

BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Trailblazer



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FALL 2018 VOLUME 51 NO. 3



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Boy Scout Improves Signage on the BT

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 for 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.



Trailblazer

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C O V E R

**A blue blaze along the Buckeye Trail in
Cuyahoga Valley National Park
Photograph by Gabe Leidy Photography**

Wayne National Forest Revises Land Management Plan

Wayne National Forest

The Wayne National Forest is currently in the process of revising its 2006 Forest Land Management Plan, and seeking input from all stakeholders. The revision process allows for public input on broad-scale guidelines and policies involving management activities on the Wayne National Forest, including recreational facilities and trails.

A forest plan provides “big picture” guidelines for management of the lands within the national forest boundaries. National forests are required to manage for multiple uses (recreation, forest products, water, fish and wildlife, and grazing), within the context of ecological processes, ecosystem services, and social, cultural, and economic conditions. Plans are revised and updated every 10 to 20 years to evaluate current conditions of the forest and alter management goals and policies with regard to any new conditions and any new scientific research available.

There are three phases of forest plan revision: assessment, plan development, and implementation and monitoring. Currently, the Wayne National Forest Plan Revision Team is in the assessment phase. This assessment of current conditions must address fifteen topic areas. Recreational opportunities and access and specially designated areas are the topics most relevant to members of the Buckeye Trail Association and users of the Buckeye Trail.

The segments of Buckeye Trail (BT) located in the Athens Ranger District of the Wayne National Forest are co-located with the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT) - a trail congressionally designated by the National Trails System Act, as amended in 1980. Approximately 98 miles of joint BT/NCT are located within the Wayne National Forest proclamation boundary, crossing private and National Forest System land in the New Straitsville Section (Athens Unit), and the Road Fork and Whipple Sections (Marietta Unit).

Co-location of the BT and NCT provides opportunities for partnerships between the Buckeye Trail Association, North Country Trail Association, National Park Service, and the USDA Forest Service. Currently, the Wayne National Forest has a formal agreement with the Buckeye Trail Association outlining planning opportunities and management expectations of the BT/NCT at the local level. At the regional level, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the North Country Trail Association, National Park Service, and the USDA Forest Service outlines management expectations where the NCT passes through national forest land.

Specifically, this MOU states that the North Country Trail is “to provide a non-motorized trail offering world-class walking and hiking experiences within a protected trailway.” As part of this MOU, national forests are encouraged to consider the creation of a discrete management area along the congressionally designated trail. Such a management area would also impact the Buckeye Trail located within the Wayne National Forest.

During the current assessment phase of the forest plan revision process, the Wayne National Forest Plan Revision Team is seeking information about public use of recreational facilities, including the Buckeye Trail. This can include local knowledge, scientific literature, and other sources. During the later plan development phase, additional public input and comments about the proposed management goals, standards, and guidelines will be sought.

To learn more or to submit information or a comment, please send an email to Wayne-PlanRevision@fs.fed.us, or visit the Wayne National Forest website at www.fs.usda.gov/wayne.

President's Message

Steve Walker

By the time you read this, the summer of 2018 will be in the books and a lot has happened since the last issue of the Trailblazer. It's all part of the ebb and flow of any living and growing organization. At this time, our trail is in an evolutionary period of its life. Although we've had a recent major relocation of the Buckeye Trail on to the North Coast Inland Trail in Northern Ohio, most of our trail well-established with a little fine-tuning of the routing happening here and there.

Some of this ebb and flow is now manifesting itself in the other operations of the Buckeye Trail Association. There has been a noticeable upswing in the activities of the various committees that have been formed or rebooted recently. The Development Committee under Andy Haag has committed to meeting regularly to manage the various fund raising efforts such as the Blue Blaze Society. The newly formed Membership Committee under the leadership of Rich Saccardi and Mary Hayes is meeting via conference call and planning for the recruitment and retention of BTA members and how best to service their membership needs. The Awards Committee, after many years of loyal and effective service by Mary Hamilton is in the process of planning for the future of this important effort. Not surprisingly, these committees will be communicating with each other to further all of their individual goals through collaboration.

We've recently added Defiance, Mantua and Mentor to our growing list of Buckeye Trail Towns and some other towns have expressed interest in becoming one as well. The Village of Zoar, a Trail Town since 2016, is meeting soon to see how they can develop resources to support through hikers.

The Statewide Comprehensive Trails Plan that is being overseen and directed by Tom Arbour, State Land and Water Trails Coordinator for ODNR Parks & Watercraft is in the survey and evaluation stage and the plan is to publish it before year's end. Sitting on the advisory team for this effort is our own Executive Director, Andrew Bashaw. The Trails Plan will specifically mention the part that the Buckeye Trail will play in the future of trails in Ohio.

On July 20th of this year, the Buckeye Trail Association was well represented at an Ohio Legislative Trails Caucus hike and kayak excursion in Morrow, Ohio. The hiking part was on the Buckeye Trail. This event was developed by Melissa Sandt, Legislative Aide for State Senator Steve Wilson. Senator Wilson was the host for this excursion and is also Co-Chair of the Ohio Legislative Trails Caucus. Among those attending on behalf of the BTA were Andy Haag, Lou Baxter, Mark Heise, Andy Niekamp, Joel Timmons, my wife, Karen Walker and myself. At that event, State Senator Peggy Lehner joined the Caucus meaning that almost one third of Ohio's state senators are now members of that group.

All across the state, trail maintenance is getting some attention and local chapters are acquiring the tools of the trade such as DR Mowers and tool trailers. The 2019 Buckeye Trail Crew schedule will be decided on soon and it's my hope that a lot of maintenance will be done next year to celebrate our trail's and our organization's 60th Anniversary. Although the Ohio General Assembly passed a resolution declaring that 2018 is "Ohio's Year of the Trails," 2019 will be celebrated by us and all of our friends as the "Year of the Buckeye Trail".

I always like to end my messages to you with a call to action. The work of the Buckeye Trail Association is never done and it will depend on the efforts of volunteers to move things forward. This effort is not always about building and maintaining trail. There's always a need for someone to lead hikes, talk to people on the trail, make presentations and sometimes even draw beer. Please consider becoming active in one of our four chapters or even think about forming a chapter if there is not one in your area. If you have an idea for a chapter in your area or an event that will further the goals of the Buckeye Trail and the Buckeye Trail Association, please forward them to me.

Besides that, there's the committee work that plans for some of these things. Our focus this year so far has been on starting the Development Committee and rebooting the Awards and Membership Committees. Help is also needed on the By-Laws Committee. As these committees take shape, we'll be looking to reboot or start other ones. Please let me know if you're interested in serving on a committee.

Here's hoping that you all have a great fall and I hope to see you on the Buckeye Trail, in the office helping out or at an event celebrating our trail and the people who care for it.



On the Trail

Andrew Bashaw



Andrew Bashaw

It was a beautiful weekend at the Beall Farmstead late in July during the BTA Board and Staff retreat. As the tents and the campers found their places the crickets and cicadas sang. In the evening the katydids took over and welcomed Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, Mars and finally a full moon, which rose above the forested ridgeline to shine down on the campers around the fire. In the morning the Great Blue Herons commuted to work, the red-winged black-

birds provided the alarm, perched on the cat tails from Beall Bay as BTA Volunteers busily prepared breakfast for all to enjoy. Aren't we fortunate that even our Board meetings can be in such a beautiful place!

I've been around the BTA since 2006, and Executive Director since 2010. Like a family reunion, I look around at the thirty or so at the Barn seeing a lot of faces newer than mine, and I recall a lot of faces that aren't here that were. It fills me with both happiness and mourning as I think of all the people that have made up the BTA back to our beginnings in 1959. It reminded me of an old philosophical question which, upon a little research, has a fancy name: the ship of Theseus paradox. Told in a variety of ways the ship leaves port on its maiden voyage and over time wear and tear on the ship cause each piece of planking and rigging to be replaced in turn. When it returns to port 60 years later with no original materials is it the same ship? Aristotle and others had a lot to say on the subject, but I was only looking for a simple analogy about the BTA. Since 1959 we've changed a lot as an organization; people have come and gone, the route of the trail has changed, shelters have been built and decayed and so on. I believe we are the same ship, but with all of the experience added over the course of the last 59 years I believe we are even more now than we were then.

There have been many changes at the BTA over the past few years; hiring staff, opening an office, purchasing properties, encouraging the development of local BTA chapters, fostering new partnerships that have yielded new miles of off-road hiking, engaging our elected officials, creating a variety of new events, and much more. All of these have added to the hiking experience out on the trail itself; the trail experience is enriched by more stories of more hikers completing their goals to hike all or part of the BT and our Buckeye Trail community continues to grow. Through it all I believe we have been able to hang on to that original idea to build, maintain, protect and promote Ohio's long distance hiking trail.

We are involved in providing input for the Wayne National Forest's Forest Plan Revision and the new Ohio Department of Natural Resources Statewide Trails Plan but we have a lot of work to do to improve our 501(c)3 nonprofit BTA as well. The retreat was a moment in time to continue to reflect on the past and plan for the future of the Buckeye Trail and the Buckeye Trail Association we have evolved into today. Next year is the 60th anniversary of both the BT and the BTA and we need your input.

You have an important perspective on the BT and BTA that we want included as we continue moving forward. Where will the BTA be at the end of 2020 and beyond? Are you willing to help us get there? Over the next few months we will be asking you to share your thoughts on where we should build, improve, change or sustain our efforts over the next few years and beyond. The BTA is not just our fifteen board members, not just our few paid staff or a selection of our volunteer leaders, the BTA is all of us combined. I hope you will take a moment to share your insight and, as your time allows, service to other members, volunteers and hikers enjoying the Buckeye Trail.

Thank you! Hope to see you on the Trail this Fall!

Andrew Bashaw
Executive Director, Buckeye Trail Association

Trail Talk Across Generations

Matthew Patterson



Photo by Kimberly Patterson

While attending the Clermont County Fair this summer, we happened by the Owensville Historical Society building and Kimberly wanted to go in and check it out. Once inside, we were greeted by an older gentleman who we soon learned could no longer hear very well. He answered our questions about the history of the county and of the various memorabilia hanging on the walls. Being along the Ohio River, Clermont County was one of the earlier counties established in Ohio, even before Ohio was a state. A historical marker stands outside of the historical society building citing the Clermont County Fair of 1846 as being one of the earliest fairs in Ohio.

The man's name was George Rooks. He asked us if we were familiar with East Fork State Park. Upon receiving our confirmation, he told us that he was the park manager there before retiring several years back. He related stories to us about how he used to walk the valley which is now under Harsha Lake, and about watching the dam being constructed. Then he told us that he submitted a request to name the park's perimeter trail after Steve Newman, the local man who walked around the world in the 1980's. And thus the name Steve Newman World Walker Trail on the park map.

No doubt he sensed our excitement in hearing his stories, and the excitement was shared in him when we told him that Kimberly is on the Board of Trustees for the BTA and that I am the Williamsburg Section Supervisor. His eyes lit up and he was so happy to learn of our connection with his park. He shared a story about the old church which lies between points 10 and 11 on the Williamsburg section map – a place we have parked when doing day hikes. They have neighbor reunions at that church every year.

Meeting this man and sensing his pride and gratitude for his many years living nearby and serving at East Fork gave me yet another reason why I am happy to tell people that the Buckeye Trail and North Country National Scenic Trail and American Discovery Trail run through East Fork State Park.

Lance Hopkins is the current Park Manager and, along with Southern Ohio Trail Association, has been very responsive in clearing trees and bush hogging each time that I have sent them an alert. They take pride in their trails, which we share. This year, various volunteer organizations have reached out to the park office looking for the opportunity to pick up trash and rehab camp sites along our trail, and Lance has put them to work! New carsonite signs will soon be installed to help light the way for hikers as well.

This fall, the Miami Rivers Chapter of the BTA is teaming up with Feral Hog Adventures for the third annual Feral Hog 50K on October 13, which loops the entire lake on the perimeter trail. Sign-ups are now available to hike/sweep the course after the runners are through, and also to man the BTA table at the event. Go to: <https://www.meetup.com/miamiriverschapter/events/251486922/> to sign up. Feral Hog Adventures has pledged a donation to the BTA in return. Additionally, Old Firehouse Brewery in Williamsburg is donating 50 cents of every beer sold in their brewery that day to the BTA.

So there are many reasons to come to East Fork this fall. Hope to see you there!

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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 2018 - AUGUST 2018

TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND

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William Wershing

EGGS HIKE CHALLENGE

Andrew Ligas
Matt Patterson

CROOKED RIVER CHAPTER

Edward Sliva Jr
Vertical Runner

MUSKINGUM LAKES CORRIDOR PROJECT

Steve & Karen Walker

2018 Schedule of Hikes & Events



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

NOVEMBER

November 3, 2018

BTA Board Meeting

Location: 10:00AM - at Shawnee, OH

Contact: President 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.

DECEMBER

December 8-9, 2018

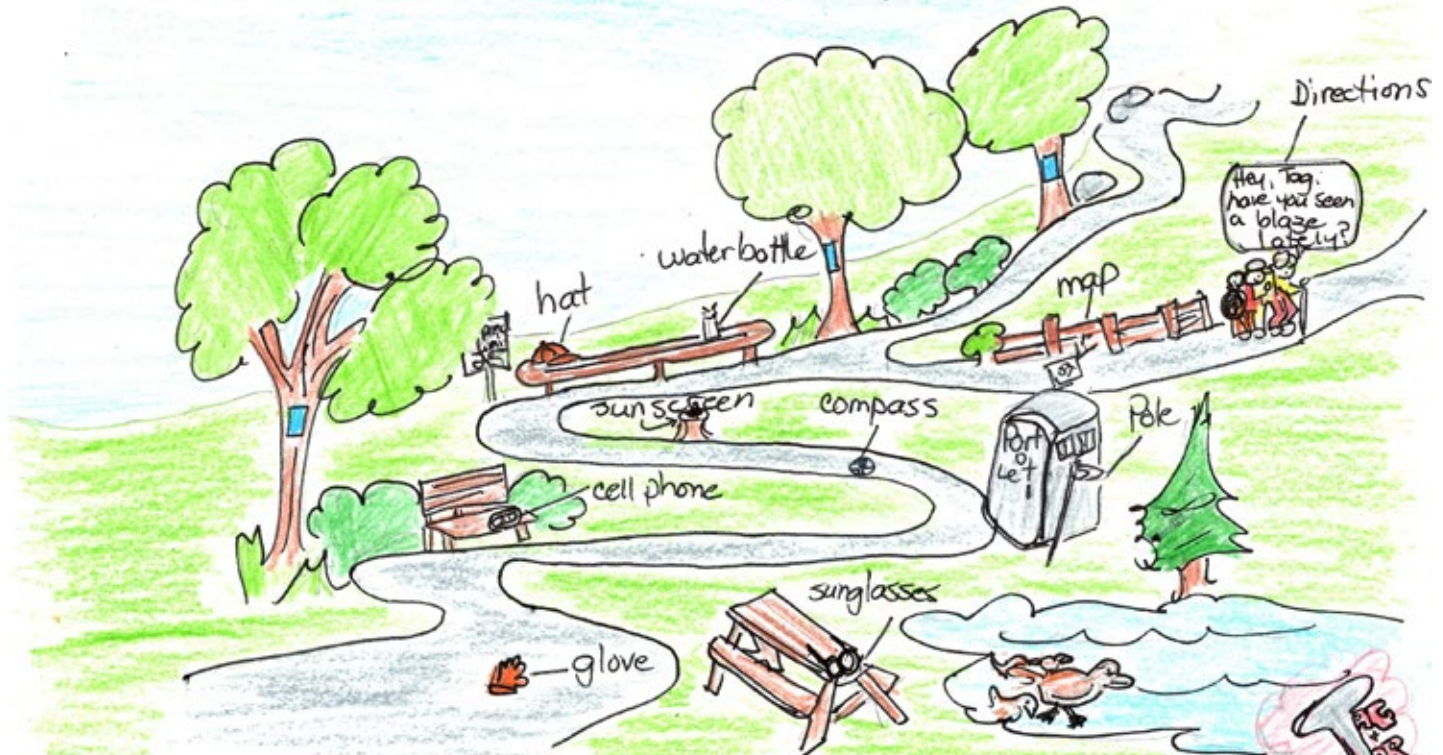
Buckeye Trail Circuit Hike: Scioto Trail Section

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



Even more events
with BTA chapters on
Meetup

The Adventures of Tag and Tor



Things lost, forgotten, misplaced on the Buckeye Trail

Buckeye Trail Author Events

The Buckeye Trail has recently seen three authors who have through hiked the BT and written and published books about their adventures. Each is promoting their book at various events around the state. These events bring awareness of the Buckeye Trail to those who may be unfamiliar with the BTA and inspires others who are aware of the BTA to become involved in some way. Even if you are a long-time member of the BTA, plan to attend one of the presentations – you might find out something you didn't know about our trail! The following is a description of the presentations and a listing of the locations where they will be this year:

Thru-Hiking the BT

With Andy Niekamp

On an 88-day thru-hike of Ohio's Buckeye Trail, Andy "Captain Blue" Niekamp made the most amazing long-distance journey of his life. As he walked his home state through wilderness, farmland, small towns, big cities, rural and urban areas, he discovered Ohio in a way that can be only experienced on foot. Captain Blue's stories about the people and places, past and present will change the way you see Ohio. His beautiful photos and experiences will surely inspire you to hike the Buckeye Trail.

Andy Niekamp's book titled "Captain Blue on the Blue Blazes - The First Solo Thru-Hike of Ohio's 1,444 Mile Buckeye Trail" will be available for purchase.

Dates

November 8, 2018

Lakewood Public Library - 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Lakewood Public Library at lakewoodpubliclibrary.org

December 6, 2018

Shawnee Prairie Preserve Nature Center - 6:30 p.m.

Contact: Drake County Parks at drakecountyparks.org/upcomingprograms/

Discover the BTA

With Chuck & Beth Hewett

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.

Dates

November 7, 2018

Ashland County Parks - 5:30 p.m.

Contact: Trevin Wyant at 740-286-4111

November 8, 2018

Jackson City Library - 5:30 p.m.

Contact: Trevin Wyant at 740-286-4111

November 12, 2018

Chardon Public Library - 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Katy Farrell at 440-285-7601

November 13, 2018

MLJ-Hardin Co. Library - 5:30 p.m.

Contact: Kristin Wallace at 419-673-2278

November 28, 2018

Conneaut Public Library - 5:30 p.m.

Contact: Kathy Altman at 440-593-1608

Growing the Trail

Andrew Bashaw

Due to a scheduling conflict earlier in the Summer I had the opportunity to dig a little dirt for the Buckeye Trail. As the BTA evolves these opportunities for me have decreased as my administrative opportunities increase, so I wasn't too heartbroken. There are a few heroic multi-year projects going on for the BT that are creating more backpacking destinations for Ohio's hikers, including West Branch State Park, the Nature Conservancy's Edge of Appalachia and now, with proposals approved, the Athens Unit of the Wayne National Forest. You'll hear more about these other projects in the future, but I don't want to ignore what's happening near the BTA office in the Village of Shawnee just because it is local to me as I try to highlight other great work around the state.

In addition to our Buckeye Trail Crew work, Perry County Jobs & Family Services (JFS) and Hocking-Athens-Perry Community Action Program (HAPCAP) and the Wayne National Forest's American Conservation Experience (ACE) provided summer youth crews to help us build nearly 2 miles of trail at Tecumseh Lake on the edge of the Village. This area is one of those places along the BT deserving of something more than the BT just passing by silently somewhere just out of view. Though the forest has regenerated over the past century this is the site of the historic Double XX coal mine, the lifeblood of the boom town of Shawnee at the end of the 1800's and beginning of the 1900's. Seven young men 15-18 years old; Adam, Hunter, Hayden, Robby, Hunter, Alex and David put a lot of hard work in through the extremely hot and stormy summer, and I was fortunate enough to join them for a couple of weeks out of necessity.

The existing trail through the area was unspectacular, often following old impacted mining or oil and gas service roads through acres of multi-floral rose bushes. But, thanks to their hard work, it is like a whole new forest has emerged. The route has changed to highlight a mature forest with scenic views and the ethereal song of the woodthrush while still including the interest of sinkholes that help to interpret lessons learned from the environmental history of past mining practices. Meanwhile, thanks to the support of the Ora E. Anderson Conservation Fund and the National Forest Foundation, we were able to follow through on a promise to the community of Shawnee "to try" to develop a loop trail around Tecumseh Lake for everyone of all abilities to enjoy. Ben Appleby of Linear-Active of Zanesville is completing the half mile compacted limestone path as I write these words. The views from this loop are also transformative from a landscape of abuse to one of natural appreciation.

The Buckeye Trail is big and very diverse, but here and there are places worth the BTA's investment to highlight the stories of the region as a whole, create opportunities for local communities to benefit from a bit more of a destination and improve and enrich



the backpacker's adventure. Those are a few of the reasons we have invested in this project, which when completed (if any trail project is truly 'completed') will result in over 90 miles of connected backpacking trail in the region. The support from the community is being honored on October 13 as Shawnee, OH becomes the next official Buckeye Trail Town after Defiance, Mantua, and Mentor earlier this year. Please join us for a ribbon cutting of the new trail, Shawnee Second Saturday and Little Cities of Black Diamonds Day to celebrate the BT, Shawnee and the hard work of our local youth.

Thank You to Growing List of Supporters of Our Effort to 'Re-Boot' BT on the Wayne National Forest

The Village of Shawnee - Ora E. Anderson Conservation Fund - National Forest Foundation - The Wayne National Forest - REI - Perry County Jobs & Family Services - Hocking-Athens-Perry Community Action Program - The Little Cities of Black Diamonds Council - the new Backtrack Café in Shawnee - Destination Shawnee - Sean Bartholic and the Youth Crew Members: Adam, Hunter, Hayden, Robby, Hunter, Alex and David!




Welcome New Members!

Bev and Jerry Starcher

Katelynn Barnett, Cincinnati
Diane Becka, Middleburg Hgts
Marie Bell and Family, North Ridgeville
Barbara Benutto, Columbus
Sandy Bonifas, Ohio City
Jeff Chinn, Columbus
Sandi Costill, Canton
Derek Cramer, VanWert
Susan Crowell, Lisbon
Jesse Dailey, Chillicothe
Erin Dennis, Lakewood
Guy Denny, Fredericktown
Riley Dwyer, Dublin
Amy Dwyer, Dublin
Sue Ekleberry and Family, Oak Harbor
Stephen Fopeano, Cleveland
Dave Freeman, Trimble
Elizabeth Fuller, Cleveland
John Galbraith, Birmingham, MI
Nick Govelovich and Family, North Ridgeville
Toni Lynne Greywitt, Delaware
Andrew Haag, Cleveland
William Hallas, Canton
Vincent Hand and Family, Oxford
Jonathan and Deborah Hauberg, Centerville
Dorothy Hauk, Erie, NY


Jill Hayden, Massillon
Mike Henry, Wooster
Shawn Hoyd and Family, Lancaster
Braden Israel, Zanesville
Mike Johnson, Wooster
Kyle Jones, Cincinnati
William Koruna, Columbus
Elizabeth Krabel and Family, New Philadelphia
Barbara Laughman, Lorain
Donald Lenc, Medina
Sherry Lindon, Dennison
Wayne Lintz, Saginaw, MI
Brian Loeffler, Pataskala
John Lovely Jr, Circleville
Ethan Maher, Lewis Center
Mary Marrero, Cincinnati
Bridge McDowell, Akron
Matthew McGrath, West Jefferson
Joanne McKell and Family, Cleveland Hgts
Marie-Eve Michel and Family, Cincinnati
David Miltenberger, Middletown
Susan Moore, Columbus
Kim Moske, Delaware
Nathaniel Orndorf, Akron
Karen and Robert Pallat, Bedford Hgts
Dwayne Peters, Marshallville

Nicolaus Rericha, Norwood
Thomas Robol, Worthington
Ken and Mary Schilstra, North Canton
John Smith, Warren
Gregg Somers, Pataskala
Dale Sroka, Fairlawn
Paul and Annelly Thayer, Painesville Twp
Kara Tulanko, Maineville
Patricia Tuttle and Family, Mount Vernon
Jennifer West, Millsboro
Gary Wiegand and Family, Grand Rapids
Linda Will and Family, Broadview Hgts
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The Sinclair House Bed and Breakfast, Waynesville



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go bus!
Buckeye Trail

*Plus taxes & fees

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everyone's favorite
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**A beautiful hike on the
Buckeye Trail but so much more!**

**Over 65 shops, galleries and eateries.
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Saturday, October 13th**



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Buckeye Trail Association

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