

BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Trailblazer



FOUNDED 1959
SPRING 2020 VOLUME 53 NO. 1

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Cartoon by Karen Power and Jerri Getts



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Trailblazer

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



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on recycled paper.

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BTA Pretty Run Preserve
Photo credit: Shannon Guy Chaney

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BTA Kid's Corner

My name is Kristy H. My husband Jeff and I homeschool our daughter, Casandra H., AKA Cassie. Part of her assignments today was to write a sentence about Ohio and draw a picture. In 2019 we grew to love hiking as a family, and we completed the North Country Trail's Hike 100 Challenge. We mostly followed the blue blazes of the Buckeye Trail in our area. Cassie decided to write her sentence about hiking on the Buckeye Trail, and she drew a picture of herself following the blue blazes.

Best Regards,

Kristy H.





President's Message

Steve Walker

It seems like yesterday that I wrote the winter Trailblazer article and already it's time to do another one. I guess that time flies when you keep busy. The Sub Alpine Club certainly did over the winter! The Sub Alpine Club of America Incorporated has celebrated its 90th Anniversary this year. For those who are unfamiliar with this club, the Sub Alpine Club of America is a group of hikers who meet regularly throughout Ohio's winters (mid-November to mid-March) to hike. Whoever shows up at the 600 block of East High Street in Mount Vernon, Ohio on Saturdays at noon decides where the hike will be that day and then, forming a caravan of vehicles, everyone heads out. These hikes usually span 10 miles or less.

To commemorate their 90th anniversary, members decided to hike at the same location that the founding members hiked ninety years prior on February 15, 1930. On that day, the Sub Alpine Club of America hiked along the county line between Coshocton and Knox Counties. Present at that founding event were Dr. L.B. Walton, a professor of biology at Kenyon College; Dr. James Nelson, a retired entomologist and Frank Van Voorhis,

who was the manager of the Mount Vernon Telephone Company. Ninety years later, the number of hikers in the club has significantly grown. Twenty-five folks gathered to hike the original hike among hikers was Jim Buchwald, who will soon be 92 years of age. He has been a member of the Sub Alpine Club of America Incorporated since September 13, 1958 and has been active ever since. My wife, Karen, and I also attended, invited to this important occasion by long-term member, Doug McLarnan. Doug is also a member of the BTA and a State Director for the American Canoe Association. Doug sits with Andrew and me on the leadership board of the Ohio Trails Partnership.

After some discussion, the group headed out in vehicles and went about 15 miles east to a road which dead ended at Lake Mohawk. From there, we bushwhacked about 2 miles to the "eating place" which was a group of downed trees next to an abandoned road where we all sat and had lunch and shared cookies. It was here that Jim joined us for the hike up the hill to the destination. Prior to attending the event, I had read *The Journal of The Sub Alpine Club of America Incorporated* and was anxious to see the historical Eli Nichols House and Cemetery. The picture of the house in the book was taken during

the inaugural hike in 1930 and the house was unoccupied at that time. I was surprised to see Jim hike that portion of old road with us (see photo) and was further surprised to see that he only needed two breaks (we did, too) on that 1.5 mile segment, all of which was steadily uphill. I greatly admire him for his strength.

The hike was worth the climb as the house was a beautiful sight. It had been meticulously restored and the grounds well cared for. According to Jim, at least three family fortunes have been spent restoring that house (see picture to the right). The Nichols Family Cemetery (see picture on pg.4) was about half a mile from the Nichols House and was on the way back to the cars.

Sub Alpine Club of America Incorporated is just one of many local hiking organizations in Ohio that we, Buckeye Trail Association, would like to reach out to. The BTA is one of the preeminent hiking groups in Ohio, that could serve as a connection point. All the hiking groups need to work together to protect and enhance our hiking environment and experiences. If you're reading this, you're likely to be a Buckeye Trail Association member and I encourage you to reach out to other hiking and trail user groups in your area and see where we can all collaborate to improve the trail experience here in Ohio.

Here's hoping to see you on the Buckeye Trail or at a BTA Event this year!



Sub Alpine Club hikers. Photos by Karen Walker



On the Trail

I don't think I've ever had to rip up a Trailblazer article and start from scratch, but these are extraordinary times and I wanted to take the opportunity to speak to you directly about what matters most to us: the health and well-being of BTA Members, Volunteers, hikers, partners and our families. The article I had written before the COVID-19/ Coronavirus began to spread across the country was an inspiring look at our new Buckeye Trail 2025 Strategic Plan and how to engage our membership. What we struggle with now, like everyone else, is keeping both our horizon and our immediate surroundings in focus at the same time.

It reminds me of hiking a little. Have you ever walked down the trail for a distance in a day-dreamy state and, when you stop to take a break, thought back for a moment and realize you don't remember looking at the trail tread at all and yet you didn't trip and fall? It's not that you weren't paying attention to what you were doing, it's that you allowed yourself to pay attention to everything all at the same moment: your boots placed on the trail, the song of the birds in the trees, the ridgeline far ahead, and the visual thoughts in your head in the rhythm of your footsteps and breathing.

The stress-filled news is unrelenting and we're currently under orders to stay at home. Our daily routines are gone, we're worried about our livelihoods, the ones who depend on us and our loved ones whom we can't reach out to help. My family was able to take the recommended prescription of enjoying the outdoors on a hike nearby on the BT this past weekend. I was reluctant to get out, because I have so much work to catch up on, but my wife is smarter. After both of our adapting to working from home, our 10 year old daughter's forced home schooling schedule, a newborn daughter to care for, and a dog who is used to having the house to herself during the day, it was amazing to feel the sunshine on our pale, winter cheeks as we step into the forest.

Sometimes we walked and talked and joked and teased. Sometimes we all gathered to the newest spring ephemeral flower bursting from the forest floor. Sometimes we walked in silence with our thoughts. As we walked, one hand-painted blue blaze after another floated past our heads. With each passing blaze, a thin layer of stress and worry fell away into the landscape. Step by step I felt a little lighter and a little stronger, a little more thankful for all the blessings in my life, and a little more aware that this oppressive time will pass.

One of many things I was reminded of is that some BTA Volunteer painted all those blazes just for me for just this situation. The BT and the BTA have survived and thrived through crises of all sorts for 60 years. This crisis is certainly unique but the BT has been open, providing an opportunity for physical and mental health and well-being during our times of need, through wars, economic crashes, and health crises. The BT is the last thing to close, depending on our extensive land management partners, and the first thing to open if closed. The BT is there for us all to help us through global, national and personal struggles. Please take the opportunity to get from any trail at this time what it was designed to give you as Merrill Gilfillan wrote in 1958 "... a Buckeye Trail could in its ideal serve as one person envisioned the Appalachian Trail – remote for detachment, narrow for chosen company, winding for leisure, lonely for contemplation, the trail leads not merely north and south but upward to the body, mind and soul...".

I want to remain sensitive to the fact that people are experiencing real life or death impacts of the Coronavirus right now. People are uncertain about their health, the health of their loved ones, and the status of their employment or lack thereof. So, if there is anything you can support right



Photo credit to Andrew Bashaw

now it should be your county's relief fund or some other direct support to those impacted by the virus. Some of you have contacted me concerning the health and well-being of the Buckeye Trail Association during this time of financial crisis. The BTA has tightened its belt for the time being, cancelled many events, and has been diligent in seeking extraordinary funding from grants, and state and federal relief programs, so we are surviving. If you would also like to support the BTA and BT during this time there are several things that you can do.

- 1) First and foremost – Take a hike! Use the BT for its intended benefits; take a social distance hike for just yourself or take your household on the BT near you to escape the news for just an afternoon. Share your photos and videos on BTA social media for all those folks stuck at home so that they can hike vicariously through you to experience the beauty of Spring on the BT.
- 2) Support a small independent business that supports the BTA by making an online purchase of BT merchandise from the Buckeye Trail Shop managed by Yellow Springer Tees.
- 3) Purchase the Atlas Guides/Guthook App or Avenza maps for the BT to guide you and your household around Ohio on the BT.
- 4) Renew or become a member of the BTA today to support building, maintaining, promoting, and protecting Ohio's 1,400+ mile BT for our next 60 years.
- 5) Donate to the BTA for our greatest needs to continue providing and improving the BT experience.
- 6) Show your optimism by registering for an upcoming BTA special event. If you are concerned about cancellations, know that our cancellation and refund policies are generous and swift.

If times are extra tough for you right now, no worries, the Buckeye Trail is there for you when you need it, come back to support the BTA when you can. Thank you to generations of BTA Volunteers and partners who paid it forward so we could have a Buckeye Trail for days like these.

Thank you for hiking, be safe and take care,

Andrew Bashaw
Executive Director
Buckeye Trail Association

BTA Funds Report

Your contribution to any BTA fund is tax deductible. All contributions of \$20 or more are acknowledged.
Thank you to all our generous members, sponsors and volunteers! We couldn't do it with out you!

NOVEMBER 2019 TO FEBRUARY 2020

TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND

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129 PROJECT - BTA SHAWNEE HEADQUARTERS

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Joseph E. Humphrey Funeral Home

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THE BTA BEALL FARMSTEAD

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Vertical Runner
West Creek Conservancy

Our 2020 BTA Special Membership Meeting

Please join your fellow BTA members at 7:00pm on June 6th, National Trails Day, for a Special Meeting of the Buckeye Trail Association using Zoom.

The BTA will host a Special Meeting of the BTA membership this year using the virtual option of Zoom to conduct a few important items of business of the BTA. By using Zoom, we'll be able to participate in the Meeting by watching, listening, asking questions and making motions from our own devices, safely at home. During this Meeting BTA members will vote on the BTA Constitution changes

below, hear the annual BTA Financial Report and listen to the Executive Director's State of the Buckeye Trail report. An official Annual Meeting as described in our Constitution will be held on September 26th at 7pm using Zoom as well. At this Meeting there will be an election of candidates to fill five positions on the BTA Board of Trustees and other agenda items to be developed over the next three months.

BTA CONSTITUTION CHANGES

The proposed changes to the BTA Constitution below were prepared by Ted Shigley, BTA By-laws Committee Chair. These items, the agenda for the meeting, and information for joining the meeting will also be on the Buckeye Trail home page.

If you have any questions, please let us know at president@buckeyetrail.org.

ARTICLE IX - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

~~The Board of Trustees may, annually or at such other times as the Board selects, appoint an Executive Director. The Executive Director shall serve at the will of the Board and administer the daily operations of the Association under the direction of the Board.~~

The Executive Director is hired by and serves at the will of the Board of Trustees. The Executive Director has day-to-day responsibilities for the association, including carrying out the association's goals and policies. The Executive Director is expected to attend all board meetings, report on the progress of the association and carry out the duties described in the job description. The board can designate other duties as necessary.

Approved by the Board 1/26/19

ARTICLE XIII - INDEMNIFICATION

The Association shall indemnify any person who, by reason of being or having been a Trustee, officer, or **employee** or Trail Maintenance Supervisor of the Association, is named or otherwise becomes or is threatened to be made a party to any action, suit, investigation, or other proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or otherwise in nature, against any or all costs and expenses (including attorney's fees, court costs, judgments, fines, penalties, amounts paid in settlement and other disbursements) actually and reasonable incurred or imposed upon such person in connection with any such action, suit, investigation, or proceeding, unless it is finally determined that such person acted in bad faith and in a manner which he or she knew was not in the best interests of the Association.

Approved by the Board 7/27/19

COVID-19/Coronavirus and the Buckeye Trail

Thank you for your patience and understanding as the Buckeye Trail Association adapts along with everyone else to our current realities of dealing with the Coronavirus. As you know we have had to react quickly by sadly cancelling and/or postponing events that bring us all together. We are so glad to see the photos and videos on social media of hikers recreating responsibly out on the BT! We are hiking vicariously through you. If you haven't received the emails or visited our home page recently there are some important updates there:

- The BTA Office in Shawnee and use of all BTA owned and managed structures are temporarily closed until the stay at home order is lifted.
- Stay tuned to our website for cancellations of BTA special events and Buckeye Trail Crew Work Parties.
- The BTA Board of Trustees has tightened up the 2020 budget in preparation for expected lower revenues which may affect some of the services from the BTA that members, volunteers, and partners expect.

The Buckeye Trail was created 60 years ago for us to enjoy, find inspiration in, and improve our mental and physical well-being during good times and tough times. Please take some time to recreate responsibly on the BT near you. For all the grey areas in the rules today this graphic may help you decide how best to enjoy the BT. Thank you for Hiking, Be Safe, Take Care!



Photo by Bill McGovern



Photo by Mark Richards



7th Annual Dayton Hikers Buckeye Trail Winter Hike & Potluck Feast at Caesar Creek State Park

By Karen “Tagalong” Power and Andy “Captain Blue” Niekamp

The Buckeye Trail at Caesar Creek State Park was the place to be on January 4, 2020 for Southwest Ohio hikers. A selection of options offered something for the attending 123 hikers of every skill/comfort level. These options were seven organized hikes; 3 to 12 miles long; slow, moderate, and brisk paces, and all on the Buckeye Trail or portions of it. Of the 90 miles of trails at Caesar Creek State Park, 20 are Buckeye Trail miles.

A special highlight was the after-hike potluck and the all-star list of invited guests who traveled near and far for a day of good hiking and delicious food. Our intrepid leader, Steve Walker, President of the Buckeye Trail Association was joined by Mary Mertz, the Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, J. Todd Smith, state of Ohio Representative for House District 43, and Becky Benná, Executive Director of Five Rivers MetroParks.

Director Mertz, newly appointed in 2018, did her homework for the audience of Buckeye Trail hikers, reporting that the Buckeye Trail traverses 54 state-managed properties. She noted that all of our state parks, including the Buckeye Trail, will benefit from the new State Trails Plan. As part of the process of constructing a trails plan, public input was collected and data compiled. The results were published this past year. The number one amenity that Ohio residents want is trails.

Representative Smith is also an advocate for trails. He sits on the Ohio Legislative Trails Caucus, a bipartisan and bicameral committee of 36 members which serves to provide funding to create trails, to maintain existing trails, and to support plans for future trails. His message was to get out and hike!

Director Benná, who has served Five Rivers MetroParks for the past 9 years, expressed appreciation to Dayton Hikers for helping get people in the greater Dayton area on the 160 miles of trails it maintains. The Buckeye Trail passes through 4 of the 25 MetroParks facilities. One goal of MetroParks is to build connector trails for greater accessibility for more people.

By all accounts, the day was a success. The 123 hikers who participated hiked a total of 812 miles. According to Andy “Captain Blue” Niekamp, whose hiking club Dayton Hikers originated and sponsors this annual event, “We had mud, cold, rain, and snow, but that didn’t stop hikers from attending. Even on a drab Ohio day, the trails were beautiful. The event was also an opportunity for the hiking community to impress upon our local and state lawmakers and land managers the importance of trails, including the Buckeye Trail, and how significant they are to our quality of life here in Southwest Ohio.”

BTA AmeriCorps Members Recruiting NOW

Positions run August 16th, 2020 through August 14th, 2021

Appalachian Ohio Restore Corps is a program administered by Rural Action that places 31 AmeriCorps into communities throughout Appalachian Ohio to perform direct service related to watershed restoration, environmental education, economy building through heritage tourism, and zero waste. Members are placed with Rural Action programs and local partner organizations to serve the needs of the region. Through their direct service and the volunteers they mobilize, AmeriCorps members help build the capacity of local communities while gaining valuable certifications and experience for the future. The BTA is one of those local partner organizations with two AmeriCorps Member positions available:

Buckeye Trail Association - Marketing and Communications AmeriCorps Member

The Member will work with BTA Staff and Volunteers to plan and implement specific BTA marketing and communication strategies designed to spread the word about the BTA/BT and its programming. The Member will communicate with BTA Volunteer Leaders regularly to gather program information; post and update information via social media, including Facebook, and standard media resources (press releases, news articles, etc.) highlighting program accomplishments, activities and recruitment information.

Buckeye Trail Association - Volunteer Program AmeriCorps

The Volunteer Program AmeriCorps Member will develop, implement, and manage volunteer programs for the BTA, as time and skills allow. Primary responsibilities include the recruitment, scheduling, and coordination of individual volunteers, local groups, work groups, and youth for all volunteer positions within the organization.

AmeriCorps Benefits

Appalachian Ohio Restore Corps members serve a term of 12 months accumulating a total of 1,700 hours of community based service, an average service load of 35 hours a week. Benefits for AmeriCorps Positions Include:

- An annual living allowance of \$14,279
- An education award totaling \$6,195 for a completed term of service, eligible for existing federal student loans or future education expenses at accredited universities
- Child care allowance for members who qualify
- Healthcare Coverage for AmeriCorps members
- Mileage reimbursement for travel during service activities
- Positions allow for part-time outside employment or attendance at an institution of higher learning during service year.





How to learn more about the BTA positions and apply to AORC:

1. Go to my.americorps.gov; Click “Apply to Serve” (bottom of screen)
2. Build an application; you will need two references. Allow time for their response before submitting.
3. Search Listings for Rural Action or Appalachian Ohio Restore Corps
4. Click the Rural Action name and Apply!
5. Respond to the email from the AORC director to select your sites of interest: Buckeye Trail Association.

You can also start by going to ruralaction.org/get-involved/ameri-corps

Please note: No public transportation is available. The Buckeye Trail Association office is accessible to members of the community with disabilities. The BTA does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, orientation, age, disability or political affiliation. All positions are pending approval of AmeriCorps funding.



 **Rural Action**



SERVE OHIO
Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism

Plaque of Recognition

By Chuck and Beth Hewett

Once again, we would like to say CONGRATULATIONS! To those who have completed the entire Buckeye Trail!!

Volunteers can be overwhelmed by requests of their time and we learn later that individuals seeking information about the trail go unheeded and those who have completed the entire trail are not celebrated. Individuals who complete the entire BT have a wonderful perspective to offer the organization. Please, if you do complete the entire trail let us use the opportunity to publicly acknowledge your accomplishment through various news channels and give the trail much needed recognition.

A hiker's plaque has been created to celebrate a hiker's completion of the Buckeye Trail. The plaque is to honor those who have completed the trail in its entirety either by a thru-hike or a section hike over many years. We have worked with a trophy shop in Salem, Ohio to have this plaque available. The cost of the plaque is \$60 dollars which includes a \$20 donation to the BTA and shipping and handling. Thank you to those who have ordered a plaque (both section hikers and thru-hikers).

Below is an updated list of names of individuals who have completed a thru-hike of the completed loop trail in that given year:

- 2000** John Merrill – England
- 2003** Brent & Amy Anslinger – Miamisburg OH
- 2004** Peter and Joyce Cottrell – Whitefield NH
- 2011** Andy Niekamp – Dayton, OH
- 2012** Denise Hill – Cincinnati, OH
- 2013** Mary Warren and Lisa Strohm – Lancaster, OH
- 2016** Chuck and Beth Hewett – Hanoverton, OH
Sterling Deck - Monroe, OH – Warrior Expedition
Martin Strange – Warrior Expedition
- 2017** Mei Ling Liber – Warrior Expedition
Preston Hudson – Warrior Expedition
Tom Helbig, Dayton
- 2018** Don Lenc – Medina, OH (oldest thru-hiker 72)
Everett Brandt, OH (fastest thru-hiker 55 days)
- 2019** Luke Bushatz – Warrior Expedition
Chad Hiser – Warrior Expedition





Those who have completed the trail through section hiking are as follows:

- Dianne Bell _____ Aug. 2005 – Nov. 2011
- John Fetzer, Painesville, OH
- Randall Roberts, OH _____ Nov. 2008 to May 2017
- Tim Gerber, Maryland _____ Nov. 2004 – July 2018
- Cheryl Kreindler
- Andrew “Mr. Truth” Prill _____ June 2017 – June 2019
- George Tyo
- Karen Walker
- Dale Wical
- CW and Bonnie Spencer
- Dana & Lisa Zintek
- Jeanne DeLaney _____ 2008 - Nov. 2018
- Mary Ruth Grubbs Green _____ 2008 - Nov. 2018.
- Jim Gilkey – 2nd time _____ 20?? – Oct. 2019
- Karen Fisk _____ 20?? – Oct. 2019
- Kathy Fix - 2nd time _____ 20?? – Oct. 2019
- Richard Morgan - 2nd time _____ 20?? – Oct. 2019
- Nancy Shepherd _____ 20?? – Oct. 2019
- Jacob Thompson _____ 20?? – Oct. 2019
- Jen Weaver, Cortland, OH _____ May 2015 – Oct. 2019
- Maria Wingard _____ 20?? – Oct. 2019

May have completed in November, 2019:

- Jeri Getts _____ Aug. 2015 – Aug. 2019
- Karen Power _____ Feb. 2015 – Aug. 2019

There are many blanks that need to be filled in. If you know of individuals who have completed the trail or some information to fill in the blanks, please contact me at chuckhewett@yahoo.com or call 330-787-1463



In 1974, before the trail became a loop, the following individuals hiked the 500 miles from Lake Erie to Cincinnati: Cliff Thorniley (31) and 4 high school students from Heath, Ohio – Roger Jones (15), Rick Welsh (14), Carl Cooperider (13) and Craig Cooperider (15). They are listed as having been the 3rd through 7th BT thru-hikers and were honored by Governor Gilligan later in 1974 ... so were there two earlier hikers or was it a misprint?

The plaque can be ordered with your own personal information. Simply provide the following information:

- NAME(S)**
- TRAIL NAME(S) [optional]**
- THRU-HIKE OR SECTION HIKE**
- TIME PERIOD HIKED** [e.g. April 22 – July 6, 2016 OR 2006 – 2017 (for section hikers)]

The plaque may be purchased for \$60 payable to Chuck Hewett. All profits (\$20) go to the BTA.

Send the information to:

Hewett
6734 Lakeview Road
Hanoverton, Ohio 44423

Or email at chuckhewett@yahoo.com

Once again, we are excited to congratulate everyone who has completed the trail.

2020 Schedule of Hikes & Events

Always check <https://buckeyetrail.org/> for more information and last-minute updates

M A Y

May 23 & 24, 2020

Buckeye Trail Crew Work Party at Mandale in the Delphos Section

Description: We will leave camp at 8:00AM for the worksite and work until 3:00PM.

Camping: Camping will be available at 10633 Rd 179, Oakwood, OH 45873 GPS coordinates: 41.13105° -84.42789°

Meals: You need to supply your own food and water.

J U N E

June 3-7, 2020

Buckeye Trail Crew Work Party in the Delphos Section

Description: This work week will be composed of at least three different efforts at different sites.

Meet at *Location:* Timberville or Hipp's Lock, south of Road 60 and southeast of Road 197. Access point is at GPS coordinates: 41.047299° -84.380786°

Meals: Please pack your food. Bring work clothes, work foot ware, sunscreen and insect repellent.

Camping: TBD

June 6-7, 2020

Buckeye Trail Crew Work Party at Wildcat Hollow in the New Straitsville Section

Description: This is a work weekend in preparation for the E.G.G.S. Hike June 25-28, 2020 at Burr Oak State Park/Wildcat Hollow.

June 13-17, 2020

Buckeye Trail Crew Work Party at AEP in the Stockport Section

Description: Help us keep open this stretch of the Buckeye Trail in a very unique part of Ohio. The Trail Crew will leave at 8:00 AM and work until 3:00 PM.

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

Meals: This is also a Chuck Wagon event

Contact: Herb Hulls (53hulls41@windstream.net or 740-787-2416)

June 25-28, 2020

11th Annual EGGS Hike

Description: The EGGS Hike is comprised of 5 hiking challenges consisting of 20 (day and night), 40, 60, and 80 miles that need to be completed in 12, 24, 36, and 48 hours respectively. For all the details, visit www.buckeyetrail.org/eggs.php

J U L Y

July 11-15, 2020

Buckeye Trail Crew Work Party in the Road Fork and Whipple Sections

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

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

Meals: This is also a Chuck Wagon event

Contact: Tom Rohr (419-281-7465) for work party info

July 18, 2020

Little Loop Challenge and Beyond!

Location: BTA Little Loop

Contact: Littleloop@buckeyetrail.org

July 25 & 26, 2020

Buckeye Trail Crew Work Party at the Edge of Appalachia in the West Union Section

Description: This will be a maintenance weekend on the 14+ mile trail through the Edge of Appalachia. Each day the Trail Crew will leave at 8:00 AM and work until 3:00 PM.

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

Meals: You will need to provide your own food and water

Contact: For questions about the work party and to RSVP contact Richard Lutz at tmt_chair@buckeyetrail.org

A U G U S T

August 1-2, 2020

BTA Board of Trustees Retreat at the BTA Barn near Deersville, OH

Contact: Steve Walker at president@buckeyetrail.org

Coronavirus update:

Some events may be canceled due to COVID-19. Please check our site or Facebook for updates.

August 15-19, 2020

Buckeye Trail Crew Work Party in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Akron Section

Camping: Work Party Headquarters will be at Ottawa Point, 41.30165, -81.60012, in the Cleveland Metroparks. We will leave camp for the work site at 8:30 AM and work until 3:30 PM.

Meals: This is a Chuck Wagon event.

Contact: Sunny Sunyak at akron@buckeyetrail.org

August 29-Sept. 2, 2020

Buckeye Trail Crew Work Party in the Scioto Trail Section at Tar Hollow State Park

Description: http://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/Portals/forestry/PDFs/plans/d4_annual.pdf. We will leave for the work site at 8:00 AM and work until 3:00 PM

Camping: Dogwood Shelter located on South Ridge Rd at GPS coordinates 39.349245° -82.768800°

Meals: This is a Chuck Wagon event,

Contact: Deven Atkinson at sciototrail@buckeyetrail.org

S E P T E M B E R

September 19-23, 2020

Buckeye Trail Crew Work Party in the New Straitsville Section

Description: Wayne National Forest (Athens Unit) Run for Blue Blazes Marathon Prep - Buckeye Trail Crew Work Party. This event will prepare the route for the annual Run for Blue Blazes Marathon/Half Marathon/10K/5K on Oct. 6. The trail crew will be working from 8:30am to 3:30pm

Camping: Near the village of Shawnee, the site TBD.

Meals: This is a Chuck Wagon event

Contact: Herb Hulls (53hulls14@windstream.net or 740-787-2416), October 3, 2020

O C T O B E R

October 3, 2020

6th Annual Run 4 Blue Blazes

Description: Full Marathon - Half Marathon - 10K Run - 4-person team 10K - 5K Run. All money raised is tax deductible and goes to protect the trail.

Contact: Herb Hulls for information. 53hulls14@windstream.net or 740-787-2416.

October 14-18, 2020

Old Man's Cave Section Work Week

Description: We will be reestablishing forested property trail and building new trail and barriers to be shared by equine riders. The trail crew will be working from 8:30am to 3:30pm

Camping: Hocking Soil & Water - Bishop Educational Garden 13200 Little Cola Rd, Rockbridge, OH 43149

Meals: This is a Chuck Wagon event

Contact: Byron Guy at oldmanscave@buckeyetrail.org for work party information and to RSVP.

October 24-28, 2020

Work Week in the Sinking Springs Section

Description: We will be reestablishing forested property trail and building new trail and barriers to be shared by equine riders. The Trail Crew will leave at 8:30 AM and work until 3:30PM.

Camping: Hocking Soil & Water - Bishop Educational Garden, 13200 Little Cola Rd, Rockbridge, OH 43149

Meals: Meals will be provided by the BTA for the first 20 volunteers to sign up at: chuckwagon@buckeyetrail.org

Contact: Byron Guy at (oldmanscave@buckeyetrail.org) for work party information and to RSVP.

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Eagle Court of Honor

By Tom Rohr



Left Photo: Gage Gerst, Right Photo: The Cowgill's - Alex, Scout Noah, Larry (Advisor), Scout Bailey

In August of 2019 at the official opening in of the new Caldwell Lake trail on the Road Fork section of the Buckeye Trail, it was mentioned that it would be nice to have some rest stops along the way, in particular since this path would hopefully be used by local citizens as well as BT hikers. Jeff Minosky, a Caldwell Village Councilman, remembered that comment. So when Boy Scout, Gage Gerst asking him if he had a possible idea for a Eagle Scout project that fall, Jeff had an easy answer.

Gage is a member of Troop 508 in Mt. Ephraim Ohio. He is a sophomore at Shenandoah High School. To date, he has earned 33 merit badges, but needed yet to plan, manage and execute a service project in order to complete his requirements to earn his Eagle Scout rank.

The plan developed to have three rest stops along the trail-two benches and a picnic table. Working with advisors and other scouts, a fallen red oak was cut into shorter logs for end supports and the longer one was split to form the seats for the two benches. Unfortunately, the fallen oak was some distance from the chosen rest sites. At first the logs were carried with a pole lashed to the logs but with an estimated 800-900 estimated yards of very physical log lugging, the scouts and their advisors developed a somewhat easier technique of using a sledge.

An unassembled picnic table was purchased, treated to protect it from the elements and then carried back to a third site where it was assembled and put in place.

Gage's Eagle Rank Application was submitted and approved by the scout district's Board of Review. Planning is underway to hold an Eagle Court of Honor to formally award Gage with his new rank. Congratulations Gage, and thanks to you, your fellow Scouts and you advisors for all of your efforts.



Gage Gerst (right) and his dad (left).



The Martin Luther King Hike at Hueston Wood S.P.

This years MLK hike didn't brake from tradition. Even though this was the fourth warmest January in history, the temperature at the beginning of the hike was 13 degrees and only warmed to the mid 20's. A few hiker arrived early to have breakfast at the lodge restaurant. I never know how many hik-ers will show up for the event. I prepared enough soup for 60 people. With the cold weather I was expecting 20. To my surprise, 30 showed up for the event. We took the traditional group picture in the lobby of the lodge (pictured on pg.12). The hikers started their trek to the Nature Center where the hot bean soup both with and with out meat, corn bread, crackers, hot drinks and bottled water were ready for them. I also had a surprise homemade Elk summer sausage for all to try. This year I tried a new soup recipe and was eager to see if they liked it. When everyone was gone, so was all the food. I guess they liked it! We had a first this year: two of our past hikers Jim Runk and Carl Feller stopped in to visit and have lunch with us. We always offer a shuttle back to the lodge for those who choose a shorter hike. Six people took us up on the offer. After cleaning up I always stop at the Lodge to be sure everyone made it back. All the hikers were well prepared for the cold weath-er. They all arrived safely back. I couldn't do this event without help. I want to thank Jim Gilkey and C. W. Spencer for flagging and guiding the hikers. Chris McIntyre and George Tyo for help

in the kitchen and shuttling hikers. I have been involved with this event for over 20 years as a hiker, flagger, cook and organizer. This is my last year as cook and orga-nizer. I hope the hike continues in the future. If anyone wants to continue as cook and organizer I would be happy to help with advice.

Happy Trails,

John Rethman



Buckeye Trail Association

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