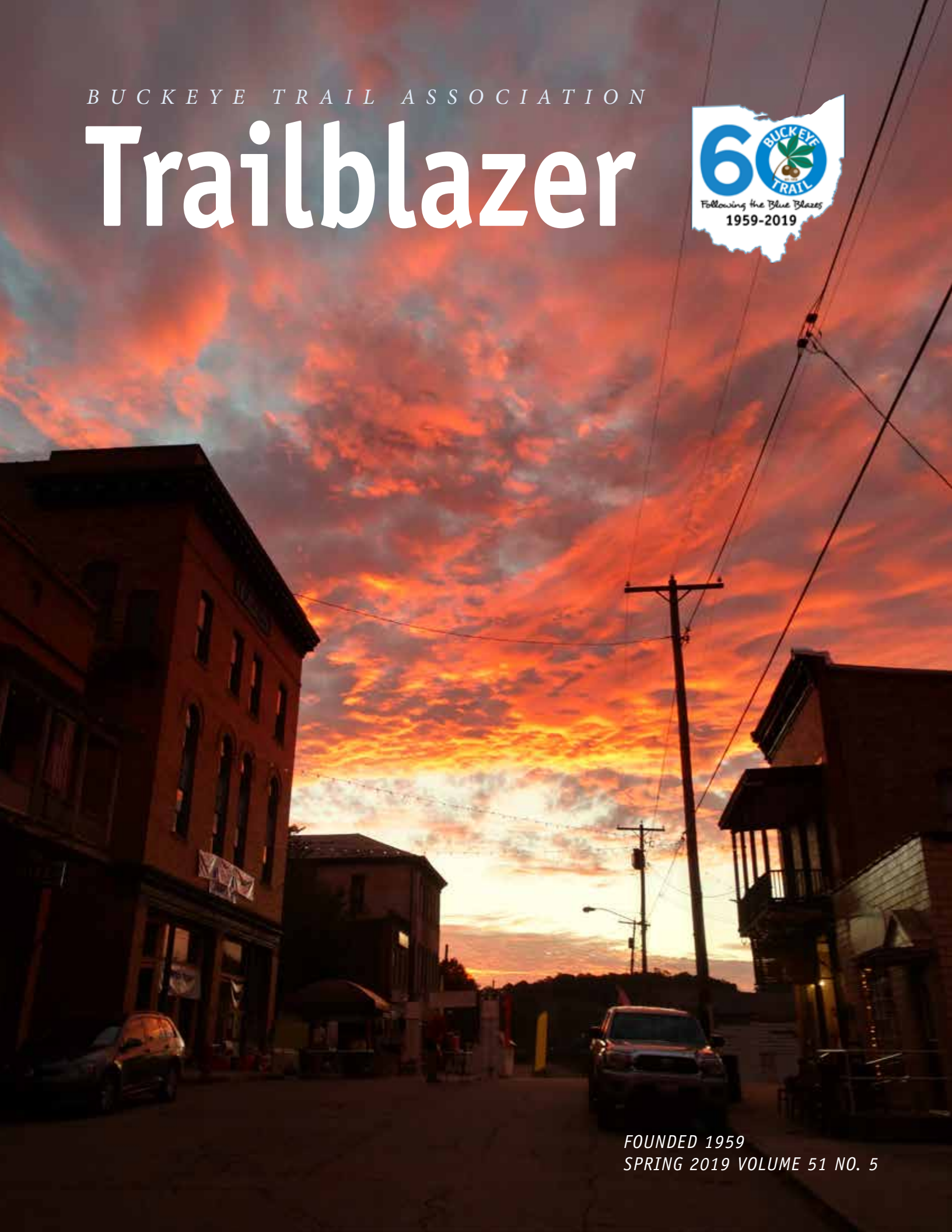


BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

# Trailblazer



FOUNDED 1959  
SPRING 2019 VOLUME 51 NO. 5

## IN THIS ISSUE...

- |    |   |    |  |
|----|---|----|--|
| 3  | Buckeye Trail Inventory   | 14 | Silas Chamberlain, On the Trail                            |
| 4  | President's Message   | 15 | Buckeye TrailFest 2019                                     |
| 6  | On the Trail  | 16 | Jack Watkins Memorial                                      |
| 8  | Buckeye Trail Member Honored<br>by The Ohio Parks and Recreation<br>Association | 17 | 2019 Schedule of Hikes and Events                          |
| 10 | The Florida Trail   | 20 | Biodiversity on the Buckeye Trail:<br>Erupting Ephemerals! |
| 11 | BTA Funds Report  | 21 | The Volunteer Corner                                       |
| 12 | 2019 MLK Hike at Hueston Woods<br>State Park                                    | 22 | Hiker on the Go #5 & Map                                   |
|    |   | 24 | New Member Form  |



Comic by Karen Power and Jeri Getts

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## Trailblazer

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Cover photo: Historic Village of  
Shawnee at Sunrise.  
Photo credit Sally Sugar



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# Buckeye Trail Inventory: Your Help is Needed!

*Chuck Hewett and Andy Haag*

Thanks to funding by a generous donor, the BTA has an opportunity to create a section-by-section trail plan focused on improving the Buckeye Trail. The Buckeye Trail Inventory will specifically document the trail's needs so that staff, volunteers, and partners can raise the funds necessary to implement this plan. The Buckeye Trail Inventory will include: identifying needed structures such as bridges, boardwalks, and tent platforms, shelters or simply areas that need to be leveled off to accommodate one or more tents. Also the plan is to documenting segments of the trail in need of relocation due to on-road and/or wet conditions; creating of a list of persistent vegetation problem areas and possible solutions; and determining areas in need of parking, kiosks, side trails, restrooms, trail-heads, water availability, signage and land areas that need to be purchased for camp sites and shelters.

Our goal is to complete the plan in 2019, and we need your help! Hikers and members of the Buckeye Trail community can send their input to Richard Lutz, [gis@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:gis@buckeyetrail.org), who will coordinate the process or gathering, writing and communicating the Trail Inventory. Every person who walks any part of the trail is encouraged to submit their comments and ideas. Buckeye Trail Section Supervisors have also been asked to review their respective sections and develop a list of needs. In areas where the Buckeye Trail does not have a Section Supervisor, Richard will be primarily responsible for creating a list of needs for those sections.

As the Buckeye Trail celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2019, the completion and implementation of this inventory is a significant achievement that will make Ohio's Official Trail a premier destination for day-hikers, segment hikers, backpackers, and thru-hikers.



*Buckeye Trail Crew at Edge of Appalachia Nature Preserve*

# President's Message

*Steve Walker*

The Buckeye Trail Association is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. All of the work that's gone before has gotten us to where we are in 2019. We should all pause to let that sink in. After you do think about it, please consider being a part of the yearlong celebration.

On a national basis, Trails Opening Day this year is Saturday, April 13, 2019 and it's my hope that all of our BTA Chapters will celebrate by sponsoring hikes. Last year, State Representative Emilia Strong Syke's called on the Crooked River Chapter to attend her Opening Day Hike on the Buckeye Trail in Akron on April 7, 2018. She expected to have five or six people for her first ever hike and was surprised to have over thirty people show up. On short notice, the Crooked River Chapter of the Buckeye Trail Association flash-mobbed the hike and put other groups on notice that there are a lot of hikers in Northeast Ohio. Please consider organizing a Trails Opening Day Hike for your area and consider inviting your state legislators and local elected officials to join you. It doesn't even have to be on the official date of April 13<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions about doing this, please feel free to reach out to me at [president@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:president@buckeyetrail.org) or [info@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:info@buckeyetrail.org) and I'll try and help.

MorelFest 2019 is scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>. The past two years have been successful, despite the lack of predictability upon which weekend is prime for harvesting morels. Last year, MorelFest occurred much earlier than the morels wanted to wake up for and very few were picked. That didn't stop anyone from enjoying themselves and everyone indicated that they wanted to come back in 2019 and try again. MorelFest attendees enjoyed hanging out by the campfire, listening to music and tasting whatever morels are available by the BTA Barn.

Buckeye TrailFest 2019 should be a very enjoyable event this year. With it coming just after the middle of May, the weather should be a little warmer for those that camp. It doesn't always work that way. We tried the same dates at TrailFest 2016 in Zoar and were treated to a brief amount of snow on the final Sunday. Go figure. I hope that the weather angels are watching over us and grant us favorable conditions this year. This year, there are some intriguing innovations regarding camping options and meal packages that should help attract people to attend Buckeye TrailFest 2019.

The Miami Rivers Chapter is looking to develop a signature hiking event centered on the Trail Towns of Milford and Loveland. This will likely be taking place on Memorial Day weekend. The partner for this two-day hike will be Roads, Rivers & Trails, a Milford, Ohio based outfitter that has supported Buckeye Trail hikers for years. Matt and Kimberly Patterson,



*Tom Helbig on his 2017 BT thru-hike at the BTA Beall Farmstead.  
Photo credit to Tom Helbig*

Miami Rivers Chapter Organizers, are the main drivers behind this event.

National Trails Day is on Saturday, June 1, 2019. The Muskingum Lakes Chapter usually celebrates by having an encampment at the BTA Beall Farmstead. This year will be no exception. With some luck, renovations will have been completed to the Beall Farmhouse (see picture) that can be showcased that weekend. If you're available, please consider coming. Tappan Lake is beautiful that time of the year (all times of the year, actually) and the nights are still a little cool making it a pleasure to sit by the big campfire, enjoy the Turkey Ridge Trail, eat ice cream from the Deersville General Store and enjoy Tappan Lake with a kayak or canoe (bring your own). At night, you'll occasionally hear the call of a great horned owl or observe the International Space Station whizzing over, taking less than 2 minutes to cross the sky overhead.



As you've come to expect, I'll be closing with the call to volunteer. Our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is an important event to celebrate. None of our scheduled events or any of our facilities can run themselves. If the goal seems daunting, know that none of this is difficult. You'll be working with some of the best people in the world. Take advantage of the opportunities in your own area to develop hikes and activities with other members of the Buckeye Trail Association. Trail maintenance has its own charms and I encourage you to contact your local Section Supervisor and see if some segment of the Buckeye Trail could use your assistance. Staff in our Headquarters can always use volunteers to help with the day-to-day operations that keep things running smoothly. There's committee work that could

also use your help and you seldom have to go anywhere to participate. Our Development, Membership and Awards Committees convene regularly by conference call, accomplishing several tasks. To sum up, this sort of volunteer work needs to be done and it can also be fun. It's all possible because of the volunteers that support the Buckeye Trail, its members and its mission. Here's hoping that I see you on the Buckeye Trail, at a BTA event or helping out at the BTA office. We'll see you for sure at Buckeye TrailFest 2019 where we'll be celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Buckeye Trail Association.



*Elmo Layman building new BT at the Nature Conservancy Edge of Appalachia Preserve.*



# On the Trail

By the time you read this spring will be just around the corner and there is so much to share about the Buckeye Trail! As you know, 2019 is the 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the BT and the BTA. We're excited to celebrate with you both our accomplished past and our hopes and plans for the future:

- The new Statewide Trails Plan/Vision will be published thanks in part to the BTA.
- Digital Avenza geo pdf maps are available and the Atlas Guides Guthook App for the BT as well as the first edition of the BT Databook are coming out soon.
- Two major events, MorelFest and Buckeye TrailFest, are scheduled for this spring, with the EGGS Hike and Little Loop Challenge on the way this summer.
- BTA plans to initiate an inventory of the trail structures needed along the entire BT.
- Our Chapter system is growing.
- The Ohio Trails Partnership and the Ohio Legislative Trails Caucus are also growing, and much more... All thanks to the fact that you are a member of the Buckeye Trail Association!

Spring is a natural time of renewal, which brings to mind renewing your membership or reaching out to new members. Often I hear an underlying question from prospective and current BTA members that boils down to 'why should a become (or renew) a member of the Buckeye Trail Association?' I hear two different questions there; 'Why is it important?' and 'What do I get in return for my membership dues?'

Well, I'm glad you asked. It's true that there is a tangible financial return to being a BTA member. You receive discounts to BTA events such as Buckeye TrailFest, MorelFest, the EGGS Hike, the Little Loop Challenge, Run for Blue Blazes and more. We also provide you with discounts at the Buckeye TrailShop for maps and apparel, outfitters like Roads, Rivers & Trails in Milford, and accommodations like Burr Oak Getaways around Burr Oak State Park. You do get the BT Trailblazer magazine here with special invitations to selected local events around the state. Your interests are carried to agencies like ODNR and all the way to the Legislature thanks to our advocacy work. And, with our new membership committee, we hope to increase those returns on your investment.

But, that's not all you get for you investment, and I'd wager that the intangible returns are far more valuable.

It comes back to the very beginning. You've probably heard me tell the story before, but here's a brief synopsis: A few inspired Ohioans were drawn together by a great idea, a Buckeye Trail. They realized from the beginning that their vision could not be realized without the support and investment from several types of people like members, volunteers, hikers and partners. They decided to chip in themselves to create a membership to work together to build a long distance trail that we can all hike together. That original group of founding members didn't wait for federal funding or some agency to take the lead. They got organized and got to work. Membership in the BTA today is an investment in that same ideal, as hikers we're chipping in regularly to see that work continue. Why? Because we like to hike. Why do we like hiking so much? Ponder on that question for a moment...

Why do you like to hike? Why do you support fellow hikers all around the Buckeye State? Over a thousand of you are likely coming up with many different answers, but I like to think that they all boil down to one great reason: hiking changes lives for the better, one step at a time.





Photo credit to Sally Sugar

When you put your hand on the stone of the 6 Lockington Locks and imagine canal boats rising up to the Loramie Summit on the Miami & Erie Canal, you've truly learned something about Ohio history more deeply than any history book. When you've lost your first pound by jogging on the towpath through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park or backpacking through the Little Smokies of Shawnee State Forest your physical health improves and you live longer and better. When you wander along the Maumee River to lose yourself after a stressful week, your mind and spirit recharge to better live with your loved ones and colleagues. When you make a point to take a stroll with your parents, children, or old high school friend you reconnect with those that matter most to you while reminiscing on old times and planning for your next visit. When you challenge yourself to go farther or faster down the trail than you ever have before, although exhausted you may revel in your accomplishment and discover a new found pride or self worth. When you pause in awe at the majesty of mist lifting off of a Muskingum Lake, a field of corn, or a sandstone gorge in the Hocking Hills your childlike imagination of the mystery of the world may be reborn. If you hike in to join the Buckeye Trail Crew for a day at the Edge of Appalachia or the Wayne National Forest you may find you receive more than you gave back to the BT.

These are some of the reasons you – we all – hike. These are some of the real benefits of being part of something bigger than ourselves, being part of the BTA membership. Most of these opportunities did not exist prior to 1959. These are some of the dreams of folks like Grandma Gatewood come true when she stepped up to the counter at the hardware store to buy and donate that first can of blue blaze paint.

For these and many other reasons we want to give you the gift of giving during our 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Buckeye Trail. During this year each of you will be given the opportunity to gift one free BTA membership to someone you think would value it as much as you do. I hope you enjoy thinking of who that may be. We always need more members, we always need more support. I hope you find pride in knowing that every investment made in the BTA, from your dues and donations to the TrailShop and BTA special event registration fees goes back in to building, maintaining, protecting and promoting one of Ohio's greatest ideas – the Buckeye Trail. Why? Because hiking changes lives for the better, and that is our gift to every Ohioan.

Thank you for being part of something visionary, thank you for hiking, and Happy Birthday!

Andrew Bashaw  
Executive Director

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# Buckeye Trail Member Honored by the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association

*Karen Power*

Andy “Captain Blue” Niekamp received the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award for 2018. Nominated by Montgomery County’s Five Rivers MetroParks, Andy was honored for his excellence in outdoor recreation leadership and trail stewardship.

Leadership awards like this one take a lifetime of involvement and impact to come to fruition. Over the years, Andy has organized or effectively contributed in some way to numerous activities and projects that have positively impacted trails and those who use them. He is most proud of Dayton Hikers, his support of Five Rivers MetroParks, and his promotion of the Buckeye Trail.

Andy started Dayton Hikers almost 10 years ago using MeetUp.com. In 2009 when his hiking club began, MeetUp was a little known social networking site. The MeetUp platform and Andy’s dedicated vision for providing free hiking opportunities for the local community has grown Dayton Hikers to 5,000+ members.

Dayton Hikers is the most active outdoor group in the Miami Valley, typically scheduling nearly 1,000 events a year. One Dayton Hiker project involved recording live outdoor imagery using a 50-pound backpack loaded with cameras. Andy and Dayton Hikers partnered with Five Rivers MetroParks’ Google Street View Trekker project which recorded 600 miles of Dayton area trails, including the parts of the Buckeye Trail that traverse Montgomery County. This virtual tour of the trails went live in 2017.

Andy continued his volunteer efforts by coordinating the helpers needed for the biennial International Trails Symposium held in Dayton in 2017. Andy used his IT skills to implement very successful volunteer sign-up software. Many of the 138 volunteers were Dayton Hikers. They worked a total of 1,011 hours, filling 229 slots.

Another noteworthy Dayton Hiker project for 2017 was the Warrior 150 Challenge Hikes. Andy organized five, 25-mile hikes to honor our veterans and to celebrate 150 years of Dayton’s VA Medical Center. Veterans, active duty military, and the public participated.

In 2018, using hiking as a forum, Dayton Hikers raised and donated almost \$2800 to Ohio Sate Nature Preserves, Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Pink Ribbon Girls, and St. Vincent DePaul, Dayton.

Currently, a very popular hike series is the Passport to Adventure Program. Andy designed a booklet and created stickers using park logos for 25 local parks, state parks, and the North Country Trail and the Buckeye Trail. Borrowing the idea from the National Parks Passport Program, this program encourages the public to visit local and state parks on Dayton Hikers’ organized hikes.

As Troy section supervisor, Andy is also proud of his commitment to the Buckeye Trail. In 2018, he gave 25 presentations on the Buckeye Trail in venues all over Ohio. His book about the Buckeye Trail, *Captain Blue on the Blue Blazes: The First Solo Thru Hike of Ohio’s 1,444 Mile Trail*, released in December 2017 currently has 1200+ copies in circulation.

Andy was pleased and proud to describe his experiences hiking the Buckeye Trail as an invited speaker during an Ohio Legislative Trails Caucus meeting at the state capitol in 2018. In addition, Andy and other BTA members, thanks to the





*Photo credit to Five Rivers Metro Park*

coordinating efforts of BTA President Steve Walker, visited members of the Trails Caucus at the state house.

As a follow-up to his state house visits, Andy organized and invited local outdoor leaders and local state representatives on a hike in the Five Rivers MetroPark area. He even managed to recruit his local representative to sit on the Caucus!

This year's Dayton Hikers' 2019 Buckeye Trail Winter Hike at Caesar Creek State Park set a record for the highest number of participating hikers in its six-year history. It continues to be the largest winter hike on the Buckeye Trail in southwest Ohio.

Andy is not only a leader in outdoor adventure and a steward of the trails, he is also an avid trail user. He began his fifth end-to-end section hike of the Appalachian Trail in 2017. He completed a thru-hike of the John Muir Trail in 2018, and by the time of this publication, will have completed a thru-hike of the 1,100 Florida Trail.

Awarded for significant and positive impact on promoting and sustaining trails, Andy continues to dedicate his life to providing opportunities for others to get exercise, explore nature, live a healthier lifestyle, and make Ohio a better place to live. Congratulations, Andy. It's an award well deserved.

# The Florida Trail

## Karen “Tagalong” Power

On Christmas day, I hiked on a road in a quiet residential neighborhood in a small town. I saw sidewalks, kids, fences, trees, cars and bikes in driveways, homes, grassy yards. It could have very well been a section of road on the Buckeye Trail in Hartville or Stockport.

A few steps in front of me was Andy “Captain Blue” Niekamp. Andy thru-hiked the 1,444-mile Buckeye Trail in 2011. This winter, he decided to thru-hike 1,100 miles of the Florida Trail. I’m a Buckeye Trail circuit hiker and hope to finish in 2019, but I planned to tag along on this Florida Trail adventure with Captain Blue for as long as my feet and my motivation would sustain me. The Florida Trail is not considered a wilderness trail. Like the Buckeye Trail, it utilizes forest paths, sidewalks, bike paths, paved roads, gravel and dirt roads. What sets it apart from the Buckeye Trail, are the various sections that follow along a path through a swamp. Yes, a swamp. In the 1,000 miles of Buckeye Trail I’ve completed, I have yet to hike through a swamp. Naturally, I had a list of concerns: venomous snakes, poisonous plants, panthers, pythons, bears, alligators, ticks and other insects.

We arrived at the southern terminus at Big Cypress National Preserve to begin our journey north. We were only three miles on trail when I realized I needed to re-do my list of concerns (plus some): venomous snakes, sink holes, no water sources,

mud as thick as slime, muddy water and sludge up to the calf, no dry campsites; an ill-defined trail which had its own subset of worries: getting lost, getting off trail, being unable to find the campsite, losing Andy, Andy losing me.

I was in the lead when we encountered the first cotton mouth. It poised to strike. I froze. The snake was not about to give up ground. “Andy. Snake. Cotton mouth!” I gasped. In his fearless, frontiersman-like spirit he responded, “Get behind me!”

“No problem.” I managed to squeak out, and leaped behind. Andy carefully moved a stick under the belly of the snake and flicked it as hard as he could. The force sent the snake flying through the air and into the grass. That’s when I decided it was *probably* better to let Andy be in front. Good thing, too. The next encounter with another venomous snake came soon after. Needless to say, we survived the swamp of Big Cypress. When we crossed a stretch of I-75 known as “Alligator Alley,” we knew we had made it. We hiked 30 miles of swamp in two days and three hours. We were wet and muddy, but feeling good. Good enough to keep hiking.

Andy and I parted ways after 12 days. He continued his journey northward. I flew back to Ohio, glad to have had this adventure. Now it’s time to finish the Buckeye Trail.



Photos credited to Karen Power and Andy Haag





# 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.

## NOVEMBER 2018 TO FEBRUARY 2018

### TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND

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# 2019 MLK Hike at Hueston Woods State Park

*Photo courtesy of Hueston Woods Lodge*

Twenty-five years ago, a professor by the name of Paul Daniels started the MLK Hike at Hueston Woods State Park. He taught at Miami University and was an avid hiker, BTA member and State Coordinator for the American Discovery Trail. The trail goes through a portion of the Hueston Woods State Park. This year's hike started the same as last year: terrible January weather. Two days before the hike we had rain, snow and very cold temperatures.

Because of the conditions, the Hueston Woods Lodge offered rooms half-off. The four volunteers and I took advantage of this



*Photo credit: John Rethman*

great deal. On the day of the hike, I had the food, drinks and help. But who would want to hike on a sunny day at -3 degrees Fahrenheit and 6" of snow on the ground? To my surprise, I had 10 energetic, eager and well prepared hikers. They dressed in layers, hats, mittens, gaiters, trekking poles, and boots. Some even had yak traks on their boots. They were ready to go and at 9:15 the hiking guides Jim Gilkey, C.W. Spencer and George Tyo guided them on the trail. Chris McIntyre (kitchen help and shuttle driver) and I drove to the Hueston Room - the approximate halfway point where the hikers could warm up, get a hot bowl or two of bean soup, hot drinks and a possible shuttle back to the Lodge. I fully expected that most of them would want a ride back to the Lodge. Only one took them up the offer. The rest happily hiked the rest of the trail back to the Lodge. After cleaning up the dinning area, we drove to the Lodge to be sure everyone made it back to the Lodge. They all arrived tired from walking 11 miles in the cold and snow. Although frozen, their high spirits and smiles warmed their faces. The temperature never made it out of the teens that day. This only goes to show that hiking can be done in any kind of weather as long as you are prepared for it. I could not have done this without my B.T. volunteer helpers.

*Happy Trails,  
John Rethman*



# Cabin for Rent

**Located:** less than 10 miles from BTA Offices in Shawnee, Perry County, Ohio.

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**For info or reservations:** contact Jeff and Gina McLean, 740-347-4385 or 740-621-6553.  
Also, [mcleangina68@yahoo.com](mailto:mcleangina68@yahoo.com)



# Silas Chamberlain, On the Trail: A History of American Hiking (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2016)

*Review by Jonathan Winkler*

Why are we here? This is an existential question, but one we implicitly ask ourselves every time we step out onto the Buckeye Trail. First time hikers joining an experienced group are almost guaranteed to learn something of the history of the Buckeye Trail, however imperfectly the storyteller knows the tale. But Merrill Gilfillan's *Columbus Dispatch* piece in 1958 and Grandma Gatewood's efforts did not spring from nowhere. And why is there a North Country Trail, or an American Discovery Trail, for that matter? Whose crazy idea was it to push the ideas of trails out there in the first place, especially considering that our trail goes famously up the scenic and silent Round Bottom Road?

Silas Chamberlain has written what may be the first succinct history of hiking in the United States. Originally a doctoral dissertation done at Lehigh University, his book joins a number of other works to have come out in recent years on hiking in the United States. Robert Moor's *On Trails* comes to mind, as does Terence Young's chapter on long-distance trails in *Heading Out: A History of American Camping*.

He starts the reader with the origins of nature walking as a form of recreation (and not just transportation) in the 1830s and 1840s, through the establishment of parks, organized expeditions, and the first real clubs (Boston's Appalachian Mountain Club in 1876 was the beginning of organized hiking in the United States). Across five tight chapters, he moves through the expansion of the hiking club movement across the eastern United States (as well as in the west, through the Sierra Club and Mazamas) in the 1880s, the making of the first permanent trails by these clubs, and the spread of this culture into the Midwest. We learn of the heyday of the organized American hiking culture in the 1920s through the end of World War II. Chamberlain sees it as a regional

phenomenon—the records suggest that it was strongest in the Pacific Northwest, the Midwest, and the East coast, driven in large part by robust interest among college students (such as Dartmouth Outing Club). But it did not catch on as much in the Plains, the Southwest, or the Deep South. Chamberlain finds that the interest in hiking exploded after World War II and that this new generation of hikers tended to engage individually with the trail, rather than through the clubs and their organized activities. A tension emerges: more hikers, more equipment, easier access, and more trails, but the old culture that had fostered this began to go away, a victim of its own success. He sees a key turning point in 1968, with the passage of the National Trails System Act, and the cultural shift within the hiking community towards Leave No Trace and other attempts to shape how “best” to engage nature on the trail. An epilogue brings it up to the present day.

So what does this book have to offer Buckeye Trail hikers who are not otherwise disposed to pick up academic tomes? To be honest, the Buckeye Trail gets a single mention, only on page 169. But I came away from this book with two things. First, that there was a much richer history than I had imagined of hiking and organized outing clubs across the United States beyond the more well recognized ones from which the Buckeye Trail sprung. Second, I gained a new appreciation that trail maintenance has been a core activity of hiking clubs for more than a century, almost from the beginning. Chamberlain explains that he himself came to this from a college summer working a trail maintenance crew that clearly was a transformative, personal experience. Perhaps all members should come out at least once, if only to lend moral support, to a trail maintenance crew. I know that's a personal goal for me in the coming year. Readable and enlightening, *History of Trails* is still an academic book, but if you are so inclined to know why we are, it would be worth your time when you're resting your feet after another beautiful hike.





Photo credit to Mark Heise

# Buckeye TrailFest 2019

*Ted Shigley*

This year TrailFest will be heading to the scenic and environmentally diverse area of northwest Ohio to explore what this part of Ohio has to offer. We will be right on the Maumee River with the Miami and Erie Canal, Oak Opening Region, “Blue Week” and birding opportunities. We will be partnering with local and statewide organizations to celebrate the Buckeye Trails 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Join us in celebrating 60 years of building, maintaining, promoting and protecting our amazing trails here in Ohio.

As part of TrailFest, you will have the opportunity on both Friday and Saturday to take a planned hike or stay at camp to participate in a workshop/presentation. The schedule of hikes and presentations are being developed, and can be found on the TrailFest website. We have been working with Henry County Park District and Metroparks Toledo, Black Swamp Conservancy, Wabash Cannonball Trail (NORTA) and others to partnership in this event.

## Cost

Resister fee is \$50, after April 1, 2019 the fee is \$60. Single day registration, and special prices for students.  
<http://www.buckeyetrailfest.org/>

## Lodging

There are several options for lodging at Camp Widewater. As part of the TrailFest registration, participants will be allowed to tent camp for free. There will be an additional costs for RV camping or staying in the Harmony Lodge.

## Meals

There will be a “meal plan” (all meals included) for \$30, or you can select meals when registering for only the meals you want. You can select from meal options for breakfast, lunch and dinner, starting on Friday morning. Lunches can be selected as a packed lunch for a day-long hike, or lunch at the camp while attending a wide range of workshops and presentation for all outdoor enthusiasts. There will be a “meal plan” option as a cost savings, to enjoy all of the meals, or select specific meals at a per meal cost. All of the meals will be prepared by camp staff in the Lodge kitchen, and will be served in the dining hall.

## Evening Program

Friday and Saturday evenings will be our time of celebration. On Friday, we will be looking back at the past 60 years of the Buckeye Trail growth. We will have special guests who have shared in this journey and the recognition of our dedicated volunteers who have made the Buckeye Trail what it is today. On Saturday, will be celebrating our birthday, and looking to the future. Sharing the vision of the BT for the next 60 years and beyond. Join in with marking your “Blue Blaze” for the BTA trek to come. We will make updates on the website about Keynote speakers and programs as they come in.

Registration is now open, and we are looking forward to seeing members from around the state join us for TrailFest.





Photo courtesy of the BTA archives

# Jack Watkins was an extraordinary person...

*Jim Sprague*

I don't remember exactly when I first met Jack, but I believe that I remember where. The date would have been in the early 90's when I did not keep annual records for the Trail Crew at Work Parties. We were having a Work Party at Scioto Trails State Forest. Just in time to sign up for the day's activity, he arrived at the parking area near the dam that retains Stewart Lake. Unfortunately, his van, which carried him reliably in the time that I knew him, chose that moment to fail. This arrival provided my first impression of Jack. That impression was not good. Fortunately, O. P. Murphy was also at that party. OP volunteered to stay with Jack and the van to get both back on the road again, while the Trail Crew went about its business, whatever it was that day. My first impression was so very, very wrong.

I soon came to know how dedicated Jack was to the Buckeye Trail. Most of my time with Jack was while he was a volunteer State Trail Coordinator for the Buckeye Trail Association. He organized an Adopt-a-Trail program, which once again established a cadre of volunteers to keep the trail marked with blue blazes around the state. His sales program became famous. "It is pretty easy. You have just to inspect your trail once or twice a year and maybe touch up some blazes annually," he'd say and then he would gently twist the arm of his candidate until his target agreed to volunteer. Sometimes there would be a follow up when a Section Supervisor retired or a trail-segment near the volunteers' segment would open up. You can guess at the content of the follow up. As part of the adopter program, he

held meetings in Lewis Center at Highbanks Metropark, a premier park in the Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks system, once or twice a year. Jack insisted that these meetings must provide all trail volunteers the chance to present their ideas and complaints. Jack was such a genuinely nice man that he produced the best Adopter program that the Buckeye Trail has had in many years.

Later, I learned how diligent Jack could be. Jack and I coordinated on the production of maps. I wrote the text. Jack did the map part. The base maps that Jack employed were hard copies that came from ODOT. He cut those maps up to show the part or parts of a county that he needed to display the route of the trail. If more than one county was involved, he would cut that one up as well. Then he pasted up both the map and the text on some sort of a board. If the parts were just a little too large, he would go to someone who had a Xerox machine to copy the offending parts. Those Xerox copiers could reduce the size of the image just a little so that, hopefully, things would go together properly. Finally, the pasted up copy would be taken to a printer who would run the number of copies that we could sell in some reasonable time. Of course, that process was subject to vicarious error. Sometimes the wax that he used as paste wouldn't hold all the parts properly in place and the printed product was worthless. Jack would urge the printer to redo the printing after he had rewaxed the parts back into their proper place. As a tribute to his persuasiveness, he was usually at least partially successful. The printer would reduce our cost.

These memories of Jack will remain with me for the rest of my days, and I will miss him for a similar length of time.



# 2019 Schedule of Hikes & Events

Always check [www.buckeyetrail.org/events.html](http://www.buckeyetrail.org/events.html) for more information and last-minute updates

## MARCH

**March 30, 2019**

### Little Loop Presentation

**Saturday:** 10:00 to 11:30AM

**Location:** Backpackers Shop of Ohio Canoe Adventures, 5128 Colorado Ave, Sheffield Lake

**Contact:** Crooked River Chapter at [crookedriver@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:crookedriver@buckeyetrail.org)

**March 30, 2019**

### Little Loop Presentation

**Saturday:** 2:30 to 4:00PM

**Location:** REI Cleveland, 411 Park Ave, Beachwood, OH

**Contact:** Crooked River Chapter at [crookedriver@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:crookedriver@buckeyetrail.org)

**March 30-31, 2019**

### Work Weekend Cleveland Metroparks within the Cuyahoga Valley National Park

**Camping:** Ottawa Point picnic grounds - <https://goo.gl/maps/Nfyzdfscqs42>. There is a huge pavilion and pit toilet on site.

**Meals:** This is a bring-your-own food and water event

**Contact:** Sunny at [akron@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:akron@buckeyetrail.org)

## APRIL

**April 6, 2019**

### Night Hiking Presentation

**Description:** Saturday - 1:00PM to 4:00PM. You can see more about this event at <https://www.meetup.com/BuckeyeTrailFriends/events/258210637/>

**Location:** Local Roots (a coffee house), 78 Olive Street, Caldwell 43727

**Contact:** MD Edmonds at 740-885-9644, or [edmondsm@gmail.com](mailto:edmondsm@gmail.com)

**April 14, 2019**

### Cabin Fever Hike - April Showers Hike

**Sunday:** Register between 1 and 3 PM at Noble Township Hall. Sponsored by the Heritage Trails Park District

**Contact:** [www.htparks.org](http://www.htparks.org)

**April 6-10, 2019**

### Work Week at the Edge of Appalachia - West Union Section

The Trail Crew will leave at 8:30 AM and work until 3:30 PM

**Camping:** Camping will be at 1190 Long Lick Road, Stout, Ohio 45684. The driveway entrance is at GPS point 38.669312 -83.346235

**Meals:** Free food at the campsite for the first 20 volunteers to contact [chuckwagon@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:chuckwagon@buckeyetrail.org)

**Contact:** RSVP to the Trail Management Team [trailcrew@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:trailcrew@buckeyetrail.org)

**April 7, 2019**

### Little Loop Presentation

**Sunday:** 2:00 to 3:30PM

**Location:** The West Woods NatureCenter, 9465 Kinsman Rd (Rt.87), 44072, Novelty, OH

**Contact:** Crooked River Chapter at [crookedriver@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:crookedriver@buckeyetrail.org)

**April 10, 2019**

### Little Loop Presentation

**Wednesday:** 7:00 to 8:30PM

**Location:** City of Mentor City Hall, 8500 Civic Center Blvd, Mentor, OH

**Contact:** Crooked River Chapter at [crookedriver@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:crookedriver@buckeyetrail.org)

**April 13-14, 2019**

### Circuit Hike Sinking Spring and Shawnee Sections

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

**April 26-28, 2019**

### BTA Morel-Fest

**Description:** Morel-Fest starts at 11:00AM on Friday April 26 and goes until 3:00PM on Sunday April 28. Registration is now open!

**Location:** BTA Barn - BT Century Barn 83949 Beall Rd near Deersville, OH.

**Schedule:** For all the details, visit <http://www.buckeyetrail.org/morel-fest.php>

**Contact:** [morelfest@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:morelfest@buckeyetrail.org)

**April 27 to May 1, 2019**

**Work Week in the Old Man's Cave Section**  
The Trail Crew will leave at 8:00 AM and work until 3:00PM.

**Camping:** Camping will be at Hocking Soil & Water - Bishop Educational Garden 13200 Little Cola Rd, Rockbridge, OH 43149 39.546880 -82.621648

**Meals:** Free food at the campsite for the first 20 volunteers to contact [chuckwagon@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:chuckwagon@buckeyetrail.org)

**Contact:** Byron Guy [oldmanscave@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:oldmanscave@buckeyetrail.org) for work party information and to RSVP.

## MAY

**May 4, 2019**

### Introduction to the North Country National Scenic Trail

**Description:** Saturday - 1:00PM to 4:00PM. More information: <https://www.meetup.com/BuckeyeTrailFriends/events/258210832/>

**Location:** Local Roots (a coffee house), 78 Olive Street, Caldwell 43727

**Contact:** MD Edmonds at 740-885-9644, or [edmondsm@gmail.com](mailto:edmondsm@gmail.com)

**May 9, 2019**

### Discover the BTA

Thursday - 6:00PM.

**Location:** CVNP Octagon Shelter, 500 Truxell Road, Peninsula, Ohio 44264

**Contact:** Mike Schnellinger, CVNP Trailblazers, at 330-618-5082

**May 10, 2019**

### Discover the BTA

Friday - 7:00PM

**Location:** Medina Parks, Wolf Creek Environmental Center, 6100 Ridge Road, Sharon Center, OH (north of Wadsworth)

**Contact:** Shelley Tender at 330-329-4814

**May 11, 2019**

### Little Loop Presentation

**Saturday:** 2:00 to 3:30PM

**Location:** Brecksville Nature Center, Chippewa Creek Drive, Brecksville, OH

**Contact:** Crooked River Chapter at [crookedriver@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:crookedriver@buckeyetrail.org)

# Hikes & Events Continued

## May 16-19, 2019

**Buckeye TrailFest - Registration is OPEN!**

**Location:** It is a Birthday Celebration for the Buckeye Trail! Join us at Camp Widewater, on the Maumee River and Miami and Erie Canal, in northwest OH to celebrate the BT's 60th birthday. View all the details at the [TrailFest web page](http://www.buckeyetrailfest.org/) (<http://www.buckeyetrailfest.org/>).

## May 19, 2019

**Buckeye Trail Annual Membership Meeting 9:00AM**

**Location:** The Annual Membership Meeting will be held during TrailFest at Camp Widewater, near Liberty Center OH.

**Contact:** Steve Walker, President, at [president@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:president@buckeyetrail.org)

## May 19, 2019

**Buckeye Trail Board Meeting 10:00AM**

**Location:** A BTA Board Meeting will be held immediately following the BTA Annual Meeting.

**Contact:** Steve Walker, President, at [president@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:president@buckeyetrail.org)

## May 18-19, 2019

**Work Weekend at West Branch State Park in the Mogadore Section**

**Meals:** This is a bring-your-own food event, so make sure you pack enough to eat!

**Camping:** Camping at the Horse Camp on the North Shore, 41.14992, -81.11256

**Contact:** For questions about the work party and to RSVP contact Steve Latza at [green.boonie@gmail.com](mailto:green.boonie@gmail.com)

## May 21, 2019

**Discover the BTA**

Tuesday - 6:00PM.

**Location:** 108 West Main St., St. Clairsville, OH

**Contact:** Emily Kessler at 740-695-2062

## May 25-29, 2019

**Work Week at AEP in the Stockport Section**

**Camping:** Hook Lake, Campground A 9160 N. St. Rt. 83, McConnellsville, OH 43756.

**Meals:** This will be a Chuck Wagon Event! That means free food at the campsite for the first 20 volunteers to contact

[chuckwagon@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:chuckwagon@buckeyetrail.org)

**Contact:** For additional info and to RSVP, contact Herb Hulls at [53hulls41@windstream.net](mailto:53hulls41@windstream.net) or 740-787-2416)

## May 28, 2019

**Discover the BTA**

Tuesday - 5:30PM.

**Location:** Kate Love Simpson Library, 358 E Main St., McConnellsville, Ohio

**Contact:** Lori McGrath at 740-962-2533

## JUNE

### June 8-9, 2019

**Work Weekend at Burr Oak State Park**

**Description:** We will leave camp at 8:00AM and quit work at 3:00PM.

**Meals:** This is a bring-your-own food event, so make sure you pack enough to eat!

**Contact:** Byron Guy [oldmanscave@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:oldmanscave@buckeyetrail.org) for work party information and to RSVP.

### June 13, 2019

**Discover the BTA**

Thursday - 6:30PM.

**Location:** Putnam County Library, 136 Putnam Pkwy, Ottawa, OH 45875

**Contact:** Pat Meyer at 419-523-3747 x210

### June 15, 2019

**Little Loop Presentation**

**Saturday:** 10:00 to 11:30AM

**Location:** Stark Parks Exploration Gateway, 5712 12th St NW, Canton, OH

**Contact:** Crooked River Chapter at [crookedriver@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:crookedriver@buckeyetrail.org)

### June 19, 2019

**Discover the BTA**

Wednesday - 7:00PM.

**Location:** Geauga West Library, 13455 Chillicothe Road, Chesterland, OH

**Contact:** Erika Noark at 440-479-4250

### June 20-23, 2019

**10th Annual EGGS Hike**

**Location:** Burr Oak State Park and Wildcat Hollow Backpack Trail

**Contact:** Byron Guy at [oldmanscave@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:oldmanscave@buckeyetrail.org)

## June 22-23, 2019

**Work Weekend at West Branch State Park in the Mogadore Section**

**Description:** This work will focus on the trail extension planned around the reservoir.

**Meals:** This is a bring-your-own food event

**Camping:** Camping at the Horse Camp on the North Shore, 41.14992, -81.11256

**Contact:** For questions about the work party and to RSVP contact Steve Latza at [green.boonie@gmail.com](mailto:green.boonie@gmail.com)

## JULY

### July 13-14, 2019

**Work Weekend at West Branch State Park in the Mogadore Section**

**Description:** This work will focus on the trail extension planned around the reservoir.

**Meals:** This is a bring-your-own food event

**Camping:** Camping at the Horse Camp on the North Shore, 41.14992, -81.11256

**Contact:** For questions about the work party and to RSVP contact Steve Latza at [green.boonie@gmail.com](mailto:green.boonie@gmail.com)

### July 13-17, 2019

**Work Week at Road Fork and Whipple Sections**

**Description:** The Trail Crew will leave at 8:00 AM and work until 3:00 PM.

**Camping:** Camping at the Little Muskingum Watershed Association Property, OH-26 & Township Road 88 New Matamoras, Ohio 45767. 39.54197, -81.22468

**Meals:** Free food at the campsite for the first 20 volunteers to contact [chuckwagon@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:chuckwagon@buckeyetrail.org).

**Contact:** Tom Rohr at 419-281-7465 for work party information and to RSVP.

### July 20, 2019

**3rd Annual Little Loop Challenge**

Registration will open in April or May. Visit (<http://www.buckeyetrail.org/LittleLoopChallenge.php>) for details.

**Contact:** Little Loop team at [littleloop@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:littleloop@buckeyetrail.org)



## July 27-28, 2019

### Buckeye Trail Board Meeting 10:00AM

**Location:** This BTA Board Meeting is the annual Board Retreat and is held at the Beale Farmstead on Tappan Lake near Deersville, OH. The meeting starts at 10:00AM on Saturday and 9:00AM on Sunday.

**Contact:** Steve Walker, President, at [president@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:president@buckeyetrail.org)

## AUGUST

### August 3-7, 2019

#### Work Week at Tar Hollow in the Scioto Trail Section

The Trail Crew will leave at 8:00 AM and work until 3:00 PM.

**Camping:** TBD

**Meals:** This is a bring-your-own food event

**Contact:** For questions about the work party and to RSVP contact Deven Atkinson at [devenatkinson@gmail.com](mailto:devenatkinson@gmail.com)

### August 10-14, 2019

#### Work Week at West Branch State Park in the Mogadore Section

The Trail Crew will leave at 8:00 AM and work until 3:00 PM.

**Meals:** This is a bring-your-own food event

**Camping:** Camping at the Horse Camp on the North Shore, 41.14992, -81.11256

**Contact:** For questions about the work party and to RSVP contact Bill Jindra at 440-313-8885 or [jindras@oberlin.net](mailto:jindras@oberlin.net)

### August 11, 2019

#### Little Loop Presentation

**Sunday:** 2:00 to 3:30PM

**Location:** Penitentiary Glen Reservation, 8668 Kirtland Chardon Rd, Kirtland, OH

**Contact:** Crooked River Chapter at [crookedriver@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:crookedriver@buckeyetrail.org)

### August 22, 2019

#### Discover the BTA

**Description:** Thursday - 7:00PM.

**Location:** Geauga Bainbridge Library, 17222 Snyder Road, Chagrin Falls, OH

**Contact:** April Holmes at 440-543-6511 x2542

## August 24-28, 2019

### Work Week at Independence Dam State Park in the Defiance Section

The Trail Crew will leave at 8:00 AM and work until 3:00 PM.

**Meals:** This is a bring-your-own food event

**Camping:** Camping at Independence Dam State Park Primitive Campground, 27722 County Rd 424, Defiance, OH 43512, 41.29195, -84.27451

**Contact:** For questions about the work party and to RSVP contact Karen Beckman 419-341-4013.

## SEPTEMBER

### September 7-11, 2019

#### Work Week at Clendening Lake in the Bowerston Section

**Camping:** Camping will be at the BTA Century Bar. Located on the shore of Tappan Lake at 83949 Beale Road, Cadiz, OH 43907.

**Meals:** Food will be provided by the BTA Barn Kitchen. Contact Mary Hamilton [hamilton3310@roadrunner.com](mailto:hamilton3310@roadrunner.com) to make food donations

**Contact:** Scott Pendleton [tallyp2001@yahoo.com](mailto:tallyp2001@yahoo.com) for work party questions and to RSVP.

### September 21-25, 2019

#### Work Week in the New Straitsville Section in preparation for the Run for the Blue Blazes Marathon

The trail crew will be working from 8:30am to 3:30pm.

**Camping:** The Crew will be camping near Dock 3 at Burr Oak State Park group camp for the week,

**Meals:** Free food at the campsite for the first 20 volunteers to contact [chuckwagon@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:chuckwagon@buckeyetrail.org)

**Contact:** Contact Herb Hulls for work party information and to RSVP at 740-787-2416 or [53hulls14@windstream.net](mailto:53hulls14@windstream.net)

### September 21-22, 2019

#### Work Weekend at West Branch State Park in the Mogadore Section

**Description:** This work will focus on the trail extension planned around the reservoir.

**Meals:** This is a bring-your-own food event

**Camping:** Camping at the Horse Camp on the North Shore, 41.14992, -81.11256

**Contact:** For questions about the work party and to RSVP contact Steve Latza at [green.boonie@gmail.com](mailto:green.boonie@gmail.com)

## Sept. 29, 2019

### BTA Golf Outing

**Description:** Save this date for the 1st BTA Golf Outing! More info to follow soon.

**Contact:** Brandon Bates at [muskingumlakes@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:muskingumlakes@buckeyetrail.org) for all the details.

## OCTOBER

### Oct. 5, 2019

#### 2019 Buckeye Trail Run - Run for Blue Blazes

**Location:** The race starts and ends in downtown Shawnee OH.

**Information:** Visit the (<http://www.buckeyetrail.org/run4blue.php>) web page for all the details. Registration is OPEN!

### October 12-16, 2019

#### Work Week at Camp Tuscazoar in the Massillon Section

The Trail Crew will leave at 8:30 AM and work until 3:30 PM.

**Camping:** Camping will be at Camp Tuscazoar at 066 Boy Scout Rd NE, Dover, OH 44622.

**Meals:** Food will be provided by the BTA Barn Kitchen. Contact Mary Hamilton [hamilton3310@roadrunner.com](mailto:hamilton3310@roadrunner.com) to make food donations

**Contact:** Steve Walker [president@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:president@buckeyetrail.org) for work party questions and to RSVP

### October 26-27, 2019

#### Work Weekend at Pretty Run in the Old Man's Cave Section

We will leave the camp at 8:30 AM and work until 3:30 PM.

**Camping:** at Pretty Run, 39.34987 N, -82.62431 W.

**Meals:** This is not a Chuck wagon event, so volunteers must bring their own food and water

**Contact:** For questions about the work party and to RSVP contact Byron Guy at [oldmanscave@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:oldmanscave@buckeyetrail.org)

## NOVEMBER

### Nov 2, 2019

#### Buckeye Trail Board Meeting 10:00AM

**Location:** TBD

**Contact:** Steve Walker, President, at [president@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:president@buckeyetrail.org)

# Biodiversity on the Buckeye Trail: Erupting Ephemerals!

*Article and photo by Ryan Kelpy Brown – BTA Asst. Volunteer Coordinator & AmeriCorps Member*

Winter is one of those times of year that just never seems to end. Teased with warm February and early March days, it's easy to fool yourself into thinking spring is just around the corner. While providing great opportunities to get outside, those 70 F° day pleasantries can just as easily turn into weeklong freeze-outs. Even during the warmest of days during this period, time seems to stand still, a dull dreary world pleading for new life. The keenest hikers on the BT know where to search for some of spring's first harbingers, such as the first "kon-kar-eel" of a red-winged blackbird early in its return from the southland, the "salamander crawl" on the first rainy night above 50 degrees, the woodcock's sky-dance or skunk cabbage melting ice into a puddle. For the most part, even on these warm days, changes are few and it is still winter: brown, bleak, soggy, and dead. Indeed, spring will not truly arrive until the days are long enough to initiate one of nature's first and finest performances: the emergence of the ephemerals.

It's a funny word. What on earth is an ephemeral? According to dictionaries, ephemeral in its adjective form is "something that lasts a very short period of time". Aptly named, our spring ephemerals do just that. But what are they? Bugs? Birds? Sunny April afternoons? No. Spring ephemerals are more often simply called wildflowers, and when Old Man Winter finally releases his grip, they capitalize on their moment in the spotlight (literally). Ephemerals only last the short period of time when the sun shines down to the forest floor through the bare branches of early spring. Their strategy is simple: take advantage of the earliest part of the growing season before the trees leaf-out and soak in all of the sunlight. From March – May these amazing plants treat hikers to a stunning spectacle all across the eastern deciduous forest. Poking their way through the fertile leaf litter, hundreds of species of wildflowers end their dormancy period during this time with gorgeous blooms and colors that sometimes seem to carpet the forest floor. They transform the landscape from one of bleak browns and grays to a full pallet of color splashed on a green canvass.

The flowers are not just there for a show of beauty. Every color and pattern is a coded message for its partner-in-crime: pollinators! Nearly all species of wildflowers have a mutual partnership with a pollinator. Bees, flies, beetles, wasps, ants, moths, and butterflies emerge in sync with their botanic partners the way they have done for millennia. This is a co-evolutionary, mutualistic relationship on a mass scale and it is one of the intricacies of the forest on which all life depends. Every flower pollinated by insects becomes a seed, which creates the next generation of wildflowers but also provides food to many other seed-eating species of animals. As for the insects? Well, they depend on the flowers for food but then many of them end up being food themselves when they get snatched up by a bird, bat, or bigger bug! It really is a relationship that forms the base for our entire food web.

You can find spring wildflowers anywhere that there is intact forest. Undisturbed mesic slopes and streamsides are some of the best places to look, but there is a habitat for nearly every species. Be mindful that this is a time of year to stay on the trail; wildflowers can easily be trampled. This disturbance can change the conditions preferred by that flower species and also create places for invasive species to colonize. Invasive ephemerals like garlic mustard and lesser celandine compete with native wildflowers for real estate. You can do your part to keep them at bay by cleaning your boots before entering natural areas and again when your hike is thru. Another effective method of control is to remove them directly. Spring garlic mustard pulls are popular events at parks and wildlife areas and there is likely one going on near you this spring, maybe even on the Buckeye Trail! All of our native plants are also fantastic additions to your garden that are giving back to the entire ecosystem in ways that popular ornamentals do not. In my opinion, they are superior in every way, including beauty, diversity, maintenance, longevity, and most of all, food for other species. Talk about being a good neighbor! Peak time for wildflowers is generally late April - early May, however, this begins earlier in Southern Ohio and later in the northern counties. Above all, be sure that you at-least make it out on the trail to catch a glimpse of this amazing spectacle of nature before it's over. You only have an ephemeral moment!



# The Volunteer Corner

Ryan Kelpy Brown – BTA Asst. Volunteer Coordinator & AmeriCorps Member

Winter can be a time of year when it's hard just to get outside. On a gray gloomy day, when the wind is howling, temperatures are solidly below freezing, and snow and ice cover the landscape most would prefer a cozy spot on the couch with a warm blanket, good book, or hot cup of coffee. While trail maintenance certainly slows down in the winter, there are, believe it or not, dedicated Buckeye Trail Volunteers all across Ohio who are willing to leave the comforts of home on harsh winter days to make the Buckeye Trail better. It takes a whole lot of dedication to get out and volunteer during the teeth of winter and on behalf of the entire BTA I would like to thank every volunteer who did so. Mentioned below are the volunteers who gave back to the Buckeye Trail this winter, as well as their accomplishments!

## *Buckeye Trail Crew:*

While the Buckeye Trail Crew always works hard, they have truly gone the extra mile this winter to complete a new 15 mile off-road section of Buckeye Trail, to be opened later this year. This new area of trail winds through the Edge of Appalachia Preserve System in Adams County. "The Edge" as it's known, is a scenic wonderland and a hotbed of biodiversity, home to many rare and endangered species. This new part of the trail will introduce our hikers to some of the most beautiful country our state has to offer.

Thank you dedicated Trail Crew volunteers: Richard Lutz, Terry Blackstone, Susan Stover, Pat Hayes, Earl Garn, Herb Hulls, Jim Runk, Everett Brandt, John Johnson, Dan Campbell.

## *New Shelter at the Imhoff Preserve:*

The BTA's newest land acquisition, the Imhoff Preserve, is 100 acres of quality hardwood forest that is surrounded by the Wayne National Forest in Perry County. To improve the hiking experience there, many BTA volunteers showed up to help construct a new state-of-the-art shelter house for use by thru-hikers, overnight backpackers, and any other BTA member looking for a nice hike and a dry place to rest or camp.

Shelter Constructed by: Jim Gilkey, CW Spencer, George Tyo, Richard Lutz, David Williams, Terry Blackstone, Mark Shubert, Joe Johnes, Rod Bell, Dianne Bell, Maggie Brandt, Everett Brandt, Bob Litt, John Brandt, Mark Anstaett, Herb Hulls, James Guy, Dustin Thompson.



Photo by Everett Brandt



Photo by Richard Lutz

## *New Bridge in CVNP:*

The Crooked River Chapter was busy this past November constructing a new bridge in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Built by: Jim "Sunny" Sunyak, Bob Smaltz, Laura Simo, Marc Zuhse, Pat Hayes, Bob Fox, Vince Rucci, Gary Kubko, Drew Devier, Robert N., Irene Koesters, Andrew Hagat, Jeffrey Sanda, Chris Kmetko, Alex Kmetko.

Welcome the new BTA Chuckwagon: Tracey Anderson!

The BTA Chuckwagon is the Buckeye Trail's mobile kitchen on wheels. You can find it at many BTA events and work parties, where it is sure to catch your eye! If you are attending a Buckeye Trail Crew work party, check the schedule to see if it is a "Chuckwagon Event". If so, this means free food will be provided to the first 20 volunteers to RSVP. We are very happy to have Tracey on board this year and when you're served-up your first helping from the Chuckwagon, we think you'll agree! The BTA would also like to thank our former Chuckwagoner Jay Holwick for 8 years of dedicated service keeping our volunteers fed. Food donations are always accepted by the Chuckwagon, we also welcome any menu suggestions and encourage everyone to share any allergy concerns when signing up for Chuckwagon events. Get ahold of Tracey by emailing [chuckwagon@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:chuckwagon@buckeyetrail.org) to donate or secure your free food for the event!

## *Other Volunteers:*

There are so many others who have given back some of their time this winter, from trail adopters, to those who work administratively, new volunteers, section supervisors, board members, trustees and everyone in-between. These people don't often get the recognition they deserve, so to everyone else who has recorded a single volunteer hour, you deserve a major **THANK YOU!!**

Brandon Bates, Linda Benner, Kip Chastain, Jo Folger, Charles Glasey, Andrew Hagat, Pat Hayes, Herb Hulls, Susie Hulls, Deb Howdyshell, Mark Howdyshell, Bill Jindra, Kim Love-Ottobre, Barbara Merritt, John Mugg, Tim Murphy, John Nemcik, Matt Patterson, Mark Shelton.

Spring is almost here, and what a great time it is to get out and take a hike! When you see that first trillium flower this spring (photograph on page 20), remember the hard-working volunteers who built the trail that took you to it. Be sure to thank one when you see them, and maybe this year, you could give a little bit of your time to make the Buckeye Trail that much better! The Trail Crew will be back at the Edge of Appalachia April 6-10. Come on down and give them a hand, you will not regret experiencing the changes of spring in this gorgeous, wild corner of Ohio.





# Hiker on the GO #5 Findley State Park

## KEY DISTANCES from Buckeye Trail Trailhead

- Black Locust Trail: 0.5 mile
- Thorn Mountain Bike Trailhead: 0.8 mile
- Hickory Grove Trail and Spillway Trail: 1.3 miles
- Buckeye Trail/Winter Hike Trail Loop: 1.8 miles
- Findley State Park Campground Check-in Station: 2.4 miles
- Wellington Creek: 2.9 miles

## CAMPING OPTIONS

**Findley State Park Family Campground:** Located on Natural Resources Road 3 in the south end of the Park.

## DIRECTIONS

**Buckeye Trail Trailhead:** From the Ohio Turnpike (I-80/90) at SR 58, travel 16.9 miles south on SR 58. Turn left at the Findley State Park entrance and right onto Natural Resources Road 3 and travel 0.5 of a mile to the trailhead parking which will be on the left.

## NEAREST SERVICES

The City of Wellington is 2.9 miles north on SR 58. Many businesses including convenience stores, restaurants, gasoline, and lodging are located there along or near SR 58. A convenience store with gasoline is also available a mile south of the park in the small hamlet of Huntington on SR 58. Additional lodging information can be obtained through Lorain County Visitors Bureau.

## INTRODUCTION

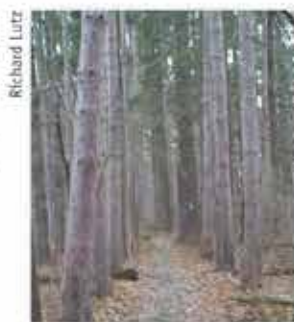
*Welcome to the west end of Ohio's Western Reserve along Ohio's Buckeye Trail (BT)!*

Findley State Park was originally donated to the State of Ohio by Guy B. Findley to be a state forest and to be used for forest product experiments. However, the land was transferred to the Division of Parks and Recreation in 1950 and became the state park it is today. This map covers the blue-blazed Buckeye Trail and sign marked (unblazed) Larch and Hickory Grove Trails in Findley State Park. This is a companion map to the Medina and Norwalk Section Maps, available via the Buckeye Trail Association (BTA) website.

## THE TRAIL

Starting at the BT Trailhead, head north on Larch Trail across a pipe bridge and soon cross Natural Resources Road 4, where there is a rest-room and parking. At the north end of the parking area, the trail goes

into the woods, eventually coming out at Natural Resources Road 1 at a parking area and meeting the Thorn Mountain Bike Trail. The trail continues north through a hardwood forest, passing the junction with the Black Locust Trail (on the left) before coming into a clearing at the swimming beach and beach house. Just north of the beach house, the Thorn Mountain Bike Trail and the Larch Trail split briefly, but meet again at the junction to a spur trail (on the left). Continue to the right, joining the Hickory Grove Trail and cross the dam with nice views of Findley Lake. When the trail reaches the spillway, the mountain bike trail rejoins the Hickory Grove Trail briefly. After crossing the spillway, the mountain bike trail splits to the left while the Spillway Trail joins from the right. Be sure to take a detour on the Spillway Trail to see another overlook of the lake! Continuing straight on the Hickory Grove Trail, cross the mountain bike trail, ford a small stream, and pass through mature woods before again crossing the mountain bike trail and intersecting with the BT. To the left hikers will find the loop trail used for the annual Winter Hike. Continuing straight then cross a bridge over a small tributary before meeting with the Wyandot Trail (on the left). The trail continues straight through the woods and across a small stream before coming out of the hardwood forest at the Campground Check-in Station. Proceed just to the right (north) of the parking area, past the picnic shelter, enter the woods and join up with the mountain bike trail behind the amphitheater. The trail proceeds over a large hill and down to a trail junction that leads to the center of the campground. The BT turns left at this point while the mountain bike trail continues straight. Travel a short bit before the mountain bike trail rejoins the BT. Soon arrive at the junction with the Creekbank Trail, then cross Wellington Creek on a pipe bridge. After the bridge, the BT heads to the right and follows the creek, while the mountain bike trail goes uphill to the left. The trail meets the Buckeye Branch Trail leading to Natural Resources Road 3 and the Park Office, then goes right and up via switchbacks through a pine plantation. Continue through the pines before reaching a gully and rejoining the mountain bike trail. Head downhill, passing an ODNR-Division of Water Survey Marker on the trail and a view of the lake. The trail soon reaches a hill where the trail goes left on a switchback leading back to the Trailhead.



Richard Lutz

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# Hiker on the GO #5 Findley State Park

## Scenic Day Hike Loops and Side Trails of the Buckeye Trail

### LENGTH

3.4 mile loop

### LOCATION

Just south of Wellington, Ohio, east of Norwalk

### Buckeye Trail Trailhead

41 7.656631 N  
-82 12.978132 W

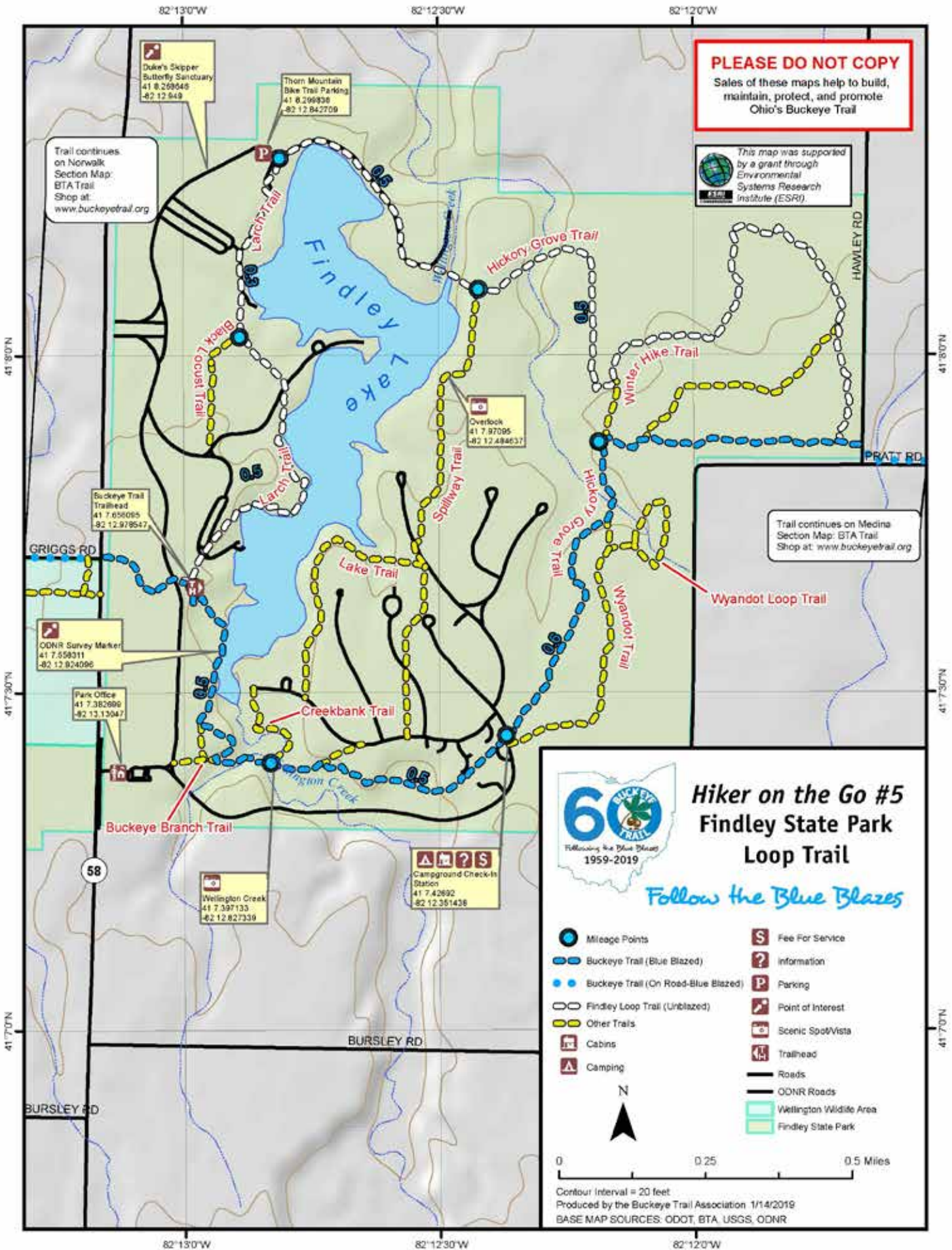
### Buckeye Trail

Medina and Norwalk Section Maps

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Views of Findley Lake
- View of Wellington Creek
- Pine forests planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps





**Buckeye Trail Association**

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