management and bridge, puncheon or boardwalk construction near point 22.

Camping: TBD

Meals: This is a chuck wagon event. Meals will be provided free (donations accepted) for the first 20 volunteers to sign up with Jay Holwick at holwick@columbus.rr.com by Oct. 10, 2018. Please note: if you are arriving Friday, the Friday night meal is NOT included - please bring your own.

October 20-21, 2018

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

Description: New trail construction, re-benching of some existing trail tread, heavy trail maintenance, and vegetation management. We will leave for work at 8:30am and quit at 3:30pm.

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

Meals: Bring your own food and water.

October 21-31, 2017

Buckeye Trail Crew: West Union Section - Edge of Appalachia

Description: Continue building new trail in the beautiful 19,000 acre Richard and Lucile Durrell Edge of Appalachia Preserve. We will leave for work at 8:30am and quit at 3:30pm.

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

Meals: This is a chuck wagon event. Meals will be provided free (donations accepted) for the first 20 volunteers to sign up with Jay Holwick at holwick@columbus.rr.com by Oct. 24, 2018. Please note: if you are arriving Friday, the Friday night meal is NOT included - please bring your own.

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

New Trail Easement in Morgan County

Richard Lutz



In June the Morgan County Commissioners voted to vacate a part of Newburn Drive (Road) along the Buckeye Trail at the request of an adjacent property owner. In the process, Mark Howdyshell, the County Prosecutor, negotiated the donation of a trail easement for the BT with the new landowner of the old road grade for the 0.77 miles of now decommissioned road. The easement follows the valley alongside Goshen Run, crossing the creek twice and a tributary to the creek once. There is no change to the BT route from the current information on the Stockport Section Map in this rare occasion of removing the road from the BT rather than relocating the BT off of roads! The trail easement area is blocked by logs with signs marked “Closed” or “Private.”

Special thanks goes out to the Lowers Family Trust for the easement, the Morgan County Commissioners and Mark Howdyshell for making this happen. Contact us at 740-394-2008 or via e-mail at preservation@buckeyetrail.org, if you are interested in doing map research of old roads on or near the BT in one of the County Engineers offices of the 48 counties that the BT passes through.

If you're interested in supporting our Trail Preservation efforts further, please visit <http://www.buckeyetrail.org/preservation.php> and make a donation to the Trail Preservation Fund. All funds goes toward the efforts to protect the Buckeye Trail!

BTA Searching for Trustee Candidates

Jeff Yoest

There are 15 members on the BTA Board of Trustees. The Board elects the officers (President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary). Five candidates are elected every year at the annual business meeting in the Spring to serve a three-year term. There are 5 Board meetings each year: three usually held in Columbus in March, June, and December; one following the annual Spring business meeting (Trailfest), and a 2-day summer session in August at the BTA Barn. Although occasional conflicts can occur and be excused, attendance is expected at meetings.

The Buckeye Trail needs people with a variety of special backgrounds, experiences and talents....law, accounting, land

management, fund-raising, membership development....the list is long. The main requirement is a genuine enthusiasm for the BT and contributing to the betterment of the trail with the best of one's abilities. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, know someone who has these attributes, or need more information, please don't hesitate to contact Jeffrey Yoest of the Nominations Committee, jeffyoest@columbus.rr.com. 614-895-0808. The welfare of the BTA depends on competent leadership.

Go BIG & Be Kind to the BTA with the Columbus Foundation's Big Give

Andrew Bashaw

WHAT IS THE BIG GIVE?

The Big Give is a 26-hour online giving event to make a difference through kindness. The Columbus Foundation, its family of donors, and corporate and community partners have provided a \$1.3 Million+ Bonus Pool, encouraging everyone to support nonprofits they care about. By working together, our community can show their kindness and support the Buckeye Trail Association!

Donations received during the 26-hour event will be amplified by Bonus Pool funds on a pro rata basis. Everyone who gives will have their donation(s) increased. In addition, the Foundation will cover all credit card fees, so 100 percent of donations go to the Buckeye Trail!

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

Make a donation to support the Buckeye Trail Association featured in The Giving Store, beginning on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 10:00am ET, through Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 12:00pm/noon ET. To begin, visit columbusfoundation.org. BTA donors may participate by using a major credit card (VISA, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express), starting with a minimum gift of \$20. Everyone who makes a donation will receive an email receipt of their donation. If you were hoping to contribute to the BTA this season anyway, consider amplifying your gift of kindness to the BT by participating in the Big Give on October 10, starting at 10am.



**Mark your calendars for
10/10 @ 10:00am - 10/11 @ 12pm
to make a BIG difference for the
Buckeye Trail!**

**Join our Big Give Facebook Event! and
see more details at
columbusfoundation.org**



of all the
paths
you take
in life,
make sure
a few
of them
are dirt.

Hike Highland
County!

Visitors Bureau of Highland County
HIGHLANDCOUNTY.COM



THE MIDWEST'S PREMIERE OUTDOOR ADVENTURE FESTIVAL!

A FIVE RIVERS
METROPARKS
EVENT



FREE!
FUN FOR THE
WHOLE
FAMILY



OCTOBER 7 & 8

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camping • live music • gear • demos
Osprey Backcountry Zone
craft beer & food trucks



THE BIG GIVE. 

**Go BIG.
Be KIND!**

October 10-11

columbusfoundation.org | [#blggive](https://twitter.com/blggive)

 THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION

YES

YELLOW SPRINGS

EVERYONE'S FAVORITE PLACE

yellowspringsohio.org

Barn Update

Mary Hamilton

The barn committee met recently to discuss some policies and procedures for the barn and the Beall House. A membership gathering was planned for August 5th for a tour of the grounds and the house and to gather ideas for the house.

As it stands now, if an event or a group wants to use the barn facilities, it is advised to contact Mary Hamilton at 330-602-407(home), 330-340-0481(cell), or by email at hamilton3310@roadrunner.com. This is so arrangements can be made for use of barn, if needed, and also to be sure the barn is cleared and closed up properly at the end of the event.

The water for the cistern still is not flowing as well as to be expected, so arrangements have to be made to have connections to the house. Much mowing has been done this summer by Mary Anne and Scott Kamph. They bring their own zero-turn mower from their farm to mow. We do have a John Deere mower on site, but the grass has gotten so high in just a short time that Scott prefers to use his mower. Eventually it will take a toll on his mower and trailer. The rain and sun has made the grass grow at an alarming rate, as all of you homeowners know.



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 2017 - AUGUST 2017

TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND

Steve Walker (Phoenix Media)
The Louis Shinker Estate

GENERAL FUND

Michael Kohr
GE Foundation Matching Employee Gift
Lewis Kruger
Jack Shaner
Pat and Mary Hayes
Michael Kohr
Kenneth Katona
Cheryl Kreindler
Harvey Harris

Petra Schmalbrock
Donald Fisher
Travis Neely
Quincy Robe
Gayle Burke
Donald Burrell
Carol Vought
Cleveland Hiking Club
Anne Krapf

Brian Myers
Robert Fritschie
John Winnenberg
Douglas Thomas
Donald Byrkett
Timothy Chamberlain
Pat and Mary Hayes
Scott & Mary Anne Kamph

IN SUPPORT OF BTA VOLUNTEERS THROUGH THE TOMFOOLERY FOLLOWS THE BLUE BLAZES HIKE

Road Rivers & Trails
Draft House

FOR THE NEW BUCKEYE TRAIL EASEMENT ON OLD NEWBERN DRIVE IN MORGAN COUNTY

Jesse C. Lowers
Mark Howdyshell

THE BUCKEYE TRAIL CREW CHUCKWAGON

Gene Wimmer
Garry Dill

CAESAR CREEK BT GRAND REOPENING AND ALL CHAPTERS HIKE

Mel's Auto Glass Inc
The Little Loop Challenge
Brandon Rapp, Homestead Insurance Agency



Buckeye Trail Association

P.O. Box 5
Shawnee, Ohio 43782

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- SUSTAINING \$50.00 per year
- BUSINESS \$50.00 per year
- LIFE \$400.00
- GIFT \$20.00

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P.O. BOX 5, SHAWNEE, OHIO 43782

OR JOIN ONLINE AT:

www.buckeyetrail.org/membership.php