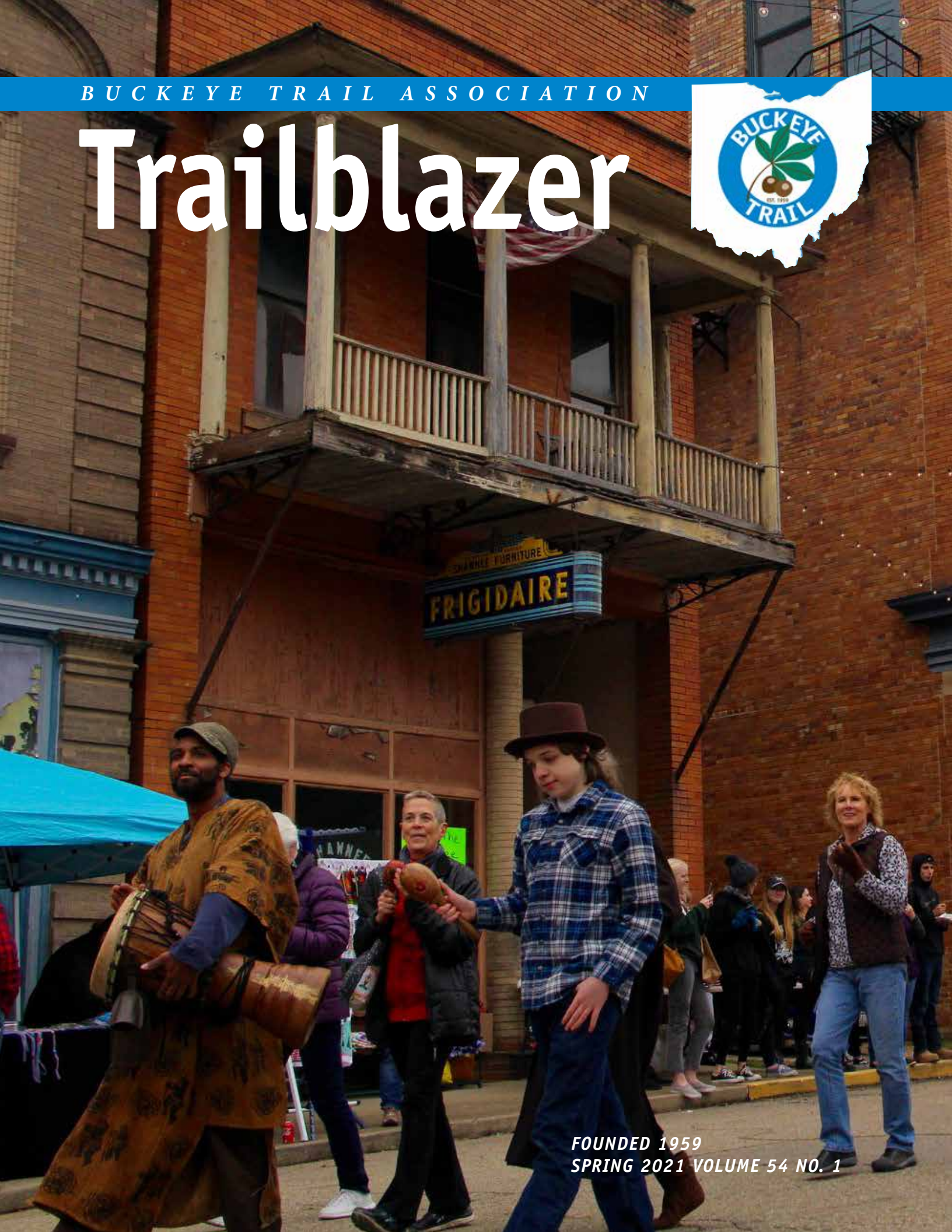


BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION



# Trailblazer



FOUNDED 1959  
SPRING 2021 VOLUME 54 NO. 1

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## Editor's Note

Regarding the green caterpillar mentioned in the Winter 2020 issue:

"I think [the identification] is right. *Phlogophora* (synonym *Euplexia*) are noctuids (family Noctuidae). I think this is a cutworm. Most cutworm larvae are brown. This one is green, but I still think it is a noctuid. Cutworms often live in the ground and come out at night to feed." - *Bill Schultz*

Using this information, the caterpillar is possibly a *Euplexia benesimilis*, American Angle Shade.



*Ann Furste*

## New Trailblazer Procedure

In January, the BTA Board implemented a new process for providing paper copies of the news letter to members. As each member renews or joins, they will be offered the option of receiving the Trailblazer Magazine by mail or by email. Until this process is fully implemented, if members are not receiving the paper copy, they may contact the BTA and request they receive the paper version. Make your wishes known at [info@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:info@buckeyetrail.org).

If members have purchased a subscription, they may request a refund. Unless a refund is requested, the money for subscriptions will be credited as a donation. The cost of printing and mailing the newsletter is approximately \$2.50 per issue. At present, we are sending paper magazines out to approximately 300 members. So, unless you are really interested, the email version will save the BTA considerable funds.

- Connie Pond, BTA Clerk



## Trailblazer

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*Trailblazer is printed  
on recycled paper.*

*Cover photo: Shawnee Trail Town  
Dedication March (2018)  
Photo credit: George Blankenhorn*

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# More Little Loop Finishers!

By Randall Roberts

I remember finishing the "Little Loop" of the Buckeye Trail in August of 2012. At the time, I didn't know there was a completion patch. Did you? In 2013, I eagerly sent an email to the volunteer who was responsible for mailing out the patches. Little did I know, years later I would become the volunteer to mail out this reward to others who completed the Little Loop. It's something I enjoy doing as a way of paying back to the Buckeye Trail. Recently, 13 people reported having completed the Little Loop.

Four of the newest Little Loop completionists are Abby Boyce, her husband, and two sons from Medina. As a family, they completed the Little Loop on January 16, 2021. They started their journey on January 21, 2018, hiking the trail in sections as most of us do. When I asked Abby about their experience, she had this to say:

**"It took us 41 outings over the course of 3 years, but we did it! My husband and I thoroughly enjoyed it and feel so accomplished. My boys, on the other hand, may be ruined against hiking forever. Oh well. Hopefully, they'll come back to loving it. The road stretches proved difficult to keep up their enthusiasm."**



Abby Boyce and her family holding Little Loop patches. Photograph by Randall Roberts

Bill Hines and Meg Sondey completed the Little Loop for the third time in September of 2020. This time, they dragged along their friend Raman Ras for his first completion while hiking companion and Burton Section Co-supervisor, Tim Murphy, completed the loop for the fourth time! I think that's a record. Has anyone completed the loop more than 4 times? "Wrong Way" Bill McGovern completed the loop on the winter solstice in December of 2020 after eight years. He is trying to lay claim to the longest recorded time. Has it taken anyone longer? And I just received word from my friend, Wendy Mahon of Parma, that she and her friends, April Firstencel and Gary Widley of Cleveland Heights, finished the Little Loop in 2020 and are now working their way south.

The Little Loop is about 255 miles of the Buckeye Trail in northeast Ohio, consisting of the Akron, Bedford, Burton, Mogadore and a portion of the Massillon Section. If you've completed the Little Loop and would like a patch to show off your accomplishment, send an email to [LittleLoop@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:LittleLoop@buckeyetrail.org) with the Names of the finishers, an address to send the patches, start date and finish date (if known), and any short story or statement you would like to add. Once you receive the patch, you're welcome to submit a photo that we can add to the "Little Loopers" photo album on the Crooked River Chapter Facebook page.



You can find us at:

[www.facebook.com/groups/  
CrookedRiverChapteroftheBuckeyeTrail](https://www.facebook.com/groups/CrookedRiverChapteroftheBuckeyeTrail)

# President's Message

Steve Walker

Red Newt - Photograph by George Blankenhorn

It's still cold out there as I'm writing this, but the days are getting longer and hinting strongly of spring. Warm weather is coming back. It makes me believe that this might be the year of comebacks. The most important things to come back this year are the events where we can actually gather together to celebrate the Buckeye Trail community. Last year, the only official BTA event that managed to happen was the Burr Oak Winter Hike in February 2020. And the last time that your BTA Board of Trustees met in person occurred even before that. We were unable to hold all other signature events in 2020. Our prudent Coronavirus Policy that came in March 2020 prevented any official gathering of BTA members unless it was virtual. While virtual gatherings are much better than nothing at all, it just is not the same.

Although some cautionary guidelines are still in place, it looks like some of our signature events will be returning this year, albeit in a modified manner. We will be hosting modified versions of the BTA MoreFest, the EGGS Hike and the Little Loop Challenge in-person this year. The one other exception to last year's dearth of BTA gatherings was the first Buckeye Trail's Biggest Day Hike. Since that event is spread out by its very nature, it went well in spite of the short amount of time available for its planning. This year's Biggest Day Hike does have the luxury of adequate planning time and we hope that hikers will hike the entire Buckeye Trail on June 5<sup>th</sup>. We believe that it can be done, and look forward to the stories and photographs that will come out of the event! TrailFest is, unfortunately, cancelled for this year, but we are already planning TrailFest 2022. The whole point of TrailFest is to gather everyone and celebrate together, which may result in too large of a gathering for COVID guidelines. We will keep you posted on all this. You can find updates on our website, [www.buckeyetrail.org](http://www.buckeyetrail.org) and on our social media.

We will be scheduling other opportunities for people to get out on the trail as well. Although there were a limited number of Buckeye Trail Crew Work Parties in 2020, they still happened! For this year, we scheduled nine Buckeye Trail Crew Work Parties (*more details on pages 20-24*). Several Buckeye Trail hikers are starting to join together in small numbers to hike their favorite trail. If you check out our various Facebook presences, you will see many folks enjoying the outdoors and following the blue blazes. One of our newest chapters, the Lake Plains Chapter, has already had a dress rehearsal of what they hope will be one of their future signature events: the Findley State Park Winter Hike.

We recently had our first-ever BTA Chapter Leadership Summit on January 28<sup>th</sup> and representatives from all seven existing chapters and one chapter in-waiting attended the event. Going forward, the Chapter Leadership Council will provide our Chapters the means to collaborate on special events, best practices and the ability to coordinate on bigger events such as the Buckeye Trail's Biggest Day Hike.

We have upped our communications game with monthly publication of The Loop (our email newsletter), which goes out to over 4,000 email addresses at the end of the month. There are regular postings on social media and folks, who have questions about the Buckeye Trail, often receive multiple good answers. In addition, we've started a weekly email newsletter that mostly covers the nuts and bolts of the Buckeye Trail Association. It's called the BTA Friday High Five and is sent out to a smaller group that includes staff, BTA Board Members, committee chairs, Section Supervisors, and anyone else that wants to receive the newsletter. If you want to receive the Friday High Five or have any other questions or concerns, just let me know at [president@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:president@buckeyetrail.org). Have a great Spring and I hope to see you on the Buckeye Trail!

Follow us on...



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# On the Trail ...

What an 'interesting' time we live in. My wife and I regularly have to remind our 11 year old daughter in between virtual conference calls for work and school, and taking care of a one year old who might think that there are only 20 other people in the world and wearing masks is normal, that we didn't have to deal with anything like this when we were growing up. Sure, I got to experience the last of the 'duck and cover' drills under our school desks to prepare for a nuclear attack, but that was soon forgotten out on the playground.

Our first Covid year was hard, stressful, and -- tragically -- we lost loved ones. Now, we are desperate for a post-Covid world, frustrated with the lack of access to vaccinations and absence immunity that would allow us to give someone a hug, shake someone's hand, hang out with friends in public, send our kids back to school, and work at work and live at home. We will get there, and -- for many of these activities -- 2021 is likely the year.

While we've been hunkered down, demand for and use of the Buckeye Trail has increased greatly, along with many other forms of outdoor recreation. Buckeye Trail volunteers and staff pivoted their work to successfully grow our membership base, develop promotional materials, engage more volunteers than ever in our planning processes -- all growing the Buckeye Trail and Buckeye Trail Association to where we were originally headed, not just where we left off before the Coronavirus pandemic hit us.

Spring is finally here, and the hope for reopening is growing as well. There are still hurdles for the BTA because of the cautious limitations mandated by the Ohio Department of Health and Center for Disease Control and Prevention. We still have to be vigilant and patient. Because of the uncertainty of how the guidelines will evolve over the year, it is difficult to plan for

reopening our events as they were pre-Covid. We are able to say that we plan to go forward with MorelFest, EGGS Hike, the BT's Biggest Day Hike, Little Loop Challenge, Blue Blaze Festival (formally called Run for Blue Blazes), and Buckeye Trail Crew Work Parties -- adapted to meet the Covid-19 guidelines of the day. However, Buckeye TrailFest in the Cuyahoga Valley, with a goal of gathering many people together in one space in time has been postponed until 2022 to give local volunteers the proper time to organize in certainty the best TrailFest it can be.

## The Buckeye Trail's Biggest Day Hike, June 5<sup>th</sup> -- National Trails Day

The Buckeye Trail has been out there for us since 1959 and that was as important as ever in 2020. We piloted a large, free, virtual hike on the BT last year called the Big Day Hike. This year on June 5th, National Trails Day, we'll see how much of the BT we can hike (or ride, or paddle parallel where appropriate) during the Buckeye Trail's Biggest Day Hike. Hike the BT anytime you can, but join us on this day to help show others all the amazing experiences out there on the Trail!

Thank you for hiking, be safe and hang in there!

Andrew Bashaw  
Executive Director  
Buckeye Trail Association



Photos of last year's Biggest Day Hike  
Top - Kristine Stevens; Left - Susan Klein; Right - Jeremy Milam

# BTA Funds Report

Your contribution to any BTA fund is tax deductible. All contributions of \$20 or more are acknowledged. Thank you to all of our donors who have gone above and beyond to support the mission of the BTA during these challenging times! We appreciate you.

**DECEMBER 2, 2020 TO MARCH 1, 2021**

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Mark & Betty Schwab

## **MIAMI & ERIE CANAL CHAPTER**

Loraine Helber & Brian Miller

# Buckeye Trail's Biggest Day Hike



**Date:** National Trails day, June 5th, 2021

**Time:** Anytime, All Day

**Where to hike:** On the Buckeye Trail. You decide how far and what location

**Goal:** To hike as much of the Buckeye Trail in one day as possible!

We are encouraging everyone to hike a little bit of the trail to see how much we can hike together in one day. Just think, it will only take 300 people hiking 4.8 miles each to hike and complete the entire trail!

You are welcome to bike the portions where bikes are allowed, horseback where horses are allowed, and even kayak where rivers are parallel to the trail.

Not only are we building a better trail, we are also building a better community. When the COVID pandemic ends, we'll still need volunteers, hike leaders, event organizers, and promoters. We welcome each and everyone of you.

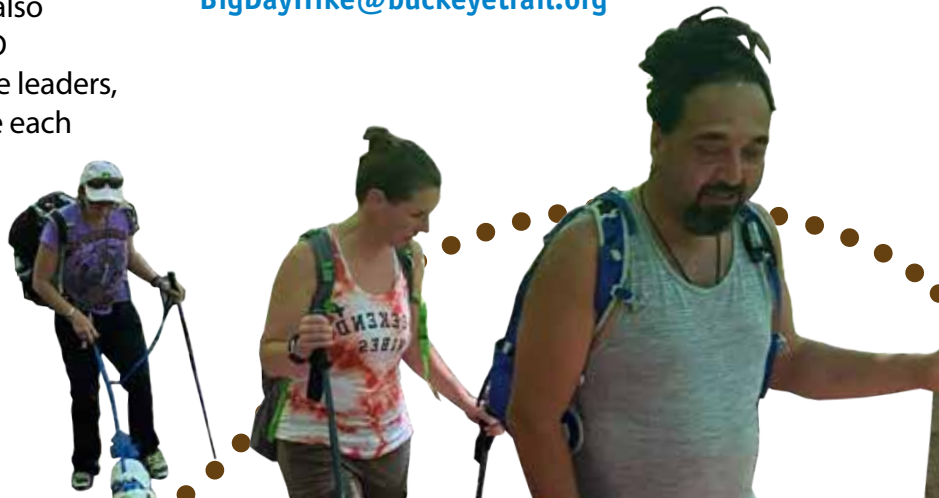
Buckeye Trail's Biggest Day Hike is a completely free event. So get out there and have some fun!

You can register for the event at:  
<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/BuckeyeTrailAssociationInc/BTBigDayHike-21.html>

For more information or if you have any questions, please email us at:  
[BigDayHike@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:BigDayHike@buckeyetrail.org)

**Please remember to follow  
COVID guidelines..**

Stay local, wear masks, and stay safe!



# Shawnee to See Upgrades on Local Trails

*Update from the Buckeye Trail Association*

*George Blankenhorn - Photographer*

On January 1st, 2021, the Buckeye Trail Association received a \$10,000 grant from the non-profit, Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, to help people *Get Outdoors!* Funding from the grant will be used to help improve the trails around Tecumseh Lake. Tecumseh Lake is known in Shawnee as a place for community members and visitors to picnic, camp, hunt, hike, fish, birdwatch, host educational events and classes, kayak or simply enjoy a natural space.



*Merganser female in flight*

The Buckeye Trail Association, along with our partners, will be installing interpretive signs, updating the trailhead kiosk and providing a brochure box to encourage self-guided tours. By installing interpretive signs in the Trail Town, Shawnee, and at Tecumseh Lake, visitors and community members will have the opportunity to learn more about the natural history and societal history of the land on which they're hiking. We will also be funding guided interpretive tours of Shawnee and at Tecumseh Lake to stimulate the experience-based economy in the town.

For hikers' safety, we will be implementing a crosswalk and stop signs across state route 155 and road park signs will be purchased and installed to direct traffic to the trail system. To increase the diversity of wildlife at Tecumseh Lake, we will be placing tree swallow and bluebird bird boxes that were constructed by Shawnee youth around the lake. With funding from this grant, we also will be employing a summer supervisor to lead a group of five high school students who will be participating in the Youth Program by our partners, Perry County



*Perry County High School students building trail*

Job and Family Services (JFS) and Hocking-Athens-Perry County Community Action Program (HAPCAP), to build and maintain trail at Tecumseh Lake. The youth each year find the experience rewarding and inspiring work that leaves a positive, long lasting contribution to their community and within themselves. And we hope to partner with many more organizations to provide opportunities for our youth.

Shawnee has gone through a lot of changes throughout the years. The village began as one of many coal mining towns that popped up in the Appalachian hills of Southeast Ohio, but by the 1930s, the wealth and prosperity that the industry brought diminished greatly. In its wake, the land was left with acid mine drainage, gob piles, and damaged land. The population dwindled, and -- with much of the land freed up -- the Federal Government purchased thousands of acres to create the Wayne National Forest (WNF). Because Shawnee is surrounded by the public lands of the WNF, it is provided with opportunities in nature-based recreation and tourism. Within a mile radius of the Village, the WNF holds a variety of natural and restorative features: wetlands, successional forest, mature forest, pine plantation, upland forest, watershed projects, grasslands, rock outcroppings, and two small lakes - Tecumseh and Upstream Rock Run. Tecumseh Lake was created by the residents of Shawnee in 1954 for the community's benefit and state of well-being and has been a community-led partnership since then. The residents of Shawnee wanted a successful hiking destination like Glouster's Burr Oak State Park. Though it has not reached the status of Burr Oak State Park, Tecumseh Lake sees frequent use by Shawnee citizens, who love to hike the trails and fish in the reservoir. The Buckeye Trail Association, in partnership with the WNF, has been building and maintaining trail from Tecumseh Lake to Upstream Rock Run in New Straitsville with the goal of creating a 100 mile backpacking and day hiking trail network destination. The trail system would appeal to hikers, nature lovers, backpackers and trail runners - from in-town and out-of-town. With the BTA's headquarters located in Shawnee, we are driven to create an example for other cities and towns along the Buckeye Trail to become Trail Towns. Trail Town designation not



*Shawnee Trail Town Dedication*





only encourages the use of surrounding natural resources, but also stimulates our local economy. And there's much more development coming to Shawnee (read pages 12-13 to learn more)!

**Thank you again to our Grantor!**

*The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) is a regional community foundation serving the 32 counties of Appalachian Ohio. With the mission of creating opportunities for Appalachian Ohio's citizens and communities by inspiring and supporting philanthropy, FAO partners with donors, nonprofits, and communities across the region. By*

*Shawnee Trail Town Dedication (2018) - Attendees gathered by Tecumseh Lake to go on a hike around the lake. Photographs taken by George Blankenhorn*

*growing philanthropic resources, convening partners around issues of importance, and making grants, FAO is working to ensure Appalachian Ohio is a region abundant in possibility. To learn more, please visit [www.AppalachianOhio.org](http://www.AppalachianOhio.org).*

**Hike the Buckeye Trail to a new favorite bird watching or fishing spot!**

**Caitlyn Park**

With the support of the Buckeye Trail Association, Rural Action was awarded a \$7,500 grant from the Ora E. Anderson Conservation Fund for Appalachian Ohio and these funds will help them complete the Upstream Rock Run Recreation and Wildlife Enhancement Project. Rural Action is partnering with the Wayne National Forest and the Buckeye Trail Association to enhance fish and wildlife habitat, improve access for recreational opportunities like hiking, fishing, and wildlife observation, and to host events like fishing tournaments and camps around the pond. This location, in the WNF off of Route 93 between New Straitsville and Shawnee, Ohio, was once the site of a collapsing underground coal mine that was being infiltrated by water, contributing to the acid mine drainage in the Monday Creek Watershed. In 2010, the water was diverted, the land reclaimed, and, with the addition of a fishing pond and hiking trails, the area was transformed from "devastation to destination" for visitors to the Wayne National Forest. Rural Action's efforts to enhance and promote this area will include things like installing old Christmas trees in the pond for fish habitat, picking up trash, planting trees and installing bird boxes in the spring, and maintaining trails that



*Hikers at Upper Rock Run - Jean Vandervaart*

will connect to a newly developed portion of the Buckeye Trail leading to Tecumseh Lake and then to Shawnee, furthering the exciting collection of outdoor natural tourist destinations in our area.

Look out for upcoming volunteer opportunities to help make it happen and for fun fishing events at the site this summer! You can volunteer by emailing [caitlyn@ruralaction.org](mailto:caitlyn@ruralaction.org).

# Development of Shawnee as a Buckeye Trail Town

Jean Vandervaat



If you've been to Shawnee (a Trail Town along the Buckeye Trail), within the past year, one of the first things you would see as you drive in from Route 155 or 93 is the newly renovated and opened restaurant, The Black Diamond Tavern. It's one of the newest developments in the small village that's surrounded by miles and miles of beautiful forest. Enter the tavern and you'll be greeted by friendly staff and delicious food that's easy on the wallet. As the clock strikes 5pm, residents from Shawnee and nearby towns waltz on in for carry-out or dine-in and a cool drink of beer. It's a lively atmosphere with historic interior architecture and equally historical pictures of the town mounted on the brick walls of the restaurant. I must say that my favorite item there is the fried pepper jack balls with the veggie lover's pizza coming in as a close second. I look forward to the warmer days when the outside patio will be open so that I can enjoy a drink while watching the local community roosters as they call from their perches up in the trees of Miner Park. But this story is not just about the quirky roosters or Black Diamond Tavern (as awesome as they both are). It's about Shawnee as a whole, which has been seeing recent developments and some more to come in the future.

Many organizations are located in Shawnee. Buckeye Trail Association (BTA) is headquartered here, along with Ohio Winding Road (OWR), Ohio's Hill Country Heritage Area (OHCHA), Little Cities of the Black Diamonds (LCBD), Sunday Creek Associates (SCA) and Destination Shawnee. Each organization has a part that they play, but all share the goal of preserving and celebrating the history and culture of Shawnee while building the village up for future generations. Together with the BTA, they form the Trail Town Network (TTN), which works on the Shawnee Trail Town Project.

John Winnenberg, who's a founding member of LCBD, OHCHA, SCA and OWR, explained the project as an "opportunity that reinforces the town's role as host to visitors, [like] hikers of the BT." He continued, emphasizing the importance of figuring out how a small town works together and uses its resources to get things done. "We work together to create this authentic destination of Shawnee." This vision includes six different sectors: outdoor recreation and environmental learning, education, cultural heritage, the Arts, local food, and tourism related businesses.



## Outdoor Recreation, Environmental Learning and Education

For the past several years, the BTA and our partners have been building trails out at Tecumseh Lake to Upper Rock Run. As stated in the article, *Shawnee to See Upgrades on Local Trails*, of this issue on pages 8 to 9, the BTA has received funding to place interpretive signs around the lake, bird boxes and more. Just recently, the lake received a brand new bridge at the start of the trail. And with the weather warming up, we'll be building more trails to finally complete the trail system. Since the 1950's when Tecumseh Lake was created, the park has been a popular place to hike, have picnics and fish.

Bev Trovato, Shawnee's mayor, is among the people who frequently visits. "The trail around the lake is really nice. The number of people that use it everyday to walk is awesome. There's quite a few people who walk from their home in the village to the lake. But there are also people from the surrounding villages that go to the Lake and walk quite a bit." It's a valuable resource for the village that highlights the importance of conserving the environment. The TTN has been working to bring ecotourism to the region to create more jobs. Already, they have secured funds and resources to hire Scott Kreps as the Shawnee Trail Town Coordinator. The BTA contributed by receiving a grant from the North Country Trail.

John Winnenberg explained further that they're "working on making that a sustainable position both with programming and fundraising and grants." The plan is to also merge the programming for the Tecumseh Theater for community events, including more events for youth like in the past. "One of the



Photographs of backpackers and day-hikers coming through Shawnee and Tecumseh Lake Trail System

problems is that the people who organized a lot of things like SCA and Save the Theater are getting old so we're trying to build a strategy that transitions leadership to the next generation." He went on to share other plans, through OWR, who work to give grants to guides and interpreters. Anyone with the knowledge and experience is welcome to apply and, if their proposal is accepted, would be granted any from \$350 to \$750 to help them market and develop their tour. The goal is to bring in more experience-based projects that relate to the history, culture and stewardship values of the region. This, in turn, the organizations hope will create a guide and trail economy.

### Cultural Heritage and the Arts

Four years ago, John Winnenberg, Deb Hutmire and Bev Trovato formed Destination Shawnee. They wanted to create something that would bring the community together, as well as bring more people in town. The result was Shawnee Second Saturday, a monthly festival with outdoor live entertainment, beer, and artisans and food trucks lining Main Street. "Shawnee Second Saturday is a social hour. We put tables and chairs on the street and people like to talk and sit around and eat and visit." Because of COVID, Shawnee Second Saturdays were put on hold, but with vaccinations rolling out, hopes linger in the air that the festival could return in May or June. During the wait, Destination Shawnee has been talking with the Black Diamond Development investors (who funded The Black Diamond Tavern) to bring bigger entertainment names to Second Saturdays, such as McGuffey Lane. So far, the village has only brought in local musicians, who would mostly volunteer their time. Bev Trovato added, however, "We will still keep our local musicians busy, playing opening acts [at Second Saturdays], our Farmer's market and our Sunday afternoon concerts."

Artisans who come to Shawnee need not worry about set-up fees. Destination Shawnee does not charge their local artists and vendors, as the goal is to provide an economic resource for locals to make 100% profit and hopefully boost their income pursuing their art. The festival is not the only means through which local artisans can sell their goods. OWR, within the last year, has created a pop-up shop for producers that's located on Main Street across from Tecumseh Theater. The organization hired a local person in Shawnee to handle the shipping for online sales from OWR's website, <https://ohios-winding-road-marketplace.square.site/>. The Winter Pop-up Marketplace, which was open from Mid-November to just before Christmas, hosted 13 different artists and producers who sold books, art pieces, shelf-stable packaged goods and

more. Currently, they are preparing for the Spring pop-up market that they expect to be up soon. Ohio Winding Road also provides seed grants to locals in the region who need funding for their art. It's a goal that John Winnenberg is passionate about. "The Winding Road is one of our strategies [on] how to develop a sustainable source of income [while] reinforcing our mission."

The money made during events or from donations is used entirely to revitalize the village. Besides Shawnee Second Saturdays, First Friday Farmers Markets or Sunday afternoon concerns, Destination Shawnee also plants flowers around town. They've planted in the township park, around the historic Shawnee sign, and along Main Street. With the help of Junction City Garden Club, they also maintain Miner's Park, found between Tecumseh Theater and Black Diamond Tavern. The Tecumseh Theater is one of the first projects several of the organizations here have worked on. It's gone through extensive renovations after being saved from the wrecking ball many years ago. The Theater acts as a community center where there are plays, concerts, community events and even wedding receptions, all of which came to a grinding halt with COVID. In 2020 before COVID, a partner of Black Diamond Development investor played country music at Tecumseh Theater for a side gig. It was through that event that Black Diamond Development became interested in working with Shawnee to bring more businesses into the town.

### Local Food and Tourism Related Businesses

The Black Diamond Tavern combines flavors of Appalachia with favorites such as wings, pizza and burgers and serves not just great beer, but handcrafted cocktails like their watermelon cocktail (I highly recommend it). The food is local and crafted in-house and the decor pays tribute to the history of Shawnee. Black Diamond Development kept as much of the original architecture as it could, one example being the tin ceiling tiles that have been there since Shawnee's boom era when the village numbered at 4-5,000 people. Many locals stop by for dinner on weekdays and for lunch or dinner on weekends, or to enjoy a beer while listening to a musician play. Bev Trovato is among the locals who stops by - at 4pm before the rush to enjoy the restaurant's homemade pizza. "The Black Diamond Tavern started serving pizza last Thursday (February 12th) and it's really delicious! And on Thursdays, Dine-in only, you can get a slice of cheese or pepperoni pizza for a \$1 a slice. It's a really good pizza, their own brand." While Black Diamond Tavern currently does not open for lunch on weekdays, they will be opening earlier than once the weather warms up more.

The Black Diamond Tavern is just the first business brought to Shawnee from Black Diamond Development (BDD). The company has been listening to the advice of and working with the Trail Town Network and local governmental officials to save the historical Dishon buildings and “tap into the resources of the Wayne National Forest [to] make Shawnee a sought after eco-tourist destination.” They are currently also repairing and reconstructing six of the spaces above the historic storefronts on Main Street into Air BnBs. Three will be above where the Black Diamond Brewery and Distillery will be (currently, the remnants of the Harigle Garage). The spokesperson from BDD has said that they believe that the microbrewery should be ready in the spring of 2022, COVID and logistics permitting. But before the microbrewery, BDD plans to open a campground right outside of the town. “The great thing about it is that the attraction to the campground is usually a lake or some natural feature, but our attraction is the village of Shawnee.”

Once the campground is open, both the investor and John Winnenburg believe that more people will come to Shawnee and learn about the Buckeye Trail Association headquarters, the trails here, and all of the local businesses, including the Ohio’s Winding Roads Marketplace, which would provide opportunities for locals. It would also provide a place for thru-hikers to camp in Shawnee and say hello to the BTA (once COVID is over)!

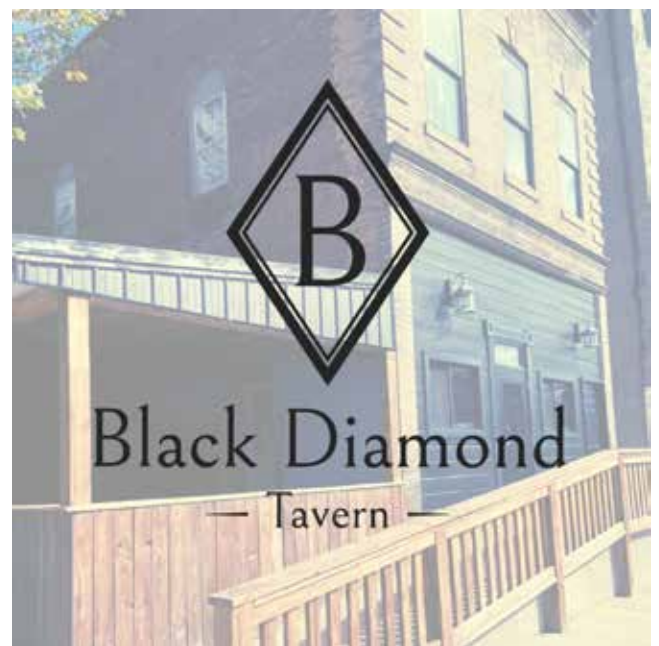
But one of the biggest hurdles for rural communities is the lack of capacity. “We need to build the capacity for programming for the experience economy that attracts people who make enough money to pay the bills,” John Winnenburg stressed. “And that’s why a lot of rural communities have a hard time becoming a destination. That’s why people like Black Diamond Development are taking this to another level of development.” As with any development, it’s important to keep the local community first. That’s what’s so unique about the Trail Town Network as it helps local nonprofits and citizens have a unified approach to development and building relationships with investors. It’s efficient and creates a healthy working relationship on all sides.

Local Food development extends beyond the local business. Destination Shawnee, in partnership with Rural Action, is currently in the process of securing a USDA grant to promote Shawnee’s First Friday Farmers market, which will start again on the first Friday of May. If they receive the grant, they’ll be able to expand upon the market and extend it to other Appalachian Ohio communities in the region, which will provide more venues for local farmers to sell their produce.

### Shawnee, a Living Community

When one looks up Shawnee online, they may see mentions of it being a “ghost town.” Shawnee is anything but. It’s a historical town that comes to life during community events and dinners shared in the local restaurant. It’s a living town with friendly people who have much to give to the region with their knowledge and stories. Bev Trovato has been a Shawnee local for years. “I think Shawnee is one of the most beautiful places to live. You’ve got the Wayne National Forest surrounding you. You’ve got the Buckeye Trail. You can go downtown and you just have fascinating architecture on the Main Street and the history is unbelievable. And everybody is friendly. You feel welcome here.” Folks are quick to say hello and strike up a conversation. So stop on by, enjoy some food, drinks and conversation. Then stay awhile to appreciate the nature and history of Appalachian Ohio!

You can learn more about Shawnee at: [ohioswindingroad.org](http://ohioswindingroad.org) and [lcbdohio.org](http://lcbdohio.org)



Visit Black Diamond Tavern located in the heart of Shawnee, OH, a designated Buckeye Trail Town. [blackdiamonddevelopment@gmail.com](mailto:blackdiamonddevelopment@gmail.com)

**Hours:**  
 Mon & Tue - Closed  
 Wed- 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
 Thu- 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
 Fri- 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
 Sat- 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
 Sun- 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

**106 W. Main St.,  
 Shawnee, OH 43782  
 (740) 823-1988**



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# Reflections of a New Father and Buckeye Trail Supporter

*Everett Brandt*

As I'm writing this, I've been a dad for less than 48 hours. This may not be the most coherent nor focused writing. It struggles to have an encompassing direction and meanders like The Buckeye Trail, but it is probably one of the most genuine, heart-felt pieces I've ever written. I've been told that time passes faster as you get older. I don't think 33 counts as old, but the past three years have certainly flown by. That passage, I would wager, is not due to my age but rather a career change, home purchase and renovation, and now fatherhood. Nowadays, as so much seems to change so quickly, it's nice to have something constant, steady, and solid to put one's feet on. For me right now, that constant is The Buckeye Trail. And while that sounds oddly like a pitch to support the BTA (not that it isn't), I promise that that is not my focus of this writing. A friend of mine described childbirth as "just a short hike to the most amazing thing in life." Besides being the sweetest and most caring thing I've ever heard out of this always sarcastic and gruffer man, his words resonated with me on so many levels. I met my wife on a 6 mile hike just off of the BT, bonded through 60 and 80 mile EGGs hikes, and became inseparable after her support on my 1,444 mile BT thru-hike. Those hikes have led up to what I'm sure will be the most amazing adventure we will share.

A little over 3 years ago, I started training for my thru-hike. I knew very little about the entirety of the trail and even less about the organization. I had joined a couple trail work parties (very fun, educational, and not more challenging than home gardening) and hiked EGGs. Since then, I've helped to build a shelter and more trails, presented at TrailFest, helped others with a mapping project, found myself on BTA committees, and am completing a documentary. The new committees and the BTA



*Everett Brandt taking a selfie at Bend View Metropark*

Strategic Plan are working to improve, expand, and grow the trail and the organization. Personally, I've developed a 'BT 101' roadshow presentation that anyone can view online, download, and -- once the world gets healthier -- share with their community in-person. There is so much more in the works that I am excited to see come to fruition.

While one may wonder how so much recent change and advancement can be considered a constant, I promise you I'm getting there. In creating the presentation, I learned some of the history and evolution of the trail, including the thru-hiker story of Cliff Thorniley. Cliff and four eighth and ninth grade students are the first known thru-hikers of The Buckeye Trail, who started in February and finished on June 2, 1974. Their journey covered 514 miles over the course of four months hiking on weekends and over spring break. While some purists may not consider hiking on weekends a thru-hike, most people I've talked to generally consider it a thru-hike if you complete the trail within a year of starting. It may be worth noting here that if one were to average 28 miles a weekend you would be able to do a calendar-year thru-hike of the current BT (go for it!).



*Pictured to Left: EGGs Hike 2014.*

*Photograph taken by George Blankenhorn*



*Everett taking a break at Yellow Springs.*

In January, I got the urge to talk with the first BT thru-hiker and see what his experience was like. After 3 hours of conversation, I'm extremely glad that I made that call. We had so many common experiences and passed by and through the same landmarks at the same age of 31, just 40 years apart. While I did not have to worry about blizzards, we shared similar stories about interactions with dogs, other hikers, and challenging trail conditions (sliding on mud with a 40lb pack is always fun).

It is this constant and enduring life of The Buckeye Trail that I grow ever more appreciative of. Our Trail allows us to walk in the footsteps of those from the past and leave new ones for future generations to share and experience all while soaking in the present. As a brand new father and one who has seen the entire Trail, I have so many plans to help my son connect with nature, people, Ohio and American history, and himself. I remember learning about Serpent Mound in fourth grade, always wanting to visit it, but never getting to it until I ended up in the nearby parking lot on my thru-hike and realized how easy (I say

that now) future field trips will be for my son. The Buckeye Trail will be there for him and many others to explore and learn from in whichever way they choose. The trail provides solitude for thinking, planning opportunities for learning logistics, preparedness, adaptability, personal responsibility, accountability, and independence; experiences for social and personal growth, and an education in living as a small piece of this beautifully diverse planet.

As I sit in our hospital room keeping a (very sleep-deprived) watch over mom and baby, I can't help thinking about our future and how much the trail will be a part of it. It left a huge impact on both Cliff and my lives and I am so happy to be part of ensuring that the trail will continue to be around for everyone. I encourage you to take every opportunity to get out and love Ohio, its State Trail, and the people around you. See you on Our Trail once my son's back and neck muscles are strong enough to maintain head stabilization in our baby carrier backpack!

# Trailbuilding 101

Ann Furste

Part of my retirement journey has been to participate in Buckeye Trail Crew Work Parties. The experience has been so amazing that I wanted to write an article to encourage other Buckeye Trail members and hikers to also participate. For those who may be hesitant to come because they don't know what to expect (like I once was), I will describe what a typical work week looks like, the kinds of work that are done, the tools that are utilized, and safety tips when using them.

It all starts with planning. The trail maintenance crew meets once a year with section supervisors to determine the areas of the Buckeye Trail that need work. The section supervisors provide lists of needed work in their sections, and the maintenance crew meets to prioritize and establish the work schedule for the upcoming year. This can include building trails on new land acquisitions or other trail route changes. As information comes in from hikers during the year concerning areas that require maintenance and improvement, additional work parties or weekends may be scheduled. There are many miles to maintain – so also consider adopting your own part of the trail. There are several trail maintainers who work together to complete smaller jobs, so that the work weeks can focus on larger projects.

Scheduled work weeks will have a camping location listed. The campground sites vary. Some sites may only have a pit toilet – you better hope that Pat is coming with his portable shower if that's the case! Other camping locations may include shower houses. I have enjoyed camping with fellow trail maintainers, they tend to be a low-key, casual, friendly group. Evenings may be spent hanging out together for a while before heading to your tent, but it's truly a whatever-you-want-to-do-is-fine-with-the-group kind of environment. I have no first-hand knowledge (thanks to COVID), but I hear you don't want to miss the chuckwagon events where meals are provided. You are welcome to stay for the day or the week – people come and go, and all help is appreciated!

Clothing choices for trail building and maintenance are similar to what one would wear when hiking – pants, hiking boots, and leather gloves. Long sleeves are recommended to offer protection against ticks, but summertime may be too hot for long sleeves, in which case tick repellent is advised. Most people bring a

backpack with food and water (two bottles for some!) for the day, along with anything else they may need, like toilet paper (pack it out) and first aid kits. Trail crew members usually carpool together to drive to the work site because of limited parking access. During the COVID pandemic, we ask that carpoolers wear face coverings while they are in the car together for safety. You will likely need to hike in and out from the work area to the cars. You may be working all in one area, or in different areas on different days. The morning starts with a safety meeting before heading off to the work site.

During one of the work weeks that I joined, the trail maintenance crew met in the Sinking Springs section to re-route a trail that had been destroyed by a logging operation in the section. The first day we flagged and established the new trail route with GPS and topographic data. Flags are either wrapped around a tree hugging the left or right edge of the trail or placed in the middle of the proposed trail location. Next step was roughly clearing the route by chainsaw and weed whacking. Chainsaw safety tips include: NEVER working alone, and wearing chaps, hard hats and safety glasses. You must also have a chainsaw certification to operate a chainsaw on the trail. Some trail partners may have restrictions on the use of chainsaws (for example national forests). The weed whackers utilized are bladed trimmers – they can cut saplings up to an inch in diameter, and chuck wood and debris 100 feet, so the biggest safety tip for those is to give the operator plenty of space. They are much more heavy duty than your home landscaping string trimmer. They utilize a harness and have hand grips to better control where the trimmer is going. Other tools used to clear heavy brush include DR mowers, either on wheels



Volunteer staying hydrated during summer trailbuilding. Photograph by Andy Niekamp

Volunteer using a weedwacker



Volunteer mowing a trail





or on tracks – hand operated brush hogs. The DR mowers are able to cut two inch saplings, four foot high grass and eight foot tall weeds. I'm still working on mastering the hand tools utilized. Loppers are often used to trim brush away from the trail bed. Buckeye Trail standards for the trail corridor are three feet wide and eight feet tall clearance.

After the heavy brush was cleared, we used fire rakes to clear the trail of leaf and debris. The fire rake originated from the forest service, and is intended to clear brush, grasses and weeds from the trail route and to prevent the risk of forest fires spreading by creating a fire break between vegetation. During this stage, the clearing also removes duff from the trail. Duff is a white fungus that forms in the soil underneath plants. It's part of a forest-wide microbial net, but can harm trail quality. When carrying a fire rake, make sure to carry it at your side and not over your shoulder. The same safety tip goes for MacLeods and mattocks.



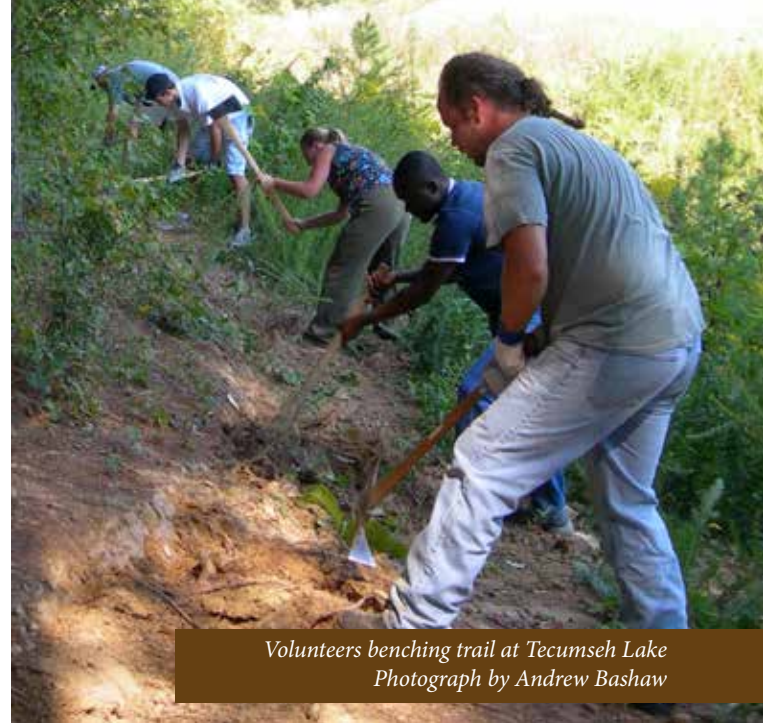
*Volunteer using a fire rake.*

are to always work with the Pulaski in front of you, and never to swing it above shoulder level. You must also not swing when within six feet of another person. As both ends are very sharp, it is recommended to have a protective sheath over the tool whenever it is not in use.

For some trail building, a trail finisher will follow the benching team with a Macleod (hoe/rake, mountain rake) to make the benched trail bed level, smooth and packed down. There is an art to this tool, it takes lots of practice. Experienced people make it look easier than it is when you try it for the first time, but persevere! Safety tips include to carry with the tines pointed to the ground.

The Buckeye Trail builds trail according to the National Park Service specifications. Resources used in preparing this article include the Buckeye Trail website volunteer handbook. The North Country Trail Association also has an online learning opportunity at [northcountrytrail.org/volunteer/volunteer-resource-center](http://northcountrytrail.org/volunteer/volunteer-resource-center). The National Park Service also has a trail handbook if you are interested (like all things governmental, it is rather long and detailed). Buckeye Trail work groups have a reputation with our partners (state parks, national forests, nature preserves, etc.) of building quality trail.

Suggestions for safely working on the trail include being aware of where all your team members are at all times – safety etiquette demands telling people when you are passing behind them. Make



*Volunteers benching trail at Tecumseh Lake  
Photograph by Andrew Bashaw*

sure you have a clear area to swing the tool you are working with (we call it the circle of death). Watch out for hazardous footing. Use the right tool for the job. Make sure tools are sharpened after each use. Carry tools properly – never over your shoulder. Travel safely – 10 feet apart as you are hiking to and from work area. Lay tools you are not using with their handle placed by the edge of the trail to avoid losing them.

Participating in the trail building team has given me an appreciation for the people that have gone before me on the Buckeye Trail and how hard they have worked for us to have a fantastic hiking experience. Working with them has been a humbling and rewarding experience – you will meet people who have been doing this for 20-30 years, and possess incredible trailbuilding expertise and knowledge. They are welcoming, patient, and more than willing to share that expertise. I'm a healthy 65, and have been learning ( and being worked into the ground) with people 10+ years older than I am! The winter gives us a great opportunity to hit the gym and the weights so we are ready to hit the trails for the first work party of 2021!



*Volunteer painting a Blue Blaze  
Photograph by Ann Furst*

# We Saw It All On The Nature Conservancy Trail

*Dianne Bell*

Last week of February, just after the big snow, Jim Gilkey and I decided that we needed to take a hike. We chose the part of the Buckeye Trail that coincides with the Nature Conservancy Trail located in the Edge of Appalachia Preserve that's near West Union, Ohio. The weather broke, bringing warmer temperatures and an incredible amount of snowmelt. When we arrived at the trailhead, the area still had plenty of snow lying on the ground. The creek nearby, Brush Creek, ran full and strong from all the snow that had melted. After appreciating the view, we began our way on the Jones Portman portion, climbing up to the top overlook. The trees blocking the sun on either side of the trail kept the snow and ice from melting on the path. It made our hike slow going to say the least. After a bit, the trail turned on a corner and there was just plain ground. Anyone who has ever climbed a big hill at the start of a hike can relate to our experience there. Some huffing and puffing up the way finally brought us to the top where we were presented with a beautiful view of still snow-covered hills. The way up may have been both icy and wet, but once we had reached the ridge top, it got better.

We continued on the Buckeye Trail, undulating and meandering on trail that was still covered in some ice, melting snow and mud. In a snow-covered area, we found some tracks that were quite large, the center being the size of the palm of my hand. Jim said "Coyote?" I thought "Lynx." (Editor's note: Lynxes are not found in Ohio. The writer may have been thinking of the bobcat). The tracks went on for a while, on and off the trail. We followed them as far as they paralleled and crossed the trail. I wondered where the animal was going. Eventually, the tracks left the trail all together.

Later on, in a valley, the snow on the trail became



*One of the several swollen streams along the Nature Conservancy Trail. Photo credit: Dianne Bell*

slushy and the trail was so thin that sliding became the norm. At one point, I looked longingly at a haul road just across the way that seemed quite flat and easy compared to the slip and slide we were on. But we kept moving forward. Down in the valley and across the way, the snow was so slippery that I'm surprised that I still have ankles that work! During this time, the weather changed many times. First, it was cool and comfortable, the sun peeking out from behind the partially cloudy sky. Then the sun came out in full force in areas where the sun hit the south and west-facing hillsides. It felt so warm – up until wind blew in big gusts, making it feel cool again, especially where the trail was hidden from the sun. In time, the sun disappeared completely behind heavy clouds that rolled in. Luckily, we were on a ridge without any snow and the air was refreshing and nice. Then, as a turn pushed us downward, cold air that settled in the cradle of the snowy hillsides made us shiver.

On our hike, we crossed



*Editor's notes:*

*Left | Center: Coyote prints. Notice the claw marks and two lobes on the bottom of the pawpad. Sometimes clawmarks are difficult to spot in deeper snow. Look at the end of the toes for a point indented. You can also make an X shape through the print.*

*Bobcat tracks have no claw marks usually as the bobcat sheathes its claws unless uncomfortable on its terrain. The pawpad would have two lobes on top and three on the bottom. Bobcat prints make a C between the toes and pad.*

*Right: Coyote trot  
Photo credit: Dianne Bell*



*Stream cutting into rock - the erosion process leading to many beautiful rock formations. Photo credit: Dianne Bell.*

many small and large creeks with rushing water. I do not wish to fail in emphasizing how many creeks and tributaries were swollen from the snowmelt. In fact, one of the worst difficulties we had was trying to cross one of those creeks and not slip into the water from the snow pack dwindling there. "Pole vault!" I cried, and grabbed a skinny tree to get me across the stream. Jim tried a different tactic and crossed with small branches and a log, shimmying across the creek.

As we moved on, a stunning view of cropped rocks and a small waterfall greeted us. It was a great place to make a stop and take in the scenery before fighting our way back on the slippery, snowy trails with changing weather and muddy areas. Good thing we did not have to ford any creeks the rest of the way, though we nearly slid into them as it was. On our way back, we crossed an ice-crusting road that we decided to take over the trail back. So off we went. The road had lots of ice, caked-on mud, puddles in worn spots, and snowpack. Still, it was easier, albeit longer, than traversing the trail back in. On the road, we spotted turkey tracks and very swollen creeks tumbling



*One of the many interesting rock formations that can be found at the Edge of Appalachia. The sedimentary stone consists largely of limestone and dolomite. The rocks pictured above are made primarily of dolomite aggregate, which has a dark appearance. Photo credit: Dianne Bell.*

down the hills to the main river. There was also a large collection of smooth, black big rocks. I guessed that perhaps it was slate, while Jim commented that it looked like coal (*Editor's note: the rock formations at Edge of Appalachia are sedimentary rocks with limestone and dolomite*). Continuing on, we followed the road back to the trailhead and our cars. A warm breeze blew by with the sun shining down on us for a moment, only for clouds to come back. They brought rain as we drove away. Good hike, great adventure on the Buckeye Trail at the Edge of Appalachia!

### **Edge of Appalachia is described by [www.cincymuseum.org/nature](http://www.cincymuseum.org/nature) as:**

*"A natural wonderland of rolling forested slopes, deep ravines and flower-studded prairies where natural elements of the Appalachians collide with those from the Midwest. Where prairies meet the southern edge of the great glacial advances of Ohio's past and where nature is found in abundance. Located just 75 miles east of downtown Cincinnati in Adams County, Ohio, this remarkable preserve system is the undisputed crown jewel of biological diversity in Ohio."*

**You, too, can hike at the Edge of Appalachia at 4274 Waggoner Riffle Rd, West Union, OH 45693**

# 2021 Schedule of Hikes & Events

Always check <https://buckeyetrail.org/> for more information and last-minute updates, including any Covid-19 cancelations AND to register for the work parties and the chuckwagon meals

Covid-19 guidelines: CDC recommends that people wear cloth face coverings in public settings and when around people outside of their household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. Cloth face coverings may help prevent people who have Covid-19 from spreading the virus to others. You will be required to submit to a temperature check daily before work begins. You will be required to sign a BTA event waiver.

Please review the BTA Covid-19 guidelines of 5/14/20 which is posted on the BTA home page.

## A P R I L

**April 10-14, 2021**

### Old Mans Cave Section

#### Hocking Hills State Forest Buckeye Trail Crew Work Party

Dust off the ol' trail tools and come out to Hocking Hills as the forest comes back to life during the first work party of the year. We will be working on building new trails, heavy trail maintenance, vegetation management, bridge building, boardwalk construction, and rock work through an old section of the BT. We will work from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Camping:** Bishop Gardens, 13200 Little Cola Rd, Rockbridge, OH 43149

**Contact:** Byron Guy, [oldmancave@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:oldmancave@buckeyetrail.org)

**April 17 - 18, 2021**

### BTA Circuit Hike - Troy Section & St. Marys Section

Saturday's hike will be from Troy Section Point 13 trailhead off Dye Mill Rd., Troy N40.02626 W084.18994 to Troy Section Point 17 parking lot off N. Main St., Piqua N40.14663 W084.23985. This is a distance of 11.6 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at parking lot off N. Main St., Piqua and carpool to Point 13 trailhead of Dye Miller Rd. Sunday's hike will be from Troy Section Point 17 parking lot off N. Main

St., Piqua N40.14663 W084.23985 to St. Marys Section 1.1 mi past Point 4 at Tin Roof Events, 8911 Hardin Station Houston Rd. N40.25701 W084.26522. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Tin Roof Events parking lot to carpool to parking lot off N. Main St., Piqua.

**Sign Up:** Go to the Friends of the Buckeye Trail Meetup site to indicate you are attending

<https://www.meetup.com/BuckeyeTrailFriends/>

**Contact:** Jay Shutt at [shuttjay@gmail.com](mailto:shuttjay@gmail.com)

## M A Y

**May 15 - 16, 2021**

### BTA Circuit Hike - Massillon Section

Saturday's hike will be from Point 3 Lake Community YMCA parking lot on King Church Ave., N.W. N40.95969 W081.36170 to Point 7, Nimisila Reservoir Parking Lot C-6 off Christman Rd. N40.93083 W081.51594. This is a distance of 10.7 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Nimisila Reservoir Parking Lot C-6 to carpool to Lake Community YMCA parking lot. Sunday's hike will be from Point 7, Nimisila Reservoir Parking Lot C-6 off Christman Rd. N40.93083 W081.51594 to Point 15- Oak Knoll Park parking lot off corner of Perry Ave. S.W. & 4th St. S.W., Massillon N40.78913 W081.52576. This is a distance of 11.7 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Oak Knoll Park parking lot to carpool to Nimisila Reservoir Parking Lot C-6.

**Sign Up:** Go to the Friends of the Buckeye Trail Meetup site to indicate you are attending

<https://www.meetup.com/BuckeyeTrailFriends/>

**Contact:** Jay Shutt at [shuttjay@gmail.com](mailto:shuttjay@gmail.com)

**May 15-19, 2021**

### New Straitsville Section

#### Burr Oak State Park Buckeye Trail Crew Work Party

Come on out for a 5-day work party in the New Straitsville section. We will be doing heavy trail maintenance to clear out the overgrown trail corridor and maintain the tread of the trail. This event is a great opportunity to come out for the first time: meet other volunteers, learn some new skills, and help prep this section for the coming year. We will work from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Camping:** We will camp behind the BTA Office in Shawnee, OH

**Contact:** Ann Furste, [wawt1ste@aol.com](mailto:wawt1ste@aol.com)

## JUNE

### June 5, 2021

#### Biggest Day Hike

The Buckeye Trail's Biggest Day Hike is happening on National Trails Day! We hope that the entire Buckeye Trail will be hiked and the experience shared on social media. Even though there wasn't much time to plan for this event last year, 35% of the Buckeye Trail was hiked. This year's event is in the early planning stages and one planning meeting has already happened. If you want to help or have any questions, please contact our Americorps Member Jon Flinn, who is coordinating this event, at the email provided below.

**Contact:** Jon Flinn at [jon.flinn@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:jon.flinn@buckeyetrail.org)

### June 5, 2021

#### BTA Annual Meeting

The Buckeye Trail Association 2021 Annual Meeting will also happen on Saturday, June 5, 2021 at 7:00PM Just like last year, it will be virtual. Besides the usual reports, election to the BTA Board of Trustees will take place at that meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Walker, Board President at the email provided below.

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

### June 5 – 6, 2021

#### BTA Circuit Hike – Massillon Section

Saturday's hike will be from Point 15- Oak Knoll Park parking lot off corner of Perry Ave. S.W. & 4th St. S.W., Massillon N40.78913 W081.52576 to Point 20A Canal Towpath parking lot on Rte. 212 on east side of Tuscarawas River N40.65445 W081.48493. This is a distance of 12.7 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Point 20A parking lot on Rte. 212 to carpool to Oak Knoll Park parking lot, Massillon. Sunday's hike will be from Point 20A Canal Towpath parking lot on Rte. 212 on east side of Tuscarawas River N40.65445 W081.48493 to past Point 26, at the Fairfield Township Building at the intersection of Riggle Hill Rd. & Johnstown Rd. N40.54526 W081.36992. This is a distance of 12.7 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Fairfield Township Building to carpool to Point 20A parking lot on Rte. 212.

**Sign Up:** Go to the Friends of the Buckeye Trail Meetup site to indicate you are attending

<https://www.meetup.com/BuckeyeTrailFriends/>

**Contact:** Jay Shutt at [shuttjay@gmail.com](mailto:shuttjay@gmail.com)

### June 5-9, 2021

#### AEP (Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area) Buckeye Trail Crew Work Party - Belle Valley and Stockport Sections

Come volunteer for this 5-day work party. We will be re-benching the trail tread, doing heavy trail maintenance, and vegetation management. All volunteers are welcome. No prior experience needed! We will work from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Camping:** Campground K on Lincoln Parkway, 10766 Lincoln Parkway Caldwell

**Contact:** Terry Blackstone at [bellevalley@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:bellevalley@buckeyetrail.org) or Herb Hulls at [stockport@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:stockport@buckeyetrail.org)

### June 12-13, 2021

#### EGGS Hike Preparation Buckeye Trail Crew Work Weekend

*Wayne National Forest and Burr Oak State Park*

*New Straitsville Section*

Buckeye Trail is hosting a 2-day work party in preparation for the E.G.G.S hike, perfect for people with limited time availability. The hike challenge loops around Burr Oak Lake and the Wildcat Hollow Trail Systems, including the BT/NCNST/ADT. We're going to make sure the trails are clear, well blazed and improved for the event and for all hikers year round. If you can stay overnight, camping will be at the Burr Oak group camp. We encourage everyone to come out even if you can only come for a day or two! We will work from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Camping:** Burr Oak Group camp 10153 Williams-homer Rd, Glouster, OH 45732

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

### June 12-16, 2021

#### Hinckley Reservation from State Rd into Whipps Ledges Medina Section

We are hosting another 5-day work party in the Medina section. We will be working on new trail construction and rock work. Even if you can only volunteer for a day, come join us! No experience is necessary and there will be on site training. We will work from 8:00am to 3:00pm.

**Camping:** Hinckley Reservation, Redwing Picnic Area off of West Drive. N41.22101° W81.72051°

**Meals:** You will need to bring your own food and water.

**Contact:** Pat Hayes, [pat.hayes@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:pat.hayes@buckeyetrail.org)

# 2021 Schedule of Hikes & Events

Always check <https://buckeyetrail.org/> for more information and last-minute updates, including any Covid-19 cancelations

**June 24-27, 2021**

## EGGS Hike

### New Straitsville Section

The BTA is hosting the annual E.G.G.S hike again this year! Participants will have an option of 5 hiking challenges consisting of 20 (day & night), 40, 60, and 80 miles that need to be completed in 12, 24, 36, and 48 hours respectively. We are looking for volunteers to man trail checkpoints, assist with registration, and help with camping activities for any hikers bringing their family and little hikers to the event. Volunteers will have no cost for their efforts and will receive an EGGS Hike T-shirt for their help.

**Camping:** Burr Oak Group camp 10153 Williams-homer Rd, Glouster, OH 45732

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

of Rte. 66, Fort Loramie N40.33631 W084.37570 to Point 20 Lock Two North Rd. N40.45167 W084.36839. This is a distance of 10.9 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Lock Two North Rd. to carpool to Point 12 Schlater Rd. Ft. Loramie.

**Sign Up:** Go to the Friends of the Buckeye Trail Meetup site to indicate you are attending

<https://www.meetup.com/BuckeyeTrailFriends/>

**Contact:** Jay Shutt at [shuttjay@gmail.com](mailto:shuttjay@gmail.com)

## AUGUST

**August 21 – 22, 2021**

### BTA Circuit Hike – St. Marys & Delphos Sections

Saturday's hike is from St. Marys Section Point 20 Lock Two North Rd. N40.45167 W084.36839 to Point 24 parking along Glenwood Rd. east of the Miami and Erie Canal N40.58315 W084.38957. This is a distance of 10.0 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Glenwood Rd. to carpool to Lock Two North Rd. Sunday's hike is from St. Marys Section Point 24 parking along Glenwood Rd. east of the Miami and Erie Canal N40.58315 W084.38957 to Delphos Section Point 4 Old Acadia Park, North St. Spencerville N40.71459 W084.35130. This is a distance of 10.7 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Old Acadia Park, Spencerville to carpool to St. Marys Section Point 24 on Glenwood Rd.

**Sign Up:** Go to the Friends of the Buckeye Trail Meetup site to indicate you are attending

<https://www.meetup.com/BuckeyeTrailFriends/>

**Contact:** Jay Shutt at [shuttjay@gmail.com](mailto:shuttjay@gmail.com)

**August 27-September 1, 2021**

### Sinking Spring Section

Description: Tentative

## JULY

**July 14-19, 2021**

### Wilderness Loop Buckeye Trail Crew Work Party Road Fork and Whipple Sections

Here's another chance to volunteer with the Buckeye Trail for a 5 day work party! Camping is encouraged at the Little Muskingum Watershed Association. We will be focusing on rebenching trail, heavy trail maintenance, vegetation management, and rock work. If you are new to volunteering, have no fear, we will provide you with tools and on site training too! We will work from 8:00am to 3:00pm.

**Camping:** Little Muskingum Watershed Association, 22241 SR 26, Matamoras, OH 45767, (N39.54102, W81.22474) (SR 26 at Thomas Ridge Road)

**Contact:** Tom Rohr [tdrohr1@frontier.com](mailto:tdrohr1@frontier.com)

**July 17 – 18, 2021**

### BTA Circuit Hike – St. Marys Section

Saturday's hike is from 1.1 mi past Point 4 at Tin Roof Events, 8911 Hardin Station Houston Rd. N40.25701 W084.26522 to Point 12 Schlater Rd. west of Rte. 66, Fort Loramie N40.33631 W084.37570. This is a distance of 13.4 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Point 12 to carpool to Tin Roof Events parking lot. Sunday's hike is from Point 12 Schlater Rd. west

## SEPTEMBER

### September 18-22, 2021

#### Bill Miller Trailhead Buckeye Trail Crew Work Party Old Mans Cave Section

**Description:** Come back out to the Hocking hills and enjoy the sights of our deciduous forest as the leaves start changing colors across our rolling hills. Work will consist of trail building, maintenance, bridge, boardwalk or puncheon construction, and some rock work. If any of this work seems intimidating, there's no reason to worry; our dedicated volunteers will help train and assist you with all the tasks at hand. We love to see new and returning faces working together to create Ohio's longest continuous trail network. Hope to see you there! We will work from 8:30am to 3:30pm.

**Camping:** Bishop Gardens, 13200 Little Cola Rd, Rockbridge, OH 43149

**Contact:** Byron Guy, [oldmancave@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:oldmancave@buckeyetrail.org)

### September 25, 2021

#### 5th Annual Little Loop Challenge on National Public Lands Day

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

### September 25 – 26, 2021

#### BTA Circuit Hike – Little Loop Challenge

Saturday's hike is a part of the Annual Little Loop Challenge and is from Akron Section Point 25 Vanderhoof Road Trailhead parking lot N40.97816 W081.60564 to Point 31 Crystal Springs Trailhead Parking lot N40.84613 W081.53753. This is a distance of 12.5 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at the Crystal Springs Trailhead parking lot to carpool to the Vanderhoof Road Trailhead. Sunday's hike is from Massillon Section past Point 26 at the Fairfield Township Building at the intersection of Riggle Hill Rd. & Johnstown Rd. N40.54526 W081.36992 to Bowerston Section Point 7. Parking is along Deer Rd. about 1000 feet south of Point 7 N40.46778 W081.19731. This is a distance of 14.1 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at the parking area along Deer Rd. south of Bowerston Point 7 to carpool to the Fairfield Township Building.

**Sign Up:** Go to the Friends of the Buckeye Trail Meetup site to indicate you are attending

<https://www.meetup.com/BuckeyeTrailFriends/>

**Contact:** Jay Shutt at [shuttjay@gmail.com](mailto:shuttjay@gmail.com)

## OCTOBER

### October 2, 2021

#### 7th Annual - Buckeye Trail Blue Blaze Festival

Big things are happening in the small town of Shawnee, Ohio, in Perry County. On October 1–2, 2021, the town of Shawnee, will be hosting the Buckeye Trail "Blue Blaze Festival" bringing together runners, hikers, musicians, local crafters and artisans to celebrate the Buckeye Trail. Join us to celebrate the diversity of the BT along the trails in the Wayne National Forest sections!

Visit the Blue Blaze Festival web page at [www.buckeyetrail.org/blueblazefest.php](http://www.buckeyetrail.org/blueblazefest.php) for all the details.

**Contact:** Jeff at [run4blue@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:run4blue@buckeyetrail.org)

### October 16-20, 2021

#### East Fork State Park Buckeye Trail Crew Work Party Williamsburg Section

Opportunities to come join a Buckeye Trail Work Party are running out for the year. Come on out to help us end the year strong for a 5 day work party on the Williamsburg section of the BT! Work will consist of re-benching trail, rock work (if time allows) heavy trail maintenance and removing a large downed tree that has fallen over the trail. We are looking forward to seeing you there! We will work from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

**Camping:** East Fork State Park Campground, 2837 Old State Rte 32, Batavia, OH 45103

**Contact:** TBD

**Buckeye Trail Association**

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