

BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Trailblazer



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SUMMER 2021 VOLUME 54 NO. 2

IN THIS ISSUE...

- 3 The Adventures of Tag and Tor
- 4 President's Message
- 5 On the Trail
- 6 BTA Funds Report
- 7 Blue Blaze Festival
- 8 Plaque of Recognition
- 10 Around Ohio Again: Richard Morgan's Third BT Circuit
- 11 Deersville! Come for the Ice Cream, Stay for the Adventures
- 13 A Kid's View of the Buckeye Trail
- 15 Burr Oak: A 3 Day Hiking Adventure
- 17 2021 List of Hikes and Events
- 20 New Member Form

Editor's Note

Hello readers!

I hope that you are doing well and enjoying the warm weather. So much has happened since the last issue that you'll be sure to discover in the following pages.

I'd like to give a quick shout out to Richard Morgan for completing his third hike around the Buckeye Trail and also a thank you to Halley Dray, an Ohio University Journalism student, who joined the celebration and wrote a wonderful article. You can read the piece on page 10. The celebration happened at the same time as our Buckeye Trail Work Crew Party in the New Straitsville section in Shawnee, Ohio (pictured below). We have several more Trail Work Crew Parties planned this year, which you can find on pages 17-19.



The Biggest Day Hike 2021 on June 5th was a huge success! Over 215 people walked 87% of the Buckeye Trail, compared to 34% in 2020. That's 1254 miles, up from 490 miles. 18 of the 26 sections had 100% coverage. And over 500 photographs were shared on social media. You all are amazing!

If you have any stories you'd like to share with other readers, send them my way at trailblazer@buckeyetrail.org

Until next time!
Jean Vandervaart



Trailblazer

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Photo credit: Andrew Bashaw

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Our cartoons are based on true events as they happened to me and Jeri on the Buckeye Trail. We tweaked the context of this cartoon a bit to reflect the accommodations we BT hikers had to make in the year of COVID.

The original inspiration for this cartoon, however, came the day in the West Union section a few years ago when three of us had to squeeze into a two-seater, convertible sports car for a 45-minute ride to the start point. Not the plan, but the fourth hiker with (what we expected would be) a bigger car never materialized. The convertible top wouldn't retract, which made the feat even more spectacular. The three of us did our best to position ourselves without too much pain and maximum visibility for the driver. You wouldn't think finding places for arms and legs would be as difficult as it was. We had all the makings of a circus clown car...and a Tag and Tor cartoon.

Enjoy!

Karen Power and Jeri Getts

President's Message

Steve Walker

Events, shops, restaurants and just about everything are opening up more now with almost half of America being either partially or fully vaccinated. Since the last Trailblazer issue, Karen and I received both of our Moderna shots. She breezed through each with just a sore arm, but the vaccination had me bedridden for a whole day with aches everywhere. The next day I was, thankfully, back in service. By the time you read this, Governor DeWine will have relaxed the mask requirements and I, for one, will be glad. It is more difficult for one to carry on a conversation when folks' voices and expressions are muffled with masks. It has been a long past year where we had to cancel events. Back in April of this year, the Buckeye Trail Association had its first in-person event since the pandemic started. MoreFest 2021 was successful and saw a good number of people attending. People gathered around the campfire by the Buckeye Trail Century Barn (socially distanced, of course) for company, conversation and warmth while the Tuscarawas River Band played live music in the Barn. The morel mushrooms were the only thing that did not show up in great numbers, but that did little to deter everyone from having fun. Figuring out a date to schedule MoreFest each year is always a gamble as no one knows when morels will fruit exactly. Normally, we have had to set a date in January and we have never quite scheduled the event during the peak of morel fruiting except for in 2017. Hopefully next year will be just like 2017!

Volunteers have been putting in a lot of effort this year. I just spent ten days working with a variety of volunteers and over half of the 129 Project building (the Buckeye Trail Association's future headquarters) is painted and trimmed. Progress on the 129 Project has slowed a little because of the Covid-19 pandemic but all major exterior upgrades are largely complete, albeit awaiting some more trim and a fresh coat of paint on the remaining half of the building. The amount of roof that needed repaired ended up being less than anticipated, only requiring a few replacement slate shingles. During this same time, the volunteers and I installed new fascia and soffit with locally sourced, milled poplar that had been drying out since last September in the basement of 129. With major exterior work largely done, the next focus will be on the bathroom and kitchen. The 129 Project Committee is making a concerted effort to make this a great headquarters and a place for all of us to be proud of (if you're interested in working with this great group, let me know at president@buckeyetrail.org). There have also been several Buckeye Trail Work parties that have already happened and many adopters have cleared segments of the Buckeye Trail ahead of the Buckeye Trail's Biggest Day Hike on June 5th for National Trails Day. We had hikers pledge to hike 87% of the Buckeye Trail. That's 1254 miles out of 1444!. Next year, we expect to reach 100% coverage of the Buckeye Trail!

The Buckeye Trail Association has made progress in other areas as well. We had our second Chapter Leadership Summit on April 15th and, like the first one on January 28th, had representatives from all BTA Chapters. The great thing about these Summits is that the conversation moves in many directions and everyone is interested in helping by offering advice and/or through action. We have plans for finance and fundraising training for Chapters in the works. The next Chap-



Steve & Herb working on 129. Photo by Richard Lutz

ter Leadership Summit is scheduled for July 22nd just ahead of the BTA 2021 Board and Staff Retreat. If you want to know more, reach out to your local BTA Chapter. There are now eight existing chapters (listed from northeast Ohio and going clockwise):

1. Crooked River Chapter
2. Muskingum River Chapter
3. The Wilderness Chapter (new!)
4. Little Cities of the Forest Chapter
5. Miami River Chapter
6. Miami & Erie Canal Chapter
7. Lake Plains Chapter
8. Central Ohio Chapter

Currently, we are in the process of developing a stronger relationship with the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. This early collaboration will be the first step in the Green Corridor project and will concentrate on new off-road trails in the areas between Tappan, Clendening and Piedmont Lakes. Craig Butler, the new Executive Director at MWCD, is a trail runner and is very supportive of the Green Corridor concept. The Buckeye Trail Association is grateful for every partnership made as we can complete more tasks together!

Last, but not least, we appreciate you, the Buckeye Trail Community. Our social media presence continues to grow and lots of folks chronicle and share their Buckeye Trail journey on Facebook. When people ask questions regarding the Buckeye Trail, the Buckeye Trail community offers plenty of constructive and helpful responses. The BTA members that monitor our social media outlets do a great job keeping it a friendly environment. We look forward to seeing all of the photographs and stories you will share about their hikes during Buckeye Trail's Biggest Day Hike. With all that has been going on, it is sometimes easy to forget that we have a great trail to hike. So, take some time for yourself out on the trail. I hope to see you there (and maybe even at a BTA event, since we can finally start having them again). And have a great summer.

On the Trail ...



This past Saturday, I got to take a hike at Burr Oak State Park with my family on National Trails Day for Buckeye Trail's Biggest Day Hike. I welcomed the feeling of being 'obligated' to take a hike and enjoy making new memories with my family. We needed it.

Our one year old seemed to get the idea of hiking, on purpose, for the first time and loved it. Our eleven year old seemed engaged by the idea that people all around Ohio were joining us for one big challenge – together hundreds of hikers, paddlers, and bike riders completed nearly 90% of the 1,400+ mile BT in one day. It's absolutely mind blowing!

And then we saw all the pictures from people -- families, and friends - all intentionally enjoying following the blue blazes, connected together by a simple yet powerful idea: the Buckeye Trail. It's been said before, but I'll never get over how well the Buckeye Trail connects us all together as I was reminded by our eldest daughter. Volunteers on the Buckeye Trail Crew at the 'new' Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area (formerly AEP ReCreation Land) were putting their sweat into the BT underfoot. Trail partners were encouraging their social communities to participate in this great free resource we all have at our fingertips. Five Rivers Metroparks shared their news of new backpacking campsites to help make the BT more 'backpackable'. And people gathered at our condensed, virtual Annual Meeting to think about how the BTA is doing as an organization today and what our future holds.

Demand for a BT experience is still booming. We've tried to take as many opportunities as we can find to shout from the hill tops that the BT and the BTA are here for you, to whoever can hear. One way we've done this is by making MoreFest, EGGs Hike, Biggest Day Hike, and Little Loop Challenge free (at least for BTA Members if not the general public).

Now that Covid-19 health orders are being relaxed we want to see you all hiking, volunteering, enjoying the BT. I'm so glad that the BT connects you and I together. During the tough times it connects us along with all the Trail Towns and gems of public land. And during the better times coming it can connect us in person at an EGGs Hike, a Buckeye Trail Crew Work Party, or just a hike among friends.

Thank you for hiking. I hope to see you out on the trail soon!

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 of our donors who have gone above and beyond to support the mission of the BTA during these challenging times! We appreciate you.

MARCH 2, 2021 TO MAY 31, 2021

GENERAL FUND

David Allmon
Donald Bashaw
Dale Bockhorts
Kevin and Mary Jo Bowman
Joseph Brown (In Memory of James H. Brown)
Donald Burrell
Chris Carmichael
Christine Coblenz
Michael Daugherty
Elizabeth and Timothy DeBraul
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Hocking Hills Tourism Association
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Virginia Jenkins (In Memory of her husband, Chester Jenkins, who was a Buckeye Trail Adopter)
Scott Kamph (In Memory of John Knouse, past BTA Trustee)
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BUCKEYE TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND

Jason and Kim Stockslager

CROOKED RIVER CHAPTER - LITTLE LOOP CHALLENGE

Karen and Robert Pallat (Money for Little Loop Patches and help on the trail)

MUSKINGUM LAKES CHAPTER

Laura Peters & Deersville General Store (From Freeport Running Raiders and Tappan Trail Trot)

LITTLE CITIES OF THE FOREST CHAPTER - EGGS HIKE

Mary E. Hamilton



Blue Blaze Festival

October 1-2, 2021 * Shawnee, Ohio

Free Entertainment! * Music * Food * Trail Run * Hike * Street Fair

The Blue Blaze Festival is an event for the whole family! Starting Friday evening and continuing to 9pm on Saturday, come join us in Shawnee to enjoy the Fall colors of the Wayne National Forest and to celebrate the Village and the Buckeye Trail with local vendors, music, crafts, and more.

Trail Run & Hike

Friday

Early Packet Pickup

4:00pm-7pm, Hariagle Garage

Saturday

Start & Finish line will be at the Tecumseh Theater, with the race going along the Buckeye Trail.

8:00am, 10 Mile Hike, shuttle leaves from Shawnee

9:00am, Half Marathon start

9:15am, 10K start

9:30am, 5K start (Loop course)

For info & to register for the race:

<https://www.buckeyetrail.org/blueblazefest.php>

So bring a chair and enjoy the festivities in the historic setting of one of Ohio's Little Cities of the Black Diamonds.

Want to give back to the community? Bring non-perishable food to donate to the Perry County Food Bank for people in need.

Music Line-Up

Location: Main Street stage near the Black Diamond Tavern

Friday 6:00-10:00pm

- Jonalee White
- McGuffey Lane

Saturday 2:00-9:00pm

- Randy Gleason
- Caitlin Kraus
- The Wild Honeybees
- Jonalee White
- Shane Runion

Questions? Contact us at:

run4blue@buckeyetrail.org or 740-394-2008

SPONSERS & EVENT ORGANIZERS

Buckeye Trail Association
Black Diamond Development
Village of Shawnee



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.

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 – *Warrior Expedition - Monroe, OH*
Martin Strange – *Warrior Expedition*

A hiker's plaque has been created to celebrate a hiker's completion of the Buckeye Trail. The plaque allows you to proudly display your accomplishment. It may also provide a little PR for the Buckeye Trail as you talk about your adventure. 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 (whatever form it was in at the time of their hike).

2017 Mei Ling Liber – *Warrior Expedition*
Preston Hudson – *Warrior Expedition*
Tom Helbig – *Dayton, OH*
2018 Don Lenc, (oldest thru-hiker 72) – *Monroe, OH*
Everett Brandt, (fastest thru-hiker 55 days) – *OH*
2019 Luke Bushatz – *Warrior Expedition*
Chad Hiser – *Warrior Expedition*
Jim Logsdon – *Warrior Expeditions*
Lucas Smith, (youngest thru-hiker 18) – *Cincinnati, OH*
May 22 – Aug 7, 2019 (79 days)

The trail has also been completed by section-hikers over a period of more than one year. The trail became a loop trail in 1980. Initially, it was 1,200 miles, but through the hard work of

volunteers building trail, it has gradually expanded to its current length around 1400 miles. Those who have completed the loop trail through section hiking are as follows:

March 1977 - Oct. 1983 Robert Starker | *Dayton, OH*
March 1977 - Nov. 1983 | *Akron-Cleveland OH*
Jim Ball, Charled W. Briggs, Jeanette (Kozeny) DeSimone
Gene DeSimone, Cecil Dobbins, Wilma Howard
Louise McConough, Victor Sandoff, Lowell Sanford
Louis Shainker, Clifton Tate (80)
19?? - 1984 Michel Brindo | *Barberton, OH*
19?? - 1986 Tom Lavelle | *Cleveland, OH*
1980 - 1986 Jim Sprague | *Akron, OH*
19?? - 1987 Jytte Hansen | *Akron, OH*
1982 - 1988 Lynn Schreiber | *Cleveland, OH*
1989 - 1990 Paul Daniel | *Oxford, OH*
Dec.1989 - March 1992 Spencer Allen | *Columbus, OH*
April 1989 - March 1992 Gary K. Calvert, Thelma Hill
April 1989 - April 1992 | *Doylestown, Solon, Cleveland OH*
Gary Calvert, Dick Wiegandt, Darlene Wiegandt, Don Hoffman
19?? - 1994 Leo Deininger | *Cleveland, OH*
1997 - 1999 Harold Schneider
1992 - 2000 Jay Abercrombie
July 1996 - July 2001 Jim Runk, Dana Zintek, Lisa Daiber-Zintek
Aug. 1998 - Feb. 2002 Anne Snedaker
Jan. 1998 - March 2003 Ruth Brown, Robert C. "Bob" Brown
Jan. 2000 - Jan. 2004 Patrick Hayes
Feb. 2000 - March 2004 Sandy S. Garry

Nov. 1997 - July 2004 William T. Schultz
Nov. 2002 - Dec. 2004 Cecilia Hartman
Jan. 2003 - Dec. 2004 John A. Bowers
Nov. 1997 - Dec. 2004 John Rethman
April 1998 - May 2005 Don Beattie
Sept. 1998 - Sept 2005 Steven W. Trimble
April 2000 - Dec. 2005 Louisa J. Kreider
May 2002 - Feb. 2007 Richard E. Harris
April 2003 - August 2007
Mary Baldwin, Mary Jane Decker, Beth Hanna, Harvey Hanna Jr.
Jeanne Henry, Ed Horvath, Sharon Horvath, Laszlo Prisko
Rose Prisko, Marty Ritzert, Gayle Shroy, Robert Shroy
Denise Tobiasz, Dave Tobiasz (*North Olmsted, OH*)
Jan. 2002 - June 2008 David Janosko, Kenny Janosko (16)
Sept. 2003 - Dec. 2008 Chris McIntyre
May 2009 - Aug. 2009 Peter W. Cottrell, Joyce G. Cottrell
April 2003 - Aug. 2009 Karen Krause, Ted Krause
April 2007 - Aug. 2010 Sean Owens
May 2003 - September 2011
Bob Simons (finished August), Michael E. Hooper, Paul G. Imhoff Jr.
Aug. 2005 - Nov. 2001 John Fetzer | *Painesville, OH*
Sept. 1999 - March 2012 Gary Wooddell, Gwendolyn I. Wooddell
April 2009 - July 2012 CW Spencer
Sept. 2009 - Aug. 2012 Richard Morgan

Fall 2005 - Aug. 2012 James Wright
 Aug. 2012 - July 2013 Mary L. Warren, Lisa A. Strohm
 March 2005 - Aug. 2013 Kathleen A. Fix
 Aug. 2007 - Dec. 2013 James Gilkey
 Nov. 2004 - May 2016 Karen L. Walker | *Navarre, OH*
 March 2006 - Nov. 2016 Dianne K. Bell
 April 2014 - April 2017 George Tyro
 Dec. 1995 - May 2017 Joan Young
 Nov. 2008 - May 2017 Randall Roberts | *OH*
 Nov. 2004 - July 2018 Tim Gerber | *Maryland*
 July 2008 - Nov. 2018 Mary Ruth Green
 Aug. 2008 - Nov. 2018 Jeanne DeLaney
 ?? - ?? Cheryl Kreindler, George Tyo, Dale Wical
 2008 - Nov. 2018 | Jeanne DeLaney, Mary Ruth Grubbs Green
 Dec. 2009 - June 2019 Dale J. SoCal

June 2017 - June 2019 Andrew "Mr. Truth" Prill
 Aug. 2015 - Sept. 2019 Kyle Browning
 April 2013 - Oct. 2019 Karen Fisk
 April 2014 - Oct. 2019 Second time for Jim Gilkey & Richard Morgan!
 Nov. 2013 - Oct. 2019 Kathleen Fix (Second time!)
 20?? - Oct. 2019 Jacob Thompson, Maria Wingard
 May 2015 - Oct. 2019 Jen Weaver | *Cortland, OH*
 Oct. 2015 - Oct. 2019 Bonnie Spencer, CW Spencer (Second time!)
 Sept. 2016 - Oct. 2019 Nancy Shepherd
 April 2018 - Oct. 2019 Nathan Simpson
 Aug. 2015 - Nov. 2019 Jeri Getts, Karen Power (began Feb.)
 Sept. 2016 - Sept. 2020 Eileen Gerson | *Mentor, OH*
 Sept. 2016 - Nov. 2020 Dan Herris, Cathy King | *OH*
 Feb. 2017 - Dec. 2020 Julie Melzak | *Beachwood, OH*
 Oct. 2018 - Dec. 2020 John Chappel | *Wadsworth, OH*

From February 1974 to June 1974, before the trail became a loop (in 1980), 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 who were the two earlier hikers?

Dana Zintek (see 2001 section hiker) found an

article from the Record Courier (Ravenna, OH) January 26, 2005. 50th wedding anniversary announcement: Dr. Kenneth Rupp and Evelyn Rupp of Streetsboro completed walking the BT in 1970. The article did not state that it was a thru-hike.

An article in a Buckeye Trail publication lists Steve Inkel, Fairview Park (age 17) and Mark Larsen, Fairview Park (age 15) as having completed the Lake Erie to Cincinnati trail in 1972. So were there four and not two hikers who completed the trail before the Cliff Thorniley group?

Other hikers on record as having completed the Buckeye Trail before it became a loop trail are listed below:

The following hikers completed the 520-mile trail:

19?? - May 1975

Marion Pat Ellis (*Cleveland, OH*), Judy Gibson (*Columbus, OH*)
 Ellen Mumma (*Cutler, OH*), Helen Bowen (*Columbus, OH*)

The following hikers completed the 571-mile trail:

19?? - November 1975

James Feeley (*Norcross, GA*), Frank Cepp (*Florida*)
 Donna Seither (*McConnell, PA*)

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. Thank you to those individuals who have helped add a few names to the list.

BTA is interested in people who have hiked the whole Trail. A patch is available for any hiker who has completed the entire Buckeye Trail. After finishing the Buckeye Trail, fill out a questionnaire and a patch will be sent to you in 10 business days. The first patch is FREE; any extra patches are \$3.00 each. The questionnaire is on the following BTA website: <https://buckeyetrail.org/circuit.php> Download the form on the website, complete it, and mail it to Dana Zintek to receive your patch.

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

19?? - 1976

Cleveland, OH - Emily Gregor, Donald Howard, Wilma Howard, Kenneth Howard (13), Brian Howard (12), Jane Pendley
Centerville, OH - Rachel Hartman
 ??, *OH* - Helena Hart

The following hikers completed the 658-mile trail.

1977 - November 1978

Cleveland, OH - Dan Springgate, Garnet Springate

NAME(S)
 TRAIL NAME(S) [optional]
 THRU-HIKE OR SECTION HIKE
 TIME PERIOD HIKED

The plaque may be purchased for \$60 payable to Chuck Hewett. All profits (\$20) go to the BTA. [\$35 to trophy shop and \$5 to mail plaque]

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.



1



2



3

Around Ohio Again!

Richard Morgan's Third BT Circuit

Halle Dray

Buckeye Trail Association member, Richard Morgan, finished the last section of his third trip around the Buckeye Trail at 2:20pm on May 16, at Tecumseh Lake in Shawnee, Ohio. Morgan was accompanied by Jake Thompson, a fellow Buckeye Trail Association Member, during the last stretch of the trail. Both men received a celebratory greeting by the Buckeye Trail Crew Work Party camped out in Shawnee. Though several Buckeye Trail members have section-hiked the Buckeye Trail once - and some twice - Morgan is the only person to have section-hiked the Buckeye Trail in its entirety three times. Morgan has been a member of the Buckeye Trail Association for eight years, but was a trail regular even before joining. He began his first Buckeye Trail circuit hike in 2009 and has essentially never stopped since. Already, he's planning his fourth time around. Morgan even toyed with the idea of taking a bike out on the trail for his next trip.

Morgan grew up in Vinton County in a country town surrounded by forest. Some could say this predisposed him to an immersive, nature-based lifestyle since childhood. However, he never had the opportunity to long-distance hike until retiring at age 50. "I always wanted to see what was over the hill," said Morgan. "I could keep hiking and hiking and there will always be something new to see." The Buckeye Trail especially suits him for this reason. Morgan

land allows for him to gain the most distance in a given day.

Richard Morgan arguably knows the trail better than almost anyone (save for BTA's Director of Trail Development, Richard Lutz) and has enjoyed seeing the progression of the trail throughout time. Like a river, the trail can change a lot in the course of a decade as it's maintained and increasingly rerouted off-road. He expressed how the section in Wayne National Forest near Shawnee, where he finished his third section hike, has cleared up considerably and become much more accessible through the effort of Buckeye Trail's Volunteers and Trail Crew Work Parties. He also expressed how the updated portion going from Xenia to Dayton provided a nice change of scenery during his second and third times around the trail.

Morgan has logged 4,333+ miles of the Buckeye Trail since 2009. Through all of that, he's made friends with those who have hiked with him or provided shuttles to and from trail points. It is this collective encouragement and support to which Morgan credits his success. Despite enjoying hiking with friends like Thompson, Morgan also finds comfort in the solitude of the trail. He knows he can gain a lot of distance this way. Morgan described how Buckeye Trail is still gaining popularity, but it is also a solemn journey: "it's rare that

Banner Photos: (1) Richard Morgan's first section-hike finale at Lake Erie in August 2012. (2) Second section-hike finale with Jim Gilkey and Kathleen Fix in October 2019. (3) Third section hike finale at Tecumseh Lake.

Special thanks for helping Richard Morgan during his hikes goes to:

Jacob Thompson
Jim Gilkey
CW Spencer
Kathleen Fix
Karen K. Fish
Dale Wical
Jeri Getts
Jen Miller
Karen Powers
Maria C. Wingard
Nancy Shepherd
and last, but not least, the Buckeye Trail Work Crew Parties who maintain the trail for us all.

"I could keep hiking and hiking and there will always be something new to see!"

has hiked on both the American Discovery Trail and the North Country Trail, through Pennsylvania, and parts of West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Michigan. Yet, he frequently returns to the Buckeye trail, because its diversity truly stands out to him from the other long-distance trails.

"The Buckeye trail has the most diverse terrain... from the flatlands to the hills, there's lots to see," said Morgan. "The trail goes through both private properties, state parks, national parks, towns..." His personal favorite sections of the trail are located in the western side of Ohio - going from Cincinnati to Bowling Green - where the flat

you'll go out there and see other people." Morgan attributes the small number of yearly Buckeye Trail section hikers to his keeping his record. Even so, he spoke of continuing his Buckeye Trail experiences with excitement, certainty, and confidence. One's competitive nature does not always have to be against others, but also as a means to break personal goals and records and to continue the journey over the next hill.

Picture of the Third-Hike celebration can be found on page 2.

DEERSVILLE! Buckeye Trail Town

Come for the ice cream, stay for the adventures!

Kim Love-Ottobre



*Buckeye Trail Krunch ice cream -
Brandon Bates*

Deersville, Ohio - one of Buckeye Trail's 15 Trail Towns - is small at first glance, but holds an incredible amount of history. Standing along the main stretch of the quaint village are numerous Gothic and Greek-style buildings with some Victorian-styled homes on the streets branching out. Bricks line the sidewalks. It's like walking into a portal to the past.

It's for these reasons that Main Street - also named Deersville's Historic District - was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2004. Deersville was first founded in 1815 with 0.35 square miles to its name and around 300 residents to tend to the land. Through the years, the village population has shrunk to around 80 people, but the number increases dramatically during hunting & fishing season, boating season, or on those special Sundays when the Deersville General Store features its popular, home-cooked smoked BBQ dinner. Deersville General Store is one of the buildings on Main Street specifically included in the Register.

The store was built in the 1800s, where it first operated as a church, then was converted to a hardware/general store in 1898, and has been in continuous operation since then. There, you can buy groceries, fishing gear, sunscreen, T-shirts, and - wait for it - ice cream! It is a treat you won't want to miss after taking an enjoyable hike on the Buckeye Trail by Deersville. After all, their ice cream was voted Best in Ohio 2019 by the Ohio Farm Federation Bureau! The General Store even celebrated Deersville becoming a Buckeye Trail Town in 2018 by creating an ice cream flavor called the Buckeye Trail Krunch, which has vanilla ice cream with peanut butter

cup, crispy rice, and blue sprinkles that mimic the Blue Blazes of the Buckeye Trail. For every three gallon tubs of Buckeye Trail Krunch sold, Deersville General Store donates five dollars to the Buckeye Trail. In 2020 they sold 54 tubs of Buckeye Trail Krunch, donating 270 dollars to the BTA.

Other locations to visit in town are the Deersville Theater - where Harrison County's only theater group has been putting on productions since 1987 - and the Ourant School, which was built in 1873 and renovated a few years ago by locals to preserve local history. COVID cancelled any plays at the theater or events at Ourant School, but keep an eye out for the future as things open up!

Not into camping but looking for a place to stay while you hike around Deersville? You can rent lodging at the Union Bell Hotel, built in 1835 as a stagecoach stop along the route from Wheeling West Virginia to Wooster, Ohio.

Three Lakes to Enjoy

Three of the ten Lakes - Tappan, Clendening, and Piedmont - of the Muskingum Water Conservancy District are within ten miles of Deersville. The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District formed the lakes from impounding Little Stillwater Creek and Brush Fork in 1938 after a massive flood in the region in 1913. Since then, the lakes have offered several outdoor recreation opportunities, including providing birding hotspots (you can read about what birds you'll find at the lakes at <https://birding-in-ohio.com/harrison-county/>).

Tappan Lake is the only lake of the three that's located in Deersville, Ohio. There's 2,131 acres of water and 47 miles of shoreline to enjoy, whether it's by fishing, swimming, power boating up to a 399-horsepower limit, canoeing and paddling about on Tappan Lake. Tappan Lake Park has over 500 RV and



Left: Hazel's House BnB (in historic 1860's home. Pet friendly)

Right: Deersville General Store - 2019 Trail Town Dedication Ceremony. Photos by Richard Lutz



Canoes by the shore of Tappan Lake - Photo by Andrew Bashaw

tent campsites at its campground and 11 cabins for you and your family to stay at. You can even bring your pets along (except in Area 4 and cabins)! Located by the campsite is a swimming beach, concession stand, playground, nature center and small general store. On the southern shore of the Lake, Buckeye Trail Association members can camp for free at the BT Century Barn and Beall homestead (if you have any questions about camping at the space, email us at info@buckeyetrail.org). Every year in the spring, the Buckeye Trail Association hosts a MoreFest at the Century Barn, where participants camp, socialize and search for delicious morel mushrooms! Right beside the Barn is a watchable wildlife area, perfect for birding enthusiasts (you can spot bald eagles, ospreys, pileated woodpeckers and ruffed grouse there in the summer!) There are six miles of trail around Tappan Lake, as well as the Buckeye Trail, which enters the park's trail system from the north by Willis Run Road onto a shared equestrian trail. The BT then crosses Rt 250 at the Tappan Lake Dam and follows the shoreline before turning into the woods towards the village of Deersville.

Lake Clendening is about two miles from Deersville and is the largest undeveloped lake in Ohio, covering about 1,800 acres with 4,801 acres of forested land surrounding it. It's popular for fishing, as award winning catfish have been caught there (the largest was 76.5 pounds and 58.6 inches long!). Bass fishing tournaments are held on the lake in the spring. Given the narrow dimension of the lake and popularity of fishing, Clendening Lake has a 10-horsepower motor limit. There are 80 campsites available at the Lake Glendening Campground with RV, camper, and primitive sites. Nearby are two Youth camps (Boy Scouts's Summer Camp Fort Steuben Scout Reservation and YMCA's Camp Tippecanoe). The Buckeye Trail meanders around the entire Brushy Fork Bay, featuring meandering uphill and downhill. The trail cross Rt 799 in two locations, about 1.5 miles apart. This can allow for a loop hike on the trail of about 12 miles. Along the trail, you can find old foundations of buildings and an old, landlocked canoe - items that only add to the local lore that beneath the lake are more buildings from a former community.

Piedmont Lake, located a few more miles away, is noted for its large muskellunge, saugeye, shovelhead catfish and channel catfish. The Ohio state record for muskellunge was taken from this lake. It's also popular in the region for birding, where birders have spotted short-eared owls, bobolinks, and Henslow's sparrows. Piedmont Lake Park offers 80 campsites, vacation cabins, and park model cabins for guests to stay at and enjoy the scenic lake views and trails. The Buckeye Trail follows the shore line of Piedmont Lake. Located along the trail is the site of the S.S.S. Hanna and the only remnant of the ship, the large mooring pin. The S.S.S. Hanna was a Sea Scout land ship, constructed on the shore of the lake for the purpose training of the Sea Scouts - a division of

the Boy Scouts - from 1946-1960.*

The Tappan-Moravian Trail Ohio Scenic Byway is a designated road route passing through the Muskingum Water Conservancy District lake region and northern portions of Harrison County. The route loops around Tappan Lake, passing through Deersville and Feed Springs (named such for the travelers who'd stop there to feed and water their animals). The Scenic Byway Trail was named after the Moravian missionaries David Zeisberger and John Heckewelder. Before industrialization and European colonization, the route was established and used by Delaware and Wyandot Nation peoples. During the 1770s, the Moravian missionaries used the established route to colonize the region, forming the villages Schoenbrunn, Gnadenhutten and Port Washington.

Fishing & Hunting

The most popular outdoor activity in the region is fishing and hunting because of the abundant wildlife found within the 54,000 acres of land and water in the entire watershed. Frequently hunted animals in the region include deer, squirrel, turkey and waterfowl. Fishing & hunting are allowed where posted in the Muskingum Lakes Conservancy District. Much of the public land is open for hunting, so long as hunters are not within 500 feet of the campground, cabins, homes and other buildings, roads or the park's boundaries. Hunters do not need special permits, just their Division of Wildlife hunting license.

For more information, go to:

mwcd.org/enjoy-our-lakes/fishing-and-hunting/hunting

Fish Species in MWCD Lakes	Tappan	Clendening	Piedmont
Muskellunge			●
Channel Catfish	●	●	●
Flathead Catfish	●	●	●
Bullheads	●	●	●
White Bass		●	
Largemouth Bass	●	●	●
Smallmouth Bass		●	●
Crappie	●	●	●
Bluegill	●	●	●
Yellow Perch	●		●
Saugeye	●	●	●

Information from mwcd.org

Other Locations to Visit Nearby Deersville:

- Dennison Railroad Depot Museum
- Clark Gable Museum
- History of Coal Museum - Cadiz, Ohio
- Schoenbrunn Village - Ohio's First Village
- The Warther Museum

* Blast to the past: You can read more about S.S.S. Hanna on page 14 and 15 of the 2014 Winter issue of Trailblazer!

Go to buckeyetrail.org/Trailblazer/

A Kid's View of the Buckeye Trail

Brogan Woodie

Ever since I discovered the Buckeye Trail when I was 10 years old, I wanted to hike it. It's been three years and I have completed over 225 miles. Thanks to my experiences on the trail, I have seen and learned many new things that I may not have had the opportunity to otherwise do, even in school. I'm going to be completely honest, I am NOT a fan of school. But I did enjoy one class: Ohio Studies.. Every week, my teacher gave us an assignment titled "Social Studies Weekly". These mini newspapers contained small articles with interesting facts about Ohio (I especially enjoyed the historical articles about the Native Nations who lived in present-day Ohio. One week, the weekly had a small inset about the Buckeye Trail. While going over my homework with my dad that night, I told him I wanted to hike it. He warned me that it was over 1,400 miles, but I said, "That's okay." He then told me it would take us ten years to complete, but I still wanted to hike it all. Looking back, I realize I didn't understand how far that actually was, or how difficult it would be. At the time, I thought it would be easy or medium difficulty at most.

Our first hike - my favorite one so far - was in late October of that year. We set a goal to begin at the Northern Terminus and hike the whole way through Lake County to Geauga County, or until it was too dark to continue - whatever came first. It was my first time walking such a long distance in one day. When we began, we lost the trail within five minutes. We backtracked and realized then that the two blue marks meant to turn left - our first lesson on the trail. We stopped for a photo op in front of the Morton Salt Factory and continued through many cities and parks throughout the day. The trees looked amazing with all their different, fall colors. There were also awesome streams running through the various parks. Near the end



of the hike, we passed a farm where dozens of turkeys came to greet us at the fence. The most disappointing part of this hike was when my aunt picked us up and drove us back to our car. We hiked all day, and yet it only took 15 minutes in her car to get us back to where we started that morning.

On our second hike in November, we took another family with us and showed them the turkey farm, only to find no turkeys this time. It was at that moment we remembered that it was nearing Thanksgiving. One of our ten-mile hikes ended at the Hartville Chocolate Factory. Curious to see if their chocolate was good, we stepped inside to try some samples. It was! I got the dark chocolate discs that are used in candy making because my dad gives me and my siblings a \$5 spending limit. Those chocolate discs give me the most candy for the money. Whenever we hike, we make sure that - as often as possible - our stops along the trail include treats like donuts, fried chicken and pizza. On another hike through West Branch State Park, we hiked a trail section through the forest where beavers gnawed down many of the trees, a sight I've never seen before. Once near Chardon, we saw hundreds of sugar maples that were tapped



Waterfall at South Chagrin Reservation!

and collecting sap into large plastic bags. But, one of the best things to see on the trail - in my opinion - are the Ohio Historical Marker signs. For example, the signs talk about buildings that used to be in the marked location like a small school building, a stop on the Underground Railroad, or the Depression-era post office that is south of Chardon's town square. That post office sparked a conversation with my dad where I learned about the stock market crash in 1929 and its aftermath. That eventually inspired me to start investing in stocks. Our most recent hike ended at Deer Lick Cave. The cave, the woods, the hills and the creek in that area were all amazing sights.

I love hiking the Buckeye Trail - most of the time. There are many cool things to see, but we've had our struggles on the



Dad and I taking a selfie at the Hartville Chocolate Factory.



trail too. For example, I'm not a fan of the long car rides to our starting point. And hiking with my siblings during the pandemic hasn't made for interesting conversations because I live with them 24/7 and already know what they're going to talk about. I do have some friends who are willing to go sometimes. But convincing them to try a 10-mile hike is sometimes difficult. And then there was the time we were hiking with another family from our school whose mom pulled her hamstring with two miles left to go. That was a rough hike. But the hardest hike by far was the time we did 20 miles in one day as a requirement for my Scouts BSA Hiking Merit Badge. But through it all, we do still have a lot of fun on the trail. Sometimes we have competitions like who can spot a certain bird first where the loser has to do a dare, like eat liver and onions from a diner near the trail. I hope I never lose that game. Sometimes, I play a game in my own head when we're hiking in a group called, "Who Can Complain the Least." But no matter how easy or hard the hike is, I always feel like I accomplished something good when I finish for the day.

My overall goal for the trail is, of course, to finish the whole thing. At first, I collected patches when I made it to 10, 25, and 50 miles. And I got my first 100-mile patch after about a year. My long term goal is to collect fourteen 100-mile patches. I have two so far. The trail is also leading me to try new things. Pretty soon, we are going to try backpacking so it makes the long drive worthwhile. After that, who knows what new experience is next? Sooner or later, I will find out along the trail.



*Top: My little brother, Guy, and me on a trail near Salt Fork State Park.
Bottom: My family and I taking a group photo before a hike.*



Burr Oak: A Three-Day Hiking Adventure

Jean Vandervaart

Life is full of firsts. Much of them occur – or at least are noted – when we’re children. Taking our first steps, speaking our first words, going to school for the first time. The world has so much to offer in experience and adventure when it’s so new. And then we grow up and begin the every day trudge, lamenting the loss of wonder we had as children. But the world still has so much more to offer, if one is willing to pause and watch. My mom tells me often that as a child it took us forever to reach the park because my twin brother and I would stop to look at every arthropod and flower along the way. We would marvel at the train of ants leading to crumbs left on the sidewalk. And still, I walk and hike at a slowed pace, eyes directed at the ground in search of ephemeral flowers, frogs, arthropods, and whatever else catches my interest. Despite having a love for the outdoors and hiking, I had, however, never attempted backpacking. It never even registered as something that I could do – though I knew the word from my god-sister who would join a children’s backpacking camp each summer (she never shared details, and I, envisioning a group of kids wearing their school backpacks to camp for a weekend, did not press the topic further). Once I did understand the term, I could not find the time because of classes, work and everyday tasks. That was until 2020, the year of COVID, when I began my AmeriCorps term with the Buckeye Trail Association.

At the beginning of my term in August, my supervisor, Andrew Bashaw, informed me and the two other AmeriCorps (Preston Prather and Jon Flinn) that backpacking - or even just hiking - out on the Buckeye Trail could count as training hours. Mind you, that offer came with its limitations. We couldn’t go backpacking or hiking all the time (as incredible as that would be!). I kept the offer in mind. Then, in October, I received a call from my landlord that they needed to work on our house and offered to pay for lodging at Burr Oak. Instead of staying at a lodge, my fiancé, Calvin, and I decided that we’d try backpacking for the first time on the Buckeye Trail and remaining trails looping around Burr Oak Lake. Preparation for backpacking took longer than Calvin or I expected as beginners and looking back now, we still had so much more to do be adequately prepared. Hindsight is 20/20. A week and a half in advance, we read tips and looked up lists online and from Follow The Blue Blazes for the journey. It felt like such a huge undertaking, especially on a short notice. When backpacking, every ounce counts so you must decide what you absolutely do and do not need. *

Leading up to the trip, we kept an eye on the weather, hoping that the forecast would change. But with each day, it became evident that we’d be hiking in heavy rain from the

remnants of a hurricane that had made its way north. Just in case, we packed extra food, water and clothes into our car. It couldn’t hurt to be extra-prepared. The next day, we arrived at Burr Oak and stopped at the nature center to grab informational brochures, before making our way to Dock 3. The Buckeye Trail from the nature center to Dock 3 is a long hike that takes hikers up and down hills and zigzags from the lakeside to deep in the forest several times. Yet because it shifts across the forest, rather than a direct path, it showcases a variety of habitats. From the lake shore, to ravines, rock shelters, dense groves of trees like pawpaws and sunny ridges with sparse trees and remnants of abandoned farms, the Buckeye Trail provides one ample opportunity to immerse themselves in nature and truly appreciate the diversity and beauty of life.



*What we packed:

- Two sets of clothes, toothpaste and tooth brushes
- One old hard framed backpack, one medium sized frameless backpack.
- Two tarps & one sleeping bag to share.
- An ultralight camping stove and cookset.
- About a gallon of water total. At Burr Oak, there’s a water fountain at Dock 3, where you can refill your water bottles.
- Trailmix, jerky, two rolls, two small apples, dry milk, dried peas and carrots, packaged spaetzel, two oatmeal packets. Several packets of tea and a small baggy with sugar, salt, pepper packets gleaned over a few fast food trips.
- Small notebooks each to take notes, Burr Oak map, and a tree ID book.
- Walking Stick, highly recommended
- Backpack first aid kit, important.
- Ponchos

*What do you bring on backpacking trips?
Email us at trailblazer@buckeyetrail.org*



Though it's advised by some to keep a consistent pace when backpacking to make the most ground, I paused frequently to gently lift up logs or rocks in search of salamanders and brightly colored millipedes or appreciate the autumnal flowers. Whenever we passed mud – and we certainly passed a great deal given the weather conditions – Calvin and I would analyze the tracks (mostly deer, dogs and humans) left in the mud. Here and there we'd also come across old, rusted farm fences

stuck in trees because the trees enveloped around them. All the while, we were getting soaked and battered with the wind, even with our ponchos. Calvin and I had been taking turns using the walking stick until I fashioned one out of a relatively dry stick that was leaning against a tree. But by then, our ankles were already sore from the lack of full support and chafed hands (I would highly recommend wearing gloves if you're using a wooden stick).

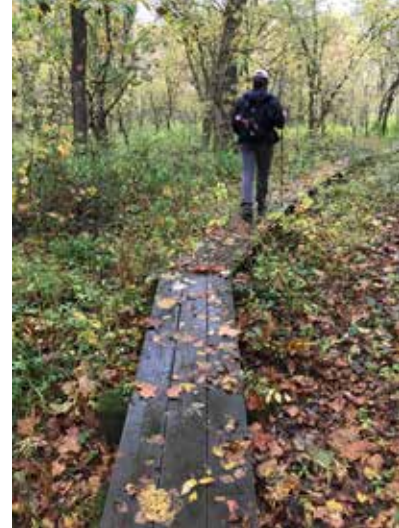
With no clear skies in sight and feeling sore, we turned around on the loop trail. I felt dismayed and disappointed. My first attempt at backpacking ended in failure. I reminded myself, however, that even Grandma Gatewood who thru-hiked the Appalachian trail three times, aborted her first attempt. It's okay to fail and learn from our failures. It makes us wiser and stronger. The return trip on the loop was straight and easier than the Buckeye Trail portion. It contained wide trails that were nice for birding in groups, so I stopped to listen and search for our feathered friends through my binoculars. Tanager trail is especially pleasant for birding. In the end, Calvin and I drove to Dock 3 to set up camp with our car, dry ourselves off and make some hot food with our ultra light stove and kit.



The view of the lake took our breath away. So much wildlife roamed the area: kingfishers, bald eagles, Great Blue Herons, Phasmids (walking stick insects), leopard moths, several frog species that would hop from giant lily pads, katydids, carp, sunfish and more. We also spotted box turtles blending in with the

fallen, yellow leaves. At night, the ground glowed with glowworms like stars in the night sky.

The next two days we leisurely hiked the other portions of the Buckeye Trail around Burr Oak Lake. Our original goal to backpack may have been over for now, but we were going to make the most of our weekend regardless and not let it ruin our mini vacation. Day two, we hiked the Buckeye Trail north from our Dock 3 camp. It was a relatively flat, easy walk that ran through wetlands; much of the trail had boardwalk and bridges. The sound of our hiking sticks hitting the bridge echoed throughout the forest, along with a few frog calls. The trail led towards Wildcat Hollow – a trail system on Wayne National Forest land. Wildcat Hollow has so many salamanders and cool macro-invertebrates in the streams that run through it. The geography is dramatic with high ridges and deep ravines, pine forests and meadows. Last time I was there, I was an AmeriCorps part of the Environmental Education team, leading a school on a field trip.



On the final day, the weather cleared up. We hiked to the south of the nature center, hopping onto the "Chipmunk Trail." There are points along the trail that coincide with a self-guided hike brochure that guests can pick up at the nature center. The southern trail was easy, gradually increasing in altitude as it hugged the lake. There were more rock shelters along the path and the view of the lake was incredible. At one point, we broke off from the trail to sit at the farthest point on a peninsula with a 270-degree view of the lake. We sat there for perhaps a half an hour, meditating on the sounds of nature in silence. The trip may not have gone as planned, but we gained more knowledge for the next time we plan a backpacking trip at Burr Oak. After all, life is not always about achieving goals or success, but the journey. Taking risks and first attempts makes life fulfilling.

Other backpacking tips:

- If you're backpacking outside of summer, it's important to have a change of clothes to avoid hypothermia.
- Pack non-perishable food that's packed full of calories (fats, proteins, and carbs).
- Stay hydrated!
- Take either 5 minute breaks or 30+ breaks for the best efficiency
- Either hike with a buddy, or let someone know your route and timestamps for your safety.



2021 Schedule of Hikes & Events

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

JUNE

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

Meals: See the Registration form for meal information.

Contact: Byron Guy, oldmanscave@buckeyetrail.org

JULY

July 10-14, 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)

Meals: Chuckwagon, sign up when you register and check out.

Registration: You will need to register for this work event at <https://app.etapestry.com/cart/BuckeyeTrailAssociationInc/default/index.php?>

Contact: Tom Rohr 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 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

July 24-25, 2021

BTA Board Retreat

The Board will meet at the BTA Beall Homestead near Deersville OH for the annual retreat.

Contact: Steve Walker at president@buckeyetrail.org

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

2021 Schedule of Hikes & Events

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

August 28-September 1, 2021

Sinking Spring Section

Description: Tentative

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

Meals: Chuckwagon, sign up when you register and check out.

Registration: You will need to register for this work event at <https://app.etapestry.com/cart/BuckeyeTrailAssociationInc/default/index.php?>

Contact: Byron Guy, oldmanscave@buckeyetrail.org

September 25, 2021

5th Annual Little Loop Challenge on National Public Lands Day

Contact: The Little Loop team at 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

Little Loop Challenge Photos



OCTOBER

October 1-2, 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 for all the details.

Contact: Jeff at run4blue@buckeyetrail.org

October 7, 2021 at 6:30PM

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

Presenter: Andy Niekamp

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

Location: Lewisburg Memorial Library, 101 S Commerce St, Lewisburg OH 45338

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

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

Meals: Chuckwagon, sign up when you register and check out.

Registration: You will need to register for this work event at <https://app.etapestry.com/cart/BuckeyeTrailAssociation-Inc/default/index.php?>

Contact: TBD

NOVEMBER

November 6, 2021

BTA Board Meeting

Location: TBD

Contact: Board President at president@buckeyetrail.org

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