

BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Trailblazer



FOUNDED 1959

SUMMER 2018 VOLUME 51 NO. 2

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President's Message

Steve Walker

It's summer again and time to take a breath after the flurry of trail maintenance in the spring. It was particularly rainy in the Muskingum Lakes region and the weeds and rose bushes tried their best to take the trail back. With that being said, our trail crews have once again bested nature in most segments of the Buckeye Trail. As of this writing, there is a trail runner trying to set the best known time for traversing the Buckeye Trail. Everett Brandt reported that most segments of the Buckeye Trail from Akron through the southeastern part through the New Straitsville Section were in decent condition.

Already this year, several BTA events have occurred and all of them were successful. BTA MorelFest happened in late April at the BTA Barn and attracted over 100 registrants. Although it was too early to take advantage of the mushroom harvest, every participant and volunteer

enjoyed themselves. When MorelFest 2018 was first scheduled in January, we could only guess when the morel mushrooms would actually pop up. Last year, in its first year and on the same weekend as this year, MorelFest managed to produce more than 2000 mushrooms in the hills around the Barn and Tappan Lake. Something that helped 2018 participants to enjoy themselves was having 2 bands performing, (one on Friday evening and one on Saturday evening) the presence of a food wagon, and a purveyor of mead (a honey based wine). The potluck dinner on Saturday evening featuring some morel-based recipes was very much enjoyed.

TrailFest/Celebration 2018 was a major success with almost 400 registrants from multiple states around the country. Our first collaborative gathering with the North Country Trail Association went off without a single glitch thanks to Cheryl



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Disclaimer: The articles and all information in this publication have been prepared with utmost care. However, neither the Buckeye Trail Association nor the Editor can guarantee accuracy or completeness of information. Opinions expressed in the articles, columns and paid advertising are not necessarily those of the BTA.



MorelFest 2018

Check us Out...



facebook.com/buckeyetrail



meetup.com/pro/buckeyetrail



youtube.com/user/BuckeyeTrailTV



@buckeyetrailassociation



@hikethtbt

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

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C O V E R

This beautiful, undisturbed bit of Ohio forest near New Straitsville is called the Imhoff property, and will soon be trodden by the boots of trail building crews.

Photograph by Sally Sugar.

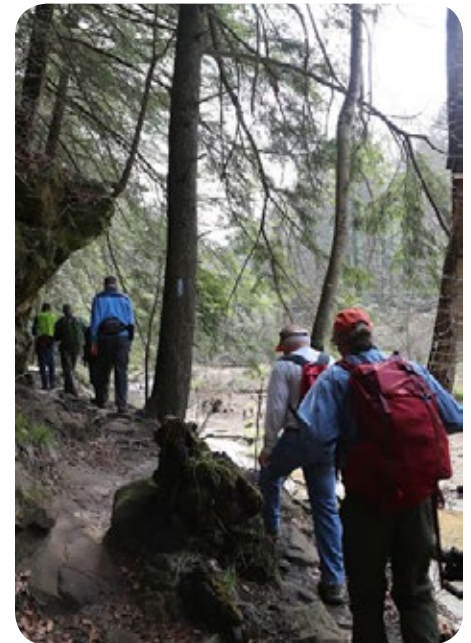
Kreindler and her team of volunteers. The food was first-rate at Camp Oty'Okwa and the Friday evening intermission in Logan, Ohio to see the AirStream gathering and try out the restaurants in Logan was a great idea. The well-planned hike and presentation schedules allowed everyone to find something that they wanted to do. What really clicked was the way that the buses were used to get people to hikes and other offsite activities. The keynote address by Josh Knights from the Nature Conservancy of Ohio on Saturday evening was very successful in generating significant revenues for both the NCTA and the BTA.

The Ninth Annual Emma "Grandma" Gatewood Solstice Hike and Campout was another recent great success. Over 60 registered to participate in this signature event at Burr Oak State Park. This is an endurance challenge and no one was really surprised when the weather chose to dump so much rain on the course in the days before and the first day of this event. I think that this might be a part of the mystique of EGGs. No one was able to complete the 60 and 80 mile challenges but one lady was able to clock 60 miles (40 in the first 24 hours and 20 in the last 12 hours) for the most miles for the weekend. There were numerous downed trees and every stream was at the flood stage. One county road was blocked by three downed trees and not expected to be reopened until the following Monday but one of the crews went out and opened it up anyhow. The Chuck Wagon was there as well and provided great food for everyone. I've heard that the Tenth Annual EGGs Hike will possibly have a 100 mile challenge.

We have two more signature BTA events coming yet this year. As of this writing, The Little Loop Challenge had all segments covered with hikers and more than 40 people gathering for the evening supper to celebrate. Last Year's Inaugural Little Loop Challenge was a success from the beginning. The Crooked River Chapter's hope is that this will one day be a Buckeye Trail Challenge with all parts of the Buckeye Trail being hiked in one day. With the current success of the Little Loop Challenge, that sounds very possible

to me in just a few years.

The Run for the Blue Blazes is set for October and it helps to bring lots of people to our headquarters town of Shawnee, Ohio. With the increased interest in trail running, this event has the possibility of going mainstream in the near future. The R4BB crew is very diligent in clearing and marking the trail for this run and the weather at this time of the year is usually perfect for trail running.



Hikers at TrailFest 2018

All of these events require the help of volunteers and I hope that you'll consider being a part of it. Other areas that need your help include the committee work that the BTA has for you. We're trying to kick start the Membership and Awards Committee and there are a few people already willing to help. Our Development Committee is off to a great start but Development Chair Andy Haag could always use your help. At our next Board and Staff Retreat, I'll be asking BTA Board Members to sign up for committee work. At the same time, I'm asking you to get involved with some great people and take up some of the work that will help the Buckeye Trail Association grow. Let me know if you're interested in participating in the work of the BTA by emailing president@buckeyetrail.org. Have a great summer and I hope to see you on the Buckeye Trail or to work with you to help it grow.

On the Trail

Andrew Bashaw



Andrew Bashaw

Sometimes I allow myself to write in the spirit of inspiration, but this time I'd like to pull back the curtain a bit and write in the spirit of transparency. You, the audience of the Trailblazer magazine, the membership of the Buckeye Trail Association are not a uniform group. Many of you are the choir to whom I preach, but many are new, observing on the periphery, still questioning what your role may be in this organization. Still others are simply generally supportive of hiking in Ohio and have chosen the BTA as a great way to support and give back for all your best trail times.

So here is the full disclosure... the mission of the BTA is simple... to build, maintain, protect and promote the enjoyment of Ohio's Buckeye Trail since 1959. Our mission is simple, but not easy: the amount of work identified in those four simple pillars is infinite and achieved by a small staff and small army of volunteers, all supported by the generosity of members like you. Our methods to achieve our mission are also simple (but challenging). We want you... and the rest of the world to take an action to move us forward. The actions are:

To hike the BT to grow in your appreciation of everything the experience offers

To become a member to support our great work

To volunteer to achieve our mission

To attend our events to highlight the

BT locally, increase the power of our partnerships, create community, benefit the BTA mission financially and more

To donate to the BTA in general and to our specific priority projects, supporting our staff and volunteers who help achieve our mission

Purchase products from the Buckeye TrailShop to promote awareness of the BTA to the public and benefit our mission financially

Share your love and support of the BTA with your elected decision makers and your social network so that we can multiply the benefit you give to the BTA by a factor of your friendships and family members...

Not because we are greedy, but because down to each staff member, each volunteer, we truly believe in the vision of a long distance hiking trail circumnavigating the great State of Ohio, providing adventures and solace for all abilities.

So, there you have it. That's what we do together, how we do it, and what we want. I hope you agree and continue to support our work.

In 10 or 20 years, at our 70th or 80th anniversary we may look back at this time as an important transition from one generation to the next. It's true, we are very interested in reaching out and engaging our millennials, but the truth is this is

just the time for them to hear about and become interested in enjoying such a thing as Ohio's Buckeye Trail. The next generation I'm talking about are the 40 to 60 year old whippersnappers that we desperately need to take on leadership roles as our 70 to 90 year old heroes consider sharing the reigns. This is the group of volunteer leaders that has stewarded the BTA for the last 20 to 40 years, bringing you amazing things such as the Buckeye Trail Crew and Chuckwagon, the BTA Barn and Beall Farmstead, opening up the Miami & Erie Canal in western Ohio, created the Ohio Trails Partnership, took the risk to hire BTA staff and opened a professional office to serve members and volunteers, built and grew partnerships with ODNR and Cuyahoga Valley National Park to County Metroparks around the state. They have grown the BT in miles and extent as well as growing the membership and our offerings of special events. If you think that some of these folks are 'old' I challenge you to bench some new BT in between two 80 year old Trail Crew veterans and see how you compare. I know I have lost that personal challenge.

All of this is handed to us, in trust that we will steward the next generation of accomplishments to build, maintain, protect and promote Ohio's Buckeye Trail, so that we 40 to 60 year olds will be the



TrailFest, one of the larger annual events along the Buckeye Trail

heroes of our Millennial generation.

As the Executive Director I don't see myself as 'in charge' of the BTA. My position is just one important stewardship role. You, as members and volunteer leaders are in charge of the BTA, that is the greatest benefit and charge you receive in exchange for your membership dues. My job is to help you do it in a way that lasts a generation... or two. As a parent I am

thinking beyond the millennial generation to the BT I will hand to my 8 year old daughter. What will the BT look like when she is my age on our 80th anniversary? That depends on our actions today. Please, hike the BT, volunteer in the backroom or the backcountry, attend our events like the EGGS Hike, Little Loop Challenge, Run for Blue Blazes, or TrailFest and if nothing else (or in addition) share your

stewardship of the BTA with your friends and family. The future of the BT is important, because it's important to you.

Ok, so maybe I have a hard time getting away from preaching when I believe in something... but I hope you do too.

Hope to see you on the Trail this Summer!

Andrew Bashaw
Executive Director

Hiking the Little Loop Challenge



Meg Hines, BillHines, Tim Murphy, and Doug Keller finished the Little Loop on February 27, 2018. They have been hiking almost weekly since September 2017. This was Tim's second go 'round on the Little Loop

"Boy the Trail sure has changed in the past 10 years!" Tim said. He should know, he's a Section Co-supervisor and he played a big part in some of those changes.

Have you completed the Little Loop?

Contact Randall Roberts.

bthikerroberts@gmail.com with date of completion and maybe a photo to receive your patch at no charge. Please put "Little Loop Patch" in the subject line.

Happy Hiking!



Meg, Bill, Tim, and Doug pose for their Little Loop completion photo at the Northern Terminus at Headlands Beach State Park in Mentor, OH.

Hiking the BT with a Legendary Lady

John Porter

I have no memory of knowing why Troop 40 was selected to hike the inaugural first leg of the Buckeye Trail. I do remember that in the weeks leading up to the day of the hike we were informed that our being chosen was "a big deal" and we should feel honored that we were chosen to hike the trail first and that somebody by the name of Grandma Gatewood, who was famous for hiking was going to hike with us. I have no memory or even an impression of what we were told that defined Grandma as being famous. Think about what 11 to 15 year old boys in 1959 thought and pictured in their minds when hearing the word Grandma. The image is ubiquitous. A Grandma was sweet and quiet had white hair and wore a long dress with a small flower pattern. She was slightly stooped and mostly shapeless. She wore stockings and black shoes with clunky heels. The idea of taking a hike never crossed her mind let alone the embarrassing thought of wearing a pair of long pants with tennis shoes.

So we had been told that we were part of something special. We were convinced when we showed up in the church parking lot Friday evening with our packs and bed rolls ready to board our bus to go camping and go on the hike. We were very surprised to find a reporter and photographer from The Columbus Citizen, at the time a major daily newspaper there waiting for us. We were assembled, lined up and our photograph was taken

and leaders were interviewed briefly. Then we boarded the bus and we were on our way. I don't specifically remember that evening but I'm certain that like other camping trips we arrived, unloaded, pitched tents, set up sleeping bags, built a campfire, fixed dinner, cleaned up, had a troop campfire with a few words of wisdom then to bed and sleep. Up early for breakfast, clean up and then a short hike to the trail head to begin hiking the 1st leg of the Buckeye Trail.

When Troop 40 arrived there was a group of adults waiting for us most of whom were well dressed for a hike. And, one person who looked more casual than the rest with loose fitted well worn clothes. There

standing with the adult group most of them men, was one old looking lady wearing pants, tennis shoes a flannel shirt and sweater with a bag slung over her shoulder on a strap that kinda looked like a small sized duffel bag.



Before starting off I'm certain words were said about the hike being the dedication hike and recognizing Grandma Gatewood. Then with Boy Scout packs on our backs and World War Two surplus canteens full of water on our hips we started.

You might think that a 20 mile hike for kids might be a little much. However! Mr. Kanode thought long hikes were a tried and true method of building minds, bodies, character, endurance and commitment. If a boy were to sit down and say I can't go another step I'm pretty sure Mr. Kanode would not have left him on the trail but I'm not completely sure. And we thought he might, therefore there were no quitters in Troop 40. We were all veterans of 10,15, and a couple of 20 mile hikes.

These 23 Boy Scouts from Troop 40 of the Indianola Presbyterian Church left Columbus this morning for Hocking County, where they will help blaze a part of the Buckeye Train. (Photo by Dick Garrett.)

Walkin' In The Woods

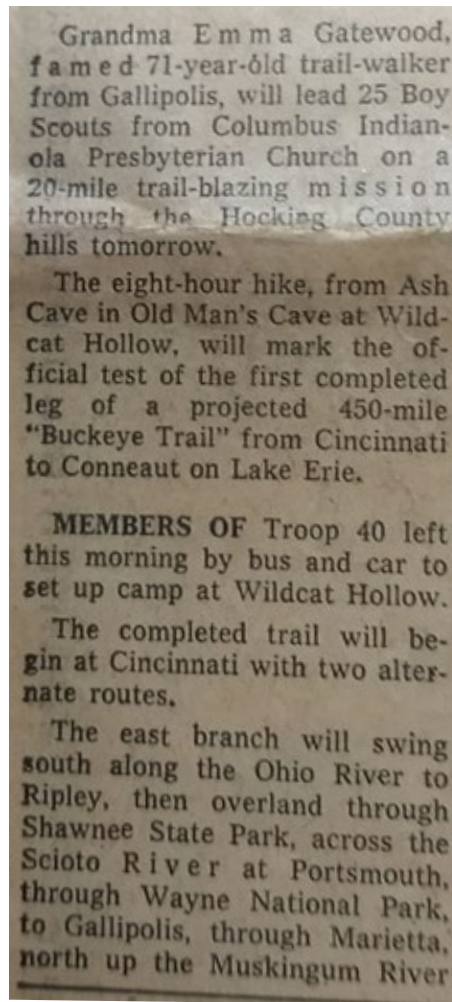
**Grandma Gatewood
Leads Trail Blazers**

And, each one of them always felt like they were uphill most of the way.

We hiked 20 miles through the beautiful Ohio woods and we finished the first hike on the Buckeye Trail. I would like to share a couple of things with you. During the past many years of reading I have been amazed at how many books there are about hiking or reference hiking that I have read that mention, with great reverence Grandma Gatewood. She is an icon and legend in outdoor experience and hiking history.

And finally! In the past decades since I was a boy that day on the Buckeye Trail I have hiked in deserts, mountains, sea shores, rain forests and a multitude of trails in our National Parks and State Parks. But, my touchstone for the outdoors and hiking will always be Old Man's Cave and the colors of the trail and the variety of the trees of the Buckeye Trail.

On everyone of those hikes in the past in everyone of those places through out my life, at least once during each hike I think of that day in September of 1959 when I was one of the first to walk the Buckeye Trail. There is a specific reason for remembering that day on each of those hikes. And, a story that goes with the memory. It is a story I have shared with fellow hikers all over the United



The Columbus Citizen, which published its last paper in 1985, covered Grandma Gatewood's hike in a paper published September 18, 1959.

States and a couple of foreign countries. The story always starts out with Boy Scouts, the Buckeye Trail and Grandma Gatewood.

My story goes on to describe a moment in that day. I was hiking the trail, I was tired and I was starting to drag. I don't know how far into the hike we were but I guess we were past half way maybe three quarters of the way. We had previously stopped for water breaks with brief rest periods and we had stopped for lunch. My image of my 14 year old self is vivid. I remember sweating. My head was bent and I was looking down. I was slightly bent over with the weight of my pack and my feet were just barely clearing the trail. Then on my left I heard and from the corner of my eye saw there was movement. Moving smoothly Grandma Gatewood appeared. Grandma, back straight head up and with a strong measured gait as she came even with me on the trail. I looked over at her and said, "Grandma how do you keep doing this?" She looked over at me and said "honey, I just keep putting one foot in front of the other" as she glided smoothly by. Now at the age of 72 only one year older than she on that day I feel very honored to have walked that trail and walked it with a legend.



Grandma Gatewood Illustrated Children's Book

Available in
the Buckeye
Trail Shop!

2018 Schedule of Hikes & Events



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

JULY

July 28-29, 2018

BTA Board Meeting

Description: Meetings start at 9:00AM each day, meals provided

Location: BTA Barn

Contact: president@buckeyetrail.org

AUGUST

August 18-19, 2018

BT Circuit Hike – Old Man’s Cave Section

Saturday: Meet at the Park + Ride parking lot, west of Point 9. Coordinates (N39.55869 - W082.49770). Leave at 9:00AM to car pool to Boch Hollow State Preserve Trailhead on SR 664. The hike is about 11.8 miles.

Sunday: Meet at Hocking State Forest parking lot on Kreashbaun Road (C-9), Point 15, Coordinates (N39.47532 - W082.53533).

Leave at 8:30AM to car pool to the Park + Ride parking lot, Point 9. The hike is about 9 miles. Camping: Hocking Hills State Park Campground

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

SEPTEMBER

September 1, 2018 – 1:00PM

Discover the BTA

Description: - See Description for Chuck and Beth Hewitt event on June 4, 2018

Location: Zoar Schoolhouse, 221 E. 4th Street, Zoar, OH 44697

Contact: Stephanie Toole at 330-874-3011 or 1-800-262-6195

September 8-9, 2018

BT Circuit Hike – Old Man’s Cave Section

Saturday: Meet at parking lot on Chapel Ridge Rd (T-255) and SR 374, Point 20. Coordinates: (N39.40730 - W082.53136). Leave at 9:30AM to car pool to parking lot on Kreashbaum Rd (C-9), Point 15. The hike is about 10.1 miles.

Sunday: Meet at BTA Pretty Run Property Camp on T-35J about 1/4 mile west of Point 24. Coordinates: (N39.34989 - W082.62431). Leave at 9:00AM to car pool to parking lot on Chapel Ridge Rd. and SR 374. The hike is about 10.6 miles.

Camping: BTA Pretty Run Property Camp (N39.34989 - W082.62431)

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

OCTOBER

October 6, 2018

Run for Blue Blazes Trail Run

Description: Run for Blue Blazes is organized by the Buckeye Trail Association (BTA) and supports the work of the Buckeye Trail. Participants can choose from four distances: Marathon (26.2 miles), Half Marathon (13.1 miles), 10K (6.2 miles) and 5K (3.1 miles). Location: The race starts and ends in downtown Shawnee OH.

Information: Visit the Run 4 Blue Blazes web page at <http://www.buckeyetrail.org/run4blue.php> for all the details. Registration is OPEN!

October 16, 2018

Thru-Hiking the Buckeye Trail: Things That Will Change the Way You See Ohio

Description: See description for Andy Niekamp event on June 14, 2018.

Location: Yellow Springs Community Library, 4415 Xenia Ave, Yellow Springs, OH 45387

Contact: <https://greenelibrary.info/locations/yellow-springs/>

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 20-21, 2018

BT Circuit Hike – Old Man’s Cave and Scioto Trail Sections

Saturday: Meet at the Tar Hollow State Forest Maintenance Building parking lot on Clark Hollow Rd (T-2E), Point 2, Scioto Trail Section. Coordinates: (N39.34933 - W082.73192).

Leave at 9:30AM to car pool to the Pretty Run Camp near Point 24, Old Man’s Cave Section. The hike is about 9.0 miles.

Sunday: Meet at a parking area on South Ridge Rd (F3) near junction with Sugar Run Rd (F7) and Brady Run Road (F6), Point 6. Coordinates: (N39.33070 - W082.79796). Leave at 9:00AM to car pool to parking lot on Clark Hollow Rd, Point 2. The hike is about 9.2 miles. The Sunday hike is in the Scioto Trail Section.

Camping: BTA Pretty Run Property Camp (N39.34989 - W082.62431)

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

NOVEMBER

November 3, 2018

BTA Board Meeting

Description: 10:00AM

Location: Shawnee OH

Contact: president@buckeyetrail.org

November 10-11, 2018

Buckeye Trail Circuit Hike- Scioto Trail Section

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

November 12, 2018 – 7:00PM. (Monday)

Discover the BTA

Description: The State of Ohio wears a necklace—a 1,444-mile hiking trail that loops around the state of Ohio. Part of it is on roads, part is on wooded trail, and part of it wanders through cities and villages. Meet Chuck and Beth Hewett and hear them tell the story of how they hiked the entire Buckeye Trail, and about the fascinating people and places they encountered on the way. The Hewetts wrote about their adventures in the book, *Wandering Ohio*, which will be available for purchase at their presentation.

Location: Chardon Public Library, 110 East Park St., Chardon, OH

Contact: Katy Farrell at 440-285-7601

DECEMBER

December 8-9, 2018

Buckeye Trail Circuit Hike- Scioto Trail Section

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



4th Annual Buckeye Trail Run

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

Start and End at Shawnee, OH

Saturday October 6, 2018 at 8:30 AM

Information & Registration: www.buckeyetrail.org/run4blue.php
or Herb Hulls at run4blue@buckeyetrail.org - 740-787-2416

Pre-registration before August 1: \$65 Full Marathon; \$45 Half Marathon; \$35 10K & 5K. Add \$10 after August 1. Race day registration from 6:00 - 8:00 am.



PRE-REGISTER BY SEPT. 6 TO RECEIVE A TECH SHIRT!

2018 Buckeye Trail Crew Work Parties!

JULY

July 21-25, 2018

Road Fork/Whipple Sections Work Week

Description: Join the Buckeye Trail Crew in the hills of the Wilderness Loop of the Buckeye Trail! This work party will require a little bit of everything, from re-painting blazes to weed-whacking. 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! That means that there will be free food (except Friday night) for the first 20 volunteers to contact Jay Holwick at holwick@columbus.rr.com by July 17, 2018. Also, please consider donating to the Chuck Wagon to keep our volunteers fed!

AUGUST

August 4-8, 2018

Defiance Section Work Week at Independence Dam State Park and Toledo Metroparks at Providence or Farnsworth Parks

Description: Join the Buckeye Trail Crew in Dam State Park along the historic Miami & Erie Canal and beautiful Maumee River! Trail maintenance will mostly consist of clearing vegetation.

Camping: Information coming soon!

Meals: This is not a Chuckwagon event, so volunteers must bring their own food and water.

SEPTEMBER

September 22-26, 2018

New Straitsville Section Work Week at Burr Oak State Park

Description: Come help the Buckeye Trail Crew and Little Cities of the Forest Chapter prepare for the Run for Blue Blazes Buckeye Trail Run. The race features a full trail marathon, half marathon, 10K, and 5K, so there's plenty of trail to prepare! We will leave for work at 8:30am and quit at 3:30pm.

Camping: The crew will be camping at the Burr Oak Group Campground near Dock 3 of beautiful Burr Oak Lake.

Meals: This is a chuck wagon event! That means that there will be free food (except Friday night) for the first 20 volunteers to contact Jay Holwick at holwick@columbus.rr.com by

September 18, 2018. Also, please consider donating to the Chuck Wagon to keep our volunteers fed!

OCTOBER

October 13-17, 2018

Road Fork Section Work Week

Description: Join the Buckeye Trail Work Crew in the hills of the Wilderness Loop of the Buckeye Trail! The crew will be building new trail along the north side of Caldwell Lake as well as heavily maintaining trail, managing vegetation, and constructing a bridge, puncheon or boardwalk in the Wayne NF.

Camping: TBD

Meals: This is a chuck wagon event! That means that there will be free food (except Friday night) for the first 20 volunteers to contact Jay Holwick at holwick@columbus.rr.com by October 10, 2018. Also, please consider donating to the Chuck Wagon to keep our volunteers fed!

October 20-21, 2018

Old Man's Cave Section - Work Weekend at Pretty Run

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 27-31, 2018

West Union Section Work Week at Edge of Appalachia

Description: The Edge of Appalachia Preserve is a 19,000 acre wonderland in the rolling hills of Southern Ohio. This work week will focus on continuing to build new trail across The Nature Conservancy's Sunshine Ridge corridor. We will leave for work at 8:30am and quit at 3:30pm.

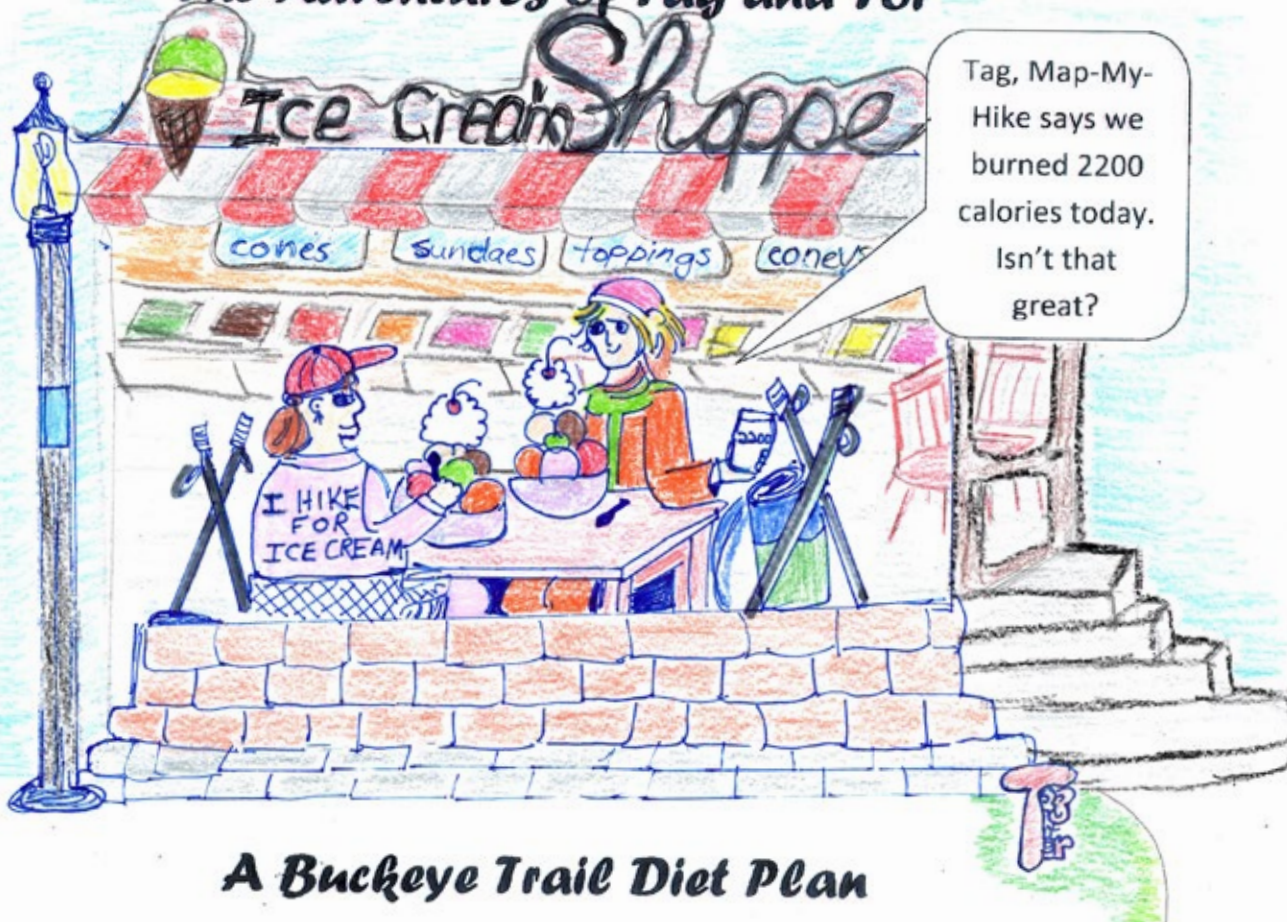
Camping: Camping will be near the maintenance building at 3223 Waggoner Riffle Rd. Camping GPS coordinates 38.74836, -83.46397

Meals: This is a chuck wagon event! That means that there will be free food (except Friday night) for the first 20 volunteers to contact Jay Holwick at holwick@columbus.rr.com by October 24, 2018. Also, please consider donating to the Chuck Wagon to keep our volunteers fed!

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



The Adventures of Tag and Tor



A Buckeye Trail Diet Plan

Defiance becomes a BT Trail Town

On Saturday, June 23, Defiance, Ohio celebrated becoming a Buckeye Trail Town. Located at the confluence of the Aglaize and Maumee rivers, the city's canons overlooking the Maumee river mark the former location of the fort that gave the city its name.



BT Trail Shop Under New Management

Mark Hiese

The Buckeye Trail Association has partnered with Yellow Springer LLC (Yellow Springer Tees) to provide on-site and online services for Buckeye Trail maps, books and gear.

The staff of the Buckeye Trail Association has served the membership of the BTA with online and in-person sales of patches, maps, books and t-shirts for many years as a secondary part of their mission to promote, support, and develop the Buckeye Trail. In February, Yellow Springer Tees approached the BTA with a proposal to provide fulfillment services and merchandising to create new opportunities for the BTA by providing a new online presence and new gear along with the traditional offerings of books, maps, patches, and t-shirts, with a portion of the proceeds going directly to the BTA. Along with the new website, members will also be able to order directly from the BTA Facebook Page from the Shop link without leaving Facebook.

This agreement will free valuable time for the BTA staff while positioning

the BTA to provide more merchandise for members and supporters, creating more income for the BTA. Chapters have already taken advantage of the partnership by working with Yellow Springer Tees to provide items for resale at Chapter events to help fund chapter projects.

With the business model of Yellow Springer Tees applied to the BT Trail Shop, members have already seen new products such as mugs, pint glasses, hats and patches at no financial risk to the BTA. You will also see the BT Trail Shop at key BTA events such as TrailFest, the E.G.G.S. Hike, and others. Yellow Springer's model of providing custom merchandise on demand will result in a greater choice of merchandise for members and supporters of the BTA with proceeds supporting the BTA mission of maintaining and promoting the 1400-mile Buckeye Trail.

The BTA and the BT Trail Shop ask for your patience during the transition as we work to bring you more choices and benefits such as a working code for membership discounts as well as more gear and options for downloadable maps. Members can expect faster processing of orders, as this will be their primary mission. The BT Trail Shop will also be reaching out to outfitters in the near future in an effort to put Buckeye Trail maps and merchandise into stores near you.

Look for gear highlighting BTA Chapters and Trail Towns soon!

You can access the new Trail Shop store at <http://shop.buckeyetrail.org> or directly from the BTA Facebook page Shop link.

Yellow Springer Tees, and now the BT Trail Shop, are located in Yellow Springs, Ohio - A Trail Town on the Buckeye Trail.



Mark Heiss, owner of Yellow Springer Tees.



Fort Loramie Boy Scout on the Trail

Jake Ratermann



My name is Jake Ratermann. I am a Boy Scout in troop 355 out of Fort Loramie. I recently completed my Eagle Scout project, which consisted of putting up signs on the Buckeye Trail through Fort Loramie. These signs explained the history of the trail, the blue blazes, where it goes, and

how to get involved with the Buckeye Trail Association. I got the idea of this project because the Buckeye Trail goes through my

backyard, and I see the blue blazes all throughout Fort Loramie. Also, few people know that the trail even exists, so I also did this to educate the Fort Loramie community about the trail. These signs were made of corian and I also put a big informational sign up about the BTA that the BTA supplied me. In total, I put up 5 signs. This experience was very beneficial because I learned many things about the trail, and I hope my project spreads the information that I learned.

A large group of the approximately 90 hikers to complete the 2018 Little Loop Challenge had a barbecue to celebrate completing the 250 mile loop in one day! The hikers followed the blue blazes from 6 AM to 6 PM and then enjoyed some well-earned grub.



The BTA Says Farewell



The Buckeye Trail Association says farewell to Volunteer Coordinator Barry Unger and Americorps Sally Sugar, who had both been working to spread the word and improve the experiences for people using the state loop trail. Barry went on to become the Volunteer Director for Habitat for Humanity of Southeastern Ohio. Sally will be beginning an Environmental Education position with Rural Action in August.

Welcome New Members!

Bev and Jerry Starcher

Mark Anson and Family
Kurt Bashoor and Family
Heidi Beister
Michael Bestic
Jonathon Bettac
Rachel Bremer and Family
John Brodt
Kevin and Mandy Brooks
Jim Butler
John Callahan
Joseph Candio
Catherine Carney
Daniel Clepper
Dirk Commandeur
Robert Cooley
David Cox and Family
Tom Croce
John Cross
Michele Davies-Blanton
Timothy Dennis
Doug Doherty
Joshua Dowdy and Family
Gail Erlenbach
Eldon Erlenbach
RW Fetters
Sara Finan
Lori Firsdon and Family
Carlos Forcadilla
Julia Ginocchio
LeAnna Gnade
Eric Hartman
Jeff Hayes
Robert Heath
Lonny Heft
Sharon Higgins
Rebecca Howard and Family
Amanda Hurst-Wilson
Jane Jenkins and Family
Shelby Jones
David Kieffer
Ella Kirk
Bob and Jenny Klein

Todd Kleismitt and Family
Chris Knisely
Denise Knisely
Henry Krzemien
Dave Lavender
Catherine LePree and Family
Alex Lewis
Lenart Lynn
Jennifer Mangino
Patrick Mason
Joshua Matthews
Bobbie McGraw
John McGregor and Family
Douglas McLarnan
Joshua Mole
Matt Morris
Bobby Morrison
Chris and Jon Mosey
Scott Mounts
Sandie Myers
William and Katie Myers
Kevin Nicholas
Sandy and Pat Norris
Kathy Oaster and Family
Robert O'Donnell and Family
Elle Pollard
David Rethman
Richard Riddlebarger
Gary Roberts
Anne Robinson
Constance Rose
Tara Roy
Laura Rush and Family
Wade Schroer and Family
Danielle Shaffer
Jay Shutt
Nathan Simpson
Meg Slifcak
Steven Steagall
Marcia Storm
Michael Strong and Family
David Struhar and Family

Lisa Stuckey and Family
Jody Taylor
Satu Thundathill
Robert Tucker
Kate Wesley
Tedford White
David Williams
Larry Woodruff
Nancy Woodruff
GBQ Partners LLC

ATTENTION! The Trailblazer is going green!

We will soon be primarily distributing the Trailblazer electronically so that more of your membership dollars can go to accomplishing the mission of the Buckeye Trail Association. With your next renewal letter, you will be able to opt-in to continuing to receive the Trailblazer by mail on the renewal form.

If you have any questions about this transition, please contact Sally Sugar at info@buckeyetrail.org or 740-394-2008.

Also, don't forget that the BTA mailing address has changed to:
PO Box 5, Shawnee, OH 43782



BTA Donor Recognition

The BTA owes its success to its members, donors and volunteers who commit to preserving the trail and the organization dedicated to it. 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. Thank you!

FEB 2018 - MAY 2018

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William Wershing

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Steve and Karen Walker

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Pat and Mary Hayes - In memory of Norma Nolen
Pat and Mary Hayes - In memory of Wylie H. Elliott

BEQUEST

Mabel Varner



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