

BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Trailblazer



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Editor's Note

Happy Autumn everyone!

I don't know about you, but Autumn is my favorite season. There's so much color, the air is crisp and fresh, and it's generally cool. It's also the time of year where people share their carved jack-o-lanterns, including a few that have the Buckeye Trail logo or some affiliated icon on them. If you happen to carve a BT logo or icon onto your pumpkin, or maybe you want to show off your costume during an October hike (there IS a hike planned on Halloween this year), send your photos our way! We'd love to see them.

You can send them to me at trailblazer@buckeyetrail.org, or you can share them on social media and tag us (social media listed at the bottom of the page).



Buckeye Trail carved pumpkins by Randall Roberts and Byron Guy

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Want to share your photographs and stories of the Buckeye Trail?
Send them to trailblazer@buckeyetrail.org!
They might just show up on our social media or be featured in the Trailblazer.



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Fort Ancient
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No hikers enjoy the moment when they realize they have lost the trail. It typically creates a quandary. Backtrack and lose time, energy, and distance? Or just forge ahead, and hope for success by randomly bushwhacking over the hill and through the woods where we think the trail is?

Being the optimists we are, we nearly always opt for the excitement of the random bushwhack, even if it creates a new predicament.

- Karen Power and Jeri Getts

“Haunted” Hikes on the BT

Whether or not you believe in ghosts, the following supposedly haunted locations along the Buckeye Trail are beautiful with rich history - worth a visit at any point throughout the year:

1. Fairport Harbor Lighthouse at Headlands Beach: Supposedly the lighthouse is haunted by the cat of the first lighthouse keeper's wife. Curators found a mummified cat in the vents of the building and have the light house cat on display at the museum.
2. Ash Cave - Hocking Hills: One of several Hocking Hills legends that claims that Ash Cave is haunted by the “Pale Lady of Ash Falls”, a woman from the 1920's-30's.
3. Old Man's Cave - Hocking Hills: Supposedly haunted by a man named Retzle and his dogs.
4. Hell Town (aka Boston, Ohio): This small, historical village has several ghost myths and also a local cryptid, the “Peninsula Python”.
5. Spring House Gazebo in Eden Park: This location is said to be haunted by the ghost of Imogene Remus.
6. Loveland Castle (across the river from the Little Miami Scenic Trail): Stories claim that the castle has ghosts walking its halls and knocking doors.

President's Message

Steve Walker

The Buckeye Trail Association has been hard at work this year. There have been six Buckeye Trail Crew Work Parties and several Trail adopters doing an incredible job of maintaining the Trail. We appreciate all the work that our volunteers do. Below are more updates on the work that Buckeye Trail Association has done.

Chapter Leadership Summit

The Buckeye Trail Association had its third Chapter Leadership Summit on July 22nd and, like both previous Summits, the Summit had good representation from all eight BTA Chapters. The big item we discussed at this Summit was the creation of a Chapter Marketing Toolkit for recruiting members and volunteers and increasing public awareness of the Buckeye Trail and the BTA. The toolkit will include a BTA branded canopy, a six foot folding table, a tabletop display that can be customized with local pictures and area specific information, a yard sign with a large QR Code, a brochure holder and a feather sign. This Chapter Marketing Toolkit will be considered during the BTA 2022 Budget process and, if included in next year's budget, will be made available to BTA Chapters who request it. Several Chapters have already expressed interest.

2021 BTA Board and Staff Retreat

The 2021 BTA Board and Staff Retreat was held the following weekend and was, for the first time, a hybrid affair of in-person and video call. Several BTA Trustees were unable to attend in person but were able to attend virtually thanks to a hotspot set up in the BTA Century Barn. It was great seeing BTA folks working together in person at the meeting and then sharing a wonderful meal together, thanks to the efforts of Byron and Shannon Guy. A highlight of the Saturday afternoon session was a presentation on the state budgetary process by State Representative, Jim Hoops, from the Napoleon area. Representative Hoops is a long time member of the BTA and has worked with the Buckeye Trail Crew. We were grateful to have him there. Other work accomplished during the Retreat included an update on the Operations Review process.

Senecaville Lake CCC Discovery

In August of this year, the BTA leadership met with representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) regarding a recent discovery at Senecaville Lake. The MWCD found a stone marking a forgotten, overgrown Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp, which prompted some research. Between 1939 and 1941, the CCC operated a camp, named Camp Guernsey, near Senecaville Lake Dam that was staffed by African-American enrollees (CCC camps were segregated). With the approach of World War II, Camp Guernsey was closed and the agency overseeing it was dissolved. Because of the site's close proximity to the Buckeye Trail, the MWCD invited the BTA to help revitalize Camp Guernsey and educate the public about its historical significance. An exploratory hike is planned in early November to determine possible access trails to and around the site with the possibility that the Buckeye Trail may someday go through the area.



Office at 129 Main St., Shawnee, OH. Painted with the same color as the Blue Blazes on the Buckeye Trail. Photo by Steve Walker

Project 129 Progress

As I mentioned in the last Trailblazer, the exterior of the 129 Project (your future BTA Headquarters) was close to completion. For those in the know, it's been that way for a couple of months. The final step was painting the building exterior and, compared to all the exterior rehabilitation work over the last two years, our volunteers accomplished this task fairly quickly. With the help of BTA Member and Trail Adopter, Dan Campbell, exterior painting and trim work is almost complete (see picture above). We'll be going back inside now to work on the next item on the agenda: the completion of the bathroom and kitchen. If you're interested in helping with the 129 Project, let me know at president@buckeyetrail.org.

COVID

Just when I thought that the Covid-19 Pandemic was just an image in our rear-view mirrors, the Delta Variant decided to keep the ball rolling. While restrictions may not be as stringent as we previously had to endure, caution by everyone seems to be the path going forward and masks are making a bit of a comeback. The Buckeye Trail Association's Coronavirus Policy has served us well in its various versions since March of 2020 and our most recent version from March 25th of this year may be the last one that we'll need. With the Covid resurgence currently happening, it's an easy thing to forget that we can still get out on a great trail to hike with little risk. Take some time to do just that and I hope to see you on the Buckeye Trail. Have a great fall.

On the Trail ...

When meeting new people, I often get the question 'so, how much of the Buckeye Trail have you hiked?'. If you've met me, you can appreciate that I give a somewhat comical, but eventually earnest, answer of just a few hundred miles. These miles are scattered around Ohio and primarily focus on new trail opportunities, challenges to solve, and highlights that can be enjoyed by a young family. Simply hiking the Buckeye Trail is, unfortunately, not in my job description, so I'm very grateful for the opportunities I do receive on and off the clock. I had a unique opportunity to guide a special hike this summer while on the clock. By special request, Governor Mike DeWine, Fran DeWine, and three of their grandchildren joined me and a handful of Buckeye Trail volunteers for a short hike on the BT at Burr Oak State Park.

I enjoyed meeting the whole family, but especially talking with the grandchildren, watching them paint the newest blue blaze on the BT, and being intently questioned by one of them on all aspects of the BT and BTA. The quality of the questioning was well above his age. He spoke directly to the day to day management of the BT and the nonprofit Buckeye Trail Association, long term trail maintenance challenges, how hikers prepare for and follow through on a long distance hike around Ohio. I did my best to answer earnestly, and it was inspiring to see someone so young being so interested in the idea of the BT.

There were a couple of things that struck me during our hike. One was watching the Governor of Ohio and First Lady encourage yet another generation of Ohioans to engage with the BT through volunteerism, outdoor education, joy, and family. I was happy to share in that experience, seeing another family 'walking the same path' as my family. Another thing that struck me is how well we were treated by ODNR staff members who were present that day, and every day around the state. The level of deference they share with us speaks to our 62 years of partnership, and the level of comfort and respect they have in working with the BTA staff and volunteers to this day. Even though BTA volunteers have always been essential to the construction, maintenance, and protection of the kind of trail we were able to hike, I do not want to ignore the leadership that ODNR staff - from Director Mertz to maintenance staff supervised by Park Managers such as Jerry Pollock at Burr Oak, and many others - provide daily doing their part to keep the BT in good condition while patiently fostering the continued growth of our partnership.

At times we are proud to say that the Buckeye Trail Association does not receive state or federal funding to operate the Buckeye Trail Association, that we are primarily supported by BTA members, donors, volunteers, and hikers. While that holds true, I



think it is good to highlight our partners' good work when we can, especially our first partner - the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

There have been many ups and downs in the BTA and ODNR partnership since 1959. We are the most recent of several generations of this partnership. As you may know the original idea of a BT was penned in 1958 in the Columbus Dispatch by Merrill Gilfillan, of ODNR. Bill Price was another early ODNR employee that served as an integral member of the inaugural BTA Board of Trustees in 1959 when the Buckeye Trail Association began. Governor Gilligan convened a public reception of the first known Buckeye Trail 'thru-hikers', high school teacher Cliff Thorniley and four high school students, who completed the then 500 mile BT in 1974. The BTA even had an office space with ODNR during its early years staffed by Bob Paton, 'Mr. Buckeye Trail', the BTA's first volunteer Executive Director, concurrently serving as ODNR's first State Trail Coordinator. The BT near the Burr Oak Naturalist's Cabin is named the Bob and Mary Lou Paton Trail in their honor.

We were very excited that the BTA was nominated and selected for the ODNR Cardinal Award, presented on August 4th. An ODNR staff member commented that they were amazed that we had not already received it given our long partnership. Besides a joke that it takes the Governor to get the Executive Director of the Buckeye Trail Association to take a hike, the last thing that strikes me is our opportunity to pass on something of greater value to the next generation of Ohio's outdoor stewards when we work together. Ohioans of my daughters' age back in 1959 are now in their 70's, and look at all we have accomplished so far with grassroots volunteerism and a vast network of partnerships around the state. I wonder what the BT can be for my daughters when they are in their 70's towards the end of this century, and what we can

do together today to create that lasting legacy. We have a great working relationship with Director Mertz, and we are grateful for the many partnership projects we have benefitted from and initiated so far in just a few years' time. If you ever asked yourself 'what does ODNR do for the BT and BTA?' I've listed a few highlights just from the current administration for your appreciation.

I'm so thankful that BTA volunteers, in partnership with the ODNR and many other partners, have tirelessly constructed, maintained, protected, and promoted the use of each segment of the BT so that it is there for all of us to use when we need it most.

- 1) Publishing the Ohio Trails Vision / Plan and convening the Trails Advisory Team to foster continued public-private partnerships for all trails in the state of Ohio.
- 2) Acquiring AEP ReCreation Lands - creating the Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area permanently protecting 24 miles of the Buckeye Trail designed, constructed, and maintained by the BTA.
- 3) Installation of a major bridge and trailhead facility for the BT at Boch Hollow State Nature Preserve.
- 4) Several projects highlighted for funding in the State Operating Budget, including but not limited a major bridge installation at North Turkeyfoot Wildlife Area in cooperation with the Henry County Park District that the BTA was inspirational in forming.
- 5) Supported the continuation of the Clean Ohio Fund that helped the BTA acquire a critical 16 acres for BT development adjacent to the historic Lockington Locks.
- 6) Executing an agreement with the Division of Wildlife to allow public hunting on the 100 acre BTA Imhoff Preserve acquired with Clean Ohio Greenspace funding.
- 7) Approving the relocation of the 4 miles of the BT off of roads into Hocking State Forest, Scheik Hollow and Little Rocky Hollow State Nature Preserves, currently in progress.
- 8) Working with ODNR staff \$2.3 million investment from the ODNR Division of Mineral Resource Management Pilot grant to relocate 20 miles of the BT off of roads – creating a 100+ mile backpacking destination in Hocking, Perry, Athens, and Morgan Counties. This will be the largest backpacking destination in the State of Ohio.
- 9) Production and installation of BTA 2'x2' interpretive panels at nearly all ODNR lands that host the BT.



*DeWine's grandchildren painting a blue blaze on the Buckeye Trail.
Photo credit: Richard Lutz*

- 10) Inclusion of the BT on the new ODNR DeTour Trails App
- 11) Positive participation with the Ohio Legislative Trails Caucus that the BTA helped to form.
- 12) Invitations to participate in partner/stakeholder meetings with the Divisions of Wildlife, Parks & Watercraft, Forestry, and Natural Areas and Preserves.
- 13) Providing a high level liaison with ODNR, to address future large regional project development between ODNR and the BTA.
- 14) Highlighting the BT and BTA in ODNR media such as Wild Ohio magazine, ODNR's website, social media posts and more.
- 15) Honoring the Buckeye Trail Association with ODNR's Cardinal Award, August 4th, 2021.
- 16) Not to mention all the local projects on ODNR lands in partnership with local BTA volunteers all over Ohio.

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

Andrew Bashaw
Executive Director
Buckeye Trail Association

Buckeye Trail Association is awarded the 2021 ODNR Cardinal Award



Photo credit: Richard Lutz
Pictured from left to right: Terry Blackstone, Heather Stehle, Steve Walker, Valerie Gardner, Herb Hulls, Linda Paul, Ann Furste

Mindy Bankey, ODNR Assistant Director

The Cardinal Award is presented to an individual or organization that demonstrates exceptional awareness and concern for the ideals reflected in the department's mission statement: To ensure a balance between the wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. Since 1971, past winners of the Cardinal Award have included volunteers, outdoor writers, educators, naturalists, farmers, biologists, businesses, and outdoor sporting organizations.

Trails are something we are very passionate about at ODNR. We manage thousands of miles of our own trails – in our parks, preserves, forests, and wildlife areas – but we also recognize the importance of our trail partners across the state. One of the most well-known among those trail partners, and one of the partners we

continuous loop trail reaches into nearly every corner of the state, providing people of all ages the opportunity to explore and enjoy the best of Ohio's natural world.

Creating and protecting such a trail is a huge job for the Buckeye Trail Association. Their staff of two and team of dedicated volunteers work with public land managers and private landowners to upgrade trails and reroute other sections off-road to improve hiker safety and enhance hikers' experiences. Their volunteers also plan and staff events that get Ohioans outdoors, where they can appreciate all that the trail has to offer.

In addition to providing outstanding outdoor recreational opportunities at no cost to the public, the Buckeye

“[Buckeye Trail] reaches into nearly every corner of the state, providing people of all ages the opportunity to explore and enjoy the best of Ohio's natural world.”

are so very appreciative of, is the Buckeye Trail Association.

The Buckeye Trail Association and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources have been on the same path for more than 60 years. In 1958, Merrill C. Gilfillan, an ODNR employee and wildlife biologist, had a newspaper article published in the Columbus Dispatch that envisioned a “Buckeye Trail” from Cincinnati to Lake Erie. Submitted under the pen name of Perry Cole, Gilfillan's article was the genesis of the Buckeye Trail Association, which formed in June of 1959. That same year, members of the newly fledged Buckeye Trail Association—including Gilfillan and Emma “Grandma” Gatewood—established the first 20 miles of the Buckeye Trail in Hocking County. In the decades since, that vision has grown into over 1,400 miles of trail connecting big cities and large tracts of forested lands throughout Ohio. The

Trail Association also seeks to create local economic benefits for the communities along the trail. Specifically, we applaud its Trail Town program, which helps identify ways communities along the trail and the Buckeye Trail Association “...can work together, plan together, and capitalize on the benefits the Buckeye Trail can bring to the area.”

Following the Blue Blazes is one of the best adventures you can find in Ohio's great outdoors. From the plains of Northwest Ohio to the hills of Appalachia, every section of the Buckeye Trail highlights something that makes Ohio unique and beautiful. Thanks to the work of the Buckeye Trail Association, the trail will continue offering visitors the opportunity to experience the beauty of Ohio's natural lands far into the future.

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.

JUNE 1, 2021 TO SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

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Blue Blaze Run & Hike

October 1-2, 2021 * Shawnee, Ohio

We are celebrating the Buckeye Trail experience with the running events, a 10 Mile hike, and a guided interpretive tour. However you enjoy exploring the outdoors, the Blue Blaze Festival has something for everyone of all ages. So come join us October 1-2 for an adventure through the beautiful, autumn-colored Wayne National Forest and historical village of Shawnee!

The festival portion of the Blue Blaze Festival was cancelled due to health concerns with the COVID Delta variant. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

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

Trail Run & Hike

Friday, October 1st

Early Packet Pickup
4:00pm-7:00pm, Harigle Garage

Free Nature Meets History Guided Tour

6pm - 7:30pm

Meet at Tecumseh Theater

Saturday, October 2nd

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>
Volunteer signup also in the link above.

Questions? Contact us at:

run4blue@buckeyetrail.org or 740-394-2008

Nearby Camping and Lodging:

657 W. Main, Shawnee, OH (*water & portajohn*)
NCT Trailhead in Shawnee (*primitive camping*)
Old Stone Church Camp (*primitive camping*)
Begley's ATV Campground in New Straitsville
Burr Oak State Park Lodge or campground
Black Diamond Development AirBnBs in Shawnee

SPONSERS & EVENT ORGANIZERS

Buckeye Trail Association
Black Diamond Development
Village of Shawnee

Right on Trek
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Right on Trek

New Bridge and Camps in Troy Section

By John M. Smilek, Troy Section Supervisor

After an exceedingly long and difficult cocoon period caused by COVID-19, the restless, bountiful Buckeye Trail (BT) butterfly hikers spent the summer of 2021 trying out their new wings by hitting the trails with a vengeance. Just in time for the fulfillment of the hikers' pent-up desire to explore the outdoors, came some exciting repairs and improvements to the BT in the Troy Section.

The formal dedication of the new Deeds Point Pedestrian Bridge, which connects the RiverScape MetroPark in Downtown Dayton to Deeds Point MetroPark, was held on Monday, June 28, 2021. The original steel bridge, opened in 2003, was closed in 2019 due to interior corrosion caused by the spray from the Five Rivers Fountains, with one fountain just feet from the bridge. The new sturdy, \$2.8 million dollar aluminum bridge has an estimated life span of 75 years. Deeds Point Pedestrian Bridge over the Mad River, at the confluence of the Mad and Great Miami Rivers, is strategically



located just north of downtown Dayton. It connects more than 350 miles of trails in the Dayton area near the epicenter of the nation's largest paved trail network. Many trails use the bridge, including the Great Miami River Trail, North Country Trail, Great American Rail-Trail, and - of course - the Buckeye Trail. The new bridge was made possible by partnerships with the City of Dayton, Montgomery County, the Ohio Department of Transportation, Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, and other organizations. Five Rivers MetroParks is a key part of the picture, and they are incredibly supportive of the BT. In fact, members of the MetroParks staff are also "adopters" of the BT. They have taken on the duties of maintaining the 20+ miles of the BT that tracks through Montgomery County and five MetroParks.

As you hike the five miles of the BT clockwise from Eastwood MetroPark to Deeds Point MetroPark, you will be following the trail along the Mad River. An amazing mixture of wildlife and urban structures that pours into the heart of Dayton. As you zig-zag your way up to the Deeds Point Pedestrian Bridge, remember, you are but a couple minutes walk to downtown Dayton that is a hotbed of new growth. If your timing is right, you may find the Fountains in full arching water flow over the river, or

with a little planning, you can watch a baseball game at the Cincinnati Reds, Upper "A" Division Dayton Dragons field just over the levy from the BT. There are also new hotels within walking distance of the BT a block or so from Deeds Bridge. Though some of you may enjoy the comforts of hotels, others (especially backpacking thru-hikers) would appreciate a safe and legal place to make camp. Well, that is the second bit of exciting news!!!!

Thanks to the foresight, and effort of the Five Rivers MetroPark staff, three new primitive campsites are now open in conjunction with the new Bridge. The camps are located in the aforementioned Eastwood MetroPark at Troy Section Pt 4, Island MetroPark Pt 6, and Taylorsville MetroPark Pt 9. All three primitive campsites have no water fountains, shelter, or fire pits, but are just a few yards from the BT and very close to either the Mad or Great Miami Rivers with plenty of shade. There are covered picnic areas, stands for cooking, water fountains and bathroom facilities close by. Each campsite can only be reserved by one group at a time for up to two days. The group can have, at max, two tents and six persons. The idea is to minimize the impact on nature as much as possible, while giving the backpackers a convenient place to camp to support their journey.

It is easy to register. Go to the Five Rivers MetroParks website at metroparks.org, click on "Rentals and Permits" at the top center of the page, and then click on "Campsites". Here, you will find a map with the location of all the campsites in the MetroParks and a list of the sites. Scroll to the bottom and find the three new camps. Next to each camp you will find a "View Details" button that will give you more information about the specific camp and a detailed map showing its exact location. A second button titled "Reserve Now" will open up a calendar listing dates the camp is available. Once you choose your dates,



Photo courtesy of John Smilek



Photo courtesy of John Smilek

an electronic form will open up, fill it out and pay the fee, which is a very reasonable \$5 during peak season and \$3 during off-peak per night. The campsites are available all year round. The person reserving the site will receive the permit digitally. Each site can be reserved up to a year in advance or, for those with a more fluid schedule, you can use a mobile device after arriving at the campsite to reserve the site on the day you want to camp, if it is available.

For those interested in backpacking the BT and are thinking of a trial hike, the campsites are an excellent first adventure into backpacking. The local terrain is relatively flat, there are areas of supply close by and tons to see. You could hike into Eastwood, then Island camp is about 5 miles down the trail and Taylorsville another 9 miles past Island. By utilizing one, two or all three camps, you have multiple options

- all off road! As a bonus, the Eastwood MetroPark campsite is just less than a 30-minute hike counterclockwise on the BT to the National Museum of the US Air Force, an amazing jewel that attracts visitors from around the world. And it's just across the street from the BT! The tour of the museum is an excellent "Zero Day" activity for thru-hikers.

Start planning your hike or backpacking adventure on the Troy Section. Spread those BT butterfly wings and come enjoy the new Deeds Point Bridge, the campsites and all the other amenities to be found in the Greater Dayton Region, the Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest. See you on the trail!

For questions regarding the new campsites, reach out to outdoors@metroparks.org

Two Hikes at Pike State Forest: The Beautiful and the Ugly

Petra Schmalbrock



The Grand Canyon of Pike State Forest

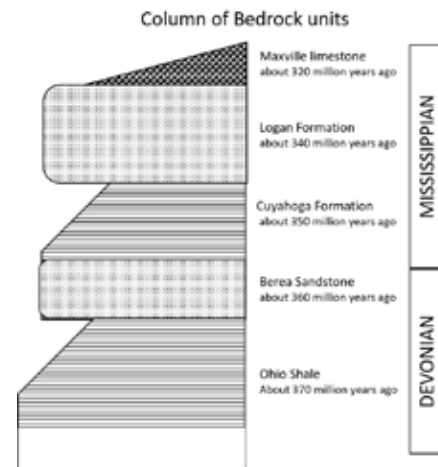
On March 29, 2021, my hiking partner and I went for a hike on the Scioto Trails Section of the Buckeye Trail in Pike State Forest. We started at point #31 (Davis Rd, Bainbridge OH, near Pike Lake State Park) going toward #32. We hike only short sections of the BT at a time, but we never fail to check out the geology and plants while doing so, especially the beautiful flowers in early spring. We followed the blue blazes marking the trail going southwest toward Pike Lake, past a pond, down to a creek and up a ridge to an elevation of 1200ft. Coming down from that ridge the trail meanders below a rock ledge and a gentle slope below it; very pretty! (photo top left). I'm not a trained geologist, but when I see rock outcrops, I'm always curious to learn more, to learn how geologists "read the rock" to interpret the past. Ohio's rock consists of sedimentary rocks, which means that - in the distant past - they were laid down from smaller pieces of rock, sand, mud, and calcium deposits that were all pressed and cemented together over a long period of time to make today's rock. Older layers are generally deeper, while younger layers are higher (except in cases of mountain formation or earthquakes). Here, the rock ledge is the youngest rock, the slope below is older and the bottom of the ravine is the oldest rock seen in this region. On the trail below my boots, I found rocks that looked as though they broke off from the cliff above and tumbled down. The rocks were hard and chunky, feeling gritty like sand - sandstone. Using my interpretive knowledge, I deduced that the gentle slope below the cliff full of crumbling rocks, breaking into small pieces easily to make the slope had to be shale.

Interpretation is a combination of observation and using information that others gathered before you to come up with the

natural history of the area. Geologists have named rock types and created maps of rock layers for over 200 years; these are called bedrock maps. For the hike, I used an iPhone app called RockD (free through Apple Store); the app's bedrock map for the location listed "Maxville Limestone, Rushville, Logan and Cuyahoga Formations" (figure top right). The Mississippian Maxville limestone was deposited 320 Million years ago in a shoreline, nearshore,

or off shore environment. It has high calcium content making limestone. It is underlain by the Logan Formation that formed from sand which eroded from the geologically older Catskill and Pocono highlands and washed into river deltas, to become thick layers of hard sandstone. These geological events and subsequent rock formations are what makes up the cliff ledge we see today. Below the Logan Formation is the shale-dominant Cuyahoga Formation, making the gentle slope seen below the ledge. But where is the limestone? As we walked on, we saw a rare snow trillium near a small creek (pictured below). Snow trillium likes to grow in calcium rich soil. A little rock picked up near the trillium had a tiny fossil, so that must be limestone that formed from the calcium carbonate shells of sea creatures; it was washed down the creek from Maxville limestone above.

As we descended into the ravine, we come across a number of sandstone slabs with riddle marks. I have seen these in other areas where Devonian Berea sandstone is exposed (pictured to the left). These soft sediment deformations are widespread in the lower part of the Berea. So, we have walked from the Mississippian era into the late Devonian era, about 30-40 Million years back in time. At the



bottom of the ravine, at 900ft elevation, just above the creek bed we found more shale. This was Ohio shale that was deposited about 370 Million years ago. We hiked another 30 million years back in time. We called this very scenic little ravine the “Grand Canyon of Pike Forest”. Over its 300-ft elevation change, the “canyon” covers about 50-60 million years of rock layers. OK, that’s not as much as the “real Grand Canyon,” but pretty good for Ohio, and the spring wild flowers are spectacular!!! And the flowers even tell you about the kind of rock.



The Forest

The following day, March 30, 2021, my hiking partner and I hiked a little loop trail in the State Park. There, we came across two signs alerting hikers of the park’s management of its “mature trees.” We had recently listened to some lectures and read books about old-growth forests, and learned about how special these now rare habitats are. Looking at magnificent ancient trees is fascinating. They are often the widest and tallest trees forming the top of the canopy. They have thick, twisted and gnarly limbs, just like our bent and wrinkling bodies as we age. Some of the old trees shed bark, as if balding. Looking beyond individual old trees, an ancient, undisturbed forest also contains great diversity – many different tree species of different ages and sizes, with native shrubs in the understory. Old forests also have diverse herbaceous ground cover, and even though this is only 1% of the biomass, the ground cover makes up 90% of the diversity. Especially in early spring before trees leaf out, there is a profusion of blooming spring flowers. Research has shown that naturally evolved old-growth forests have greater diversity and numbers of insects and snails [1], frogs and salamanders [2] and birds that feed on the insects and the many different plants.

The State Park’s forest had many large trees, mostly tulip trees that can get up to 500 years old, and oak and hickories that can reach 300-450 years of age. The trees we saw were old, but not exactly ancient. For the trees to be considered ancient, they would have to at least

date back to the 1500s or 1600s. Most forests in Ohio had been logged by the 1930’s. So, we suspected that what the Forest Service meant by “mature trees” was that they were “ready to harvest”. Sure enough, the second sign confirmed just that; 77 acres had been logged and sold for \$131,400 in 1999 (worth \$215,496 today) and has continued to be logged since.

Later that day, we hiked on the BT Sinking Springs Section starting at point #1 (campground/dam) toward point #3. From the road, the trail climbed up the ridge, initially through nice second-growth forest. But then we reached the devastation of recent logging. The Buckeye Trail had disappeared from sight; bulldozers had churned up the ground, and in place of the big trees were just stumps and tons of woody debris everywhere. As trail maintainers and hikers, we know what comes next. The scarred earth will be covered with thorny, brambly plants that are most often invasive plants. In worst cases, landslides may occur. We already found multiflora rose and barberries. Invasive Trees of Heaven (they really should be called “Trees of Hell”) will come next; it is the trail-maintainers’ nightmare. What’s worse is the disappearance of living space for many native, forest dwelling creatures and plants.

The bulldozers ripped up the shrubs and herbaceous ground cover used by small mammals and birds to hide from predators. They disturbed and compacted the soil, and left unnaturally large amounts of coarse woody debris. With the large tree canopy gone, the soil temperature will increase and decrease the moisture. Salamanders live in the moist, cool leaf litter of forests; they cannot live in the environment left after logging. Shade-adapted plants cannot grow there. Soil-dwelling communities of insects, worms, fungi and microbes will be changed. Soil is exposed and not stabilized by the network of roots. This leads to loss of soil and erosion. The water filtration of the forest, and water quality in the adjacent streams diminishes. Yes, flowers, plants and trees that like more light can thrive. But too often invasive plants will get ahead faster than native plants in such a disturbed environment. Trees will eventually grow, but to grow back into mature forest will take many decades, if not centuries.

Can a logged area eventually recover to the land’s original plant and animal diversity? Research has shown almost twice as many different plant species in 300 year-old compared to 100 year-old forest [3]. Another study [4] in a forest that had been undisturbed for 150 years, compared plant surveys from the



1920's with surveys from 1974, but showed no significant increase in species diversity; there had been little to no recovery even in 150 years. Anecdotally, my hiking partner and I observed that many native spring flowers are not found in previously farmed, reforested areas even 30-50 years later. Reasons may include several native flowers' slow seed to bloom maturation, for example, trillium and ginseng can take up to 10 years; and orchids such as lady slippers and showy orchis require very specific soil fungi. Besides the increased biodiversity and water cleaning properties of mature forests, old trees provide another valuable benefit: they sequester and store carbon dioxide from the air. Old studies [5] assumed that carbon fixation in old forests is less than in young growing forests, because dead, decomposing trees release the carbon again. However, new studies [6] in the last 10 years have shown that old forests continue to sequester and store carbon, because of their larger biomass and because of continued renewal in naturally occurring forest gaps.

So what is the economic value of a forest? One that includes not only the dollar value of the lumber, but also the value of all the ecological functions that old forests provide, including controlling run-off, water and air pollution, carbon sequestration and storage, not to mention life-support for the many non-human creatures. If you're curious about the ecological value of a forest near you, iTree is a program/web-app that allows one to calculate the dollar value of a forest, but one needs to know some detail about the types and sizes of the trees. I don't have such detailed information for the logged area at Pike State Forest. I can, however, provide an example I read from an unpublished report for such calculations that were done at OSU's Chadwick Arboretum (62 acres). For the 13,000 mostly younger trees at arboretum (52% had diameters less than 6" and were 30-50 years old.), the value of these trees was \$784,000 per year. This calculation included carbon storage worth \$732,000, and annual carbon sequestration \$13,600/year, reduction of run-off \$17,600/year and reduction of air pollution \$21,000/year, but not the structural value of that forest. Older, mature trees are worth

more as they sequester much more carbon, hold more soil and water than young trees. This is also why planting a young tree to replace an old tree is not an equivalent method of reducing carbon emissions. I hope more and more people get to hike the Buckeye Trail, and along the way become more aware of all that forests do for people beyond just providing lumber, and most of all, get to enjoy the incredible beauty of mature forests.

Citations

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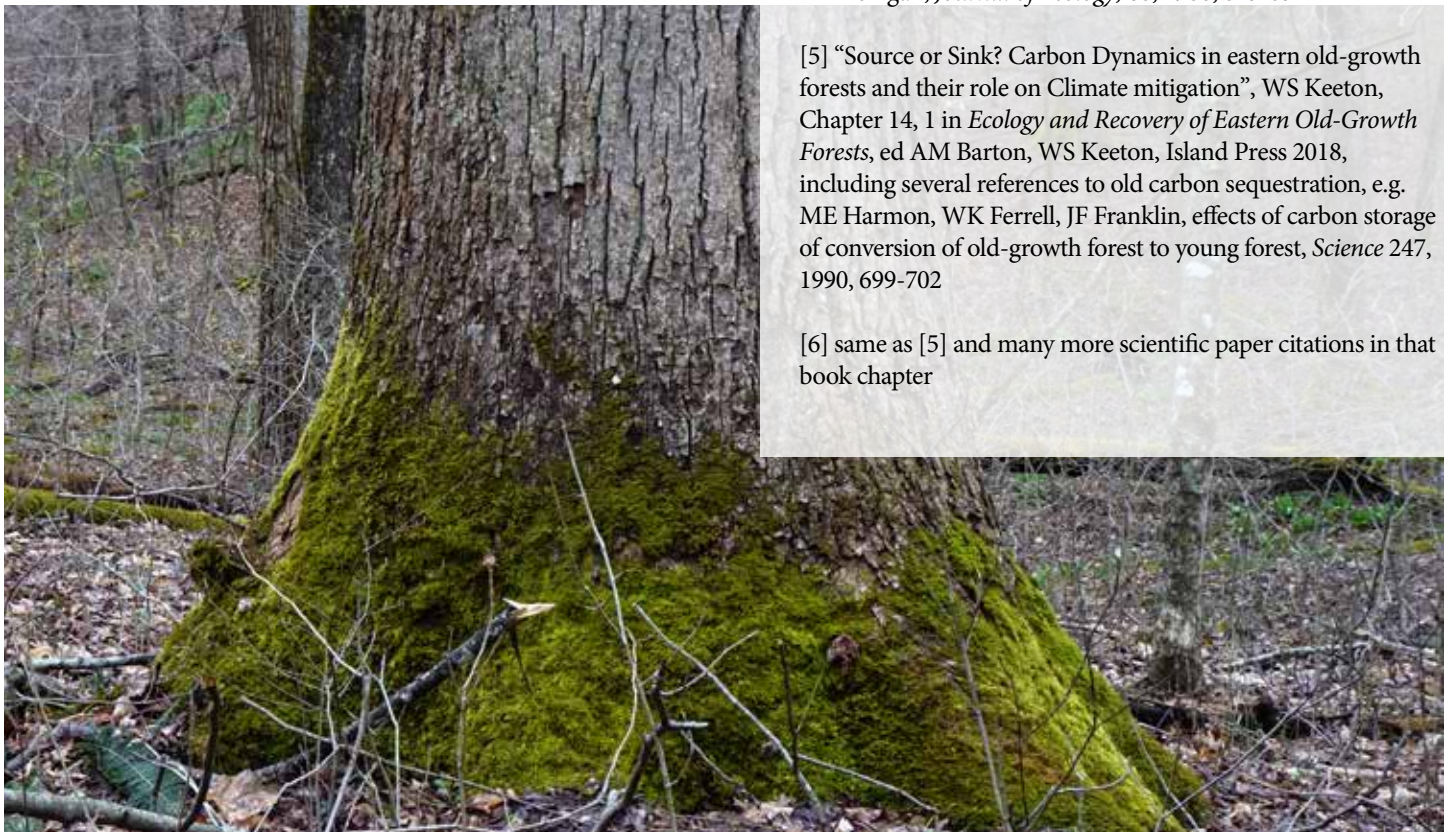
[2] Forests and the needs of amphibians, chapter 7, in *Nature's Temples*, J Maloof, citing HH Welsh and S Droege, A case for using plethodontid salamanders for monitoring biodiversity and ecosystem integrity of north American forests, *Conservation Biology*, Vol. 15, June 2001, 558-569

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[4] Herbaceous plant populations and logging, chapter 10, *Nature's Temples*, J Maloof, and R Brewer, A half-century old change in the herb layer of a climax deciduous forest in Michigan, *Journal of Ecology*, 68, 1980, 823-832

[5] "Source or Sink? Carbon Dynamics in eastern old-growth forests and their role on Climate mitigation", WS Keeton, Chapter 14, 1 in *Ecology and Recovery of Eastern Old-Growth Forests*, ed AM Barton, WS Keeton, Island Press 2018, including several references to old carbon sequestration, e.g. ME Harmon, WK Ferrell, JF Franklin, effects of carbon storage of conversion of old-growth forest to young forest, *Science* 247, 1990, 699-702

[6] same as [5] and many more scientific paper citations in that book chapter



St. Marys to be Recognized as next Buckeye Trail Town!

Beth Keuneke, Kim Love-Ottobre

The City of St. Marys is pleased to announce the Buckeye Trail Association and North Country Trail Association have designated St. Marys a Trail Town. St. Marys is the 16th community in Ohio to attain Buckeye Trail Town status, a designation that recognizes communities situated along the Buckeye Trail that support hikers with services, promote the Buckeye Trail to its citizens and embrace the Buckeye Trail as a resource to be protected and celebrated.

The Buckeye Trail and North Country Trail run concurrently on the Miami Erie Towpath Trail which parallels the historic Miami-Erie Canal. The Canal created a water route from the Ohio River to Lake Erie. Construction began on the canal in 1825 and finished in 1845. The completion of the 273 mile canal drastically changed the price of goods shipped to and from Ohio to the East Coast. The peak year for the canal was 1851 with over 400 boats moving freight and passengers. Railroads diminished the use of the canal for commercial use in the late 1800s. The great flood of 1913 destroyed portions of the waterway and signaled the end of transportation on the Miami-Erie Canal.

To celebrate the Buckeye Trail Town designation, a dedication ceremony will be held at the Memorial Park Gazebo on Sunday, October 17, 2021, at 1130 am. The ceremony will include comments from local officials and trail champions, in addition to a formal declaration of the community's Buckeye Trail Town designation that will be bestowed upon the community by representatives of the Buckeye Trail Association and the Mayor of St. Marys.

Immediately following the ceremony, the 52nd Annual Walk into Nature hike will commence at noon along the Miami Erie Canal Towpath. There will be a shuttle service available. The community is invited to return to Memorial Park to enjoy live music, Arts & Crafts Show, Farmers Market, youth activities, Girty's Town Rendezvous & Civil War Reenactors and Car Cruise-in.

To learn more about St. Marys, you can go to their website at:
<https://cityofstmarys.net/>

To learn about the other Buckeye Trail Towns, go to:
<https://www.buckeyetrail.org/trailtowns.php>

You can also learn about any upcoming events in the Buckeye Trail Towns, by following the Buckeye Trail Town Facebook page!



Kim Love Ottobre

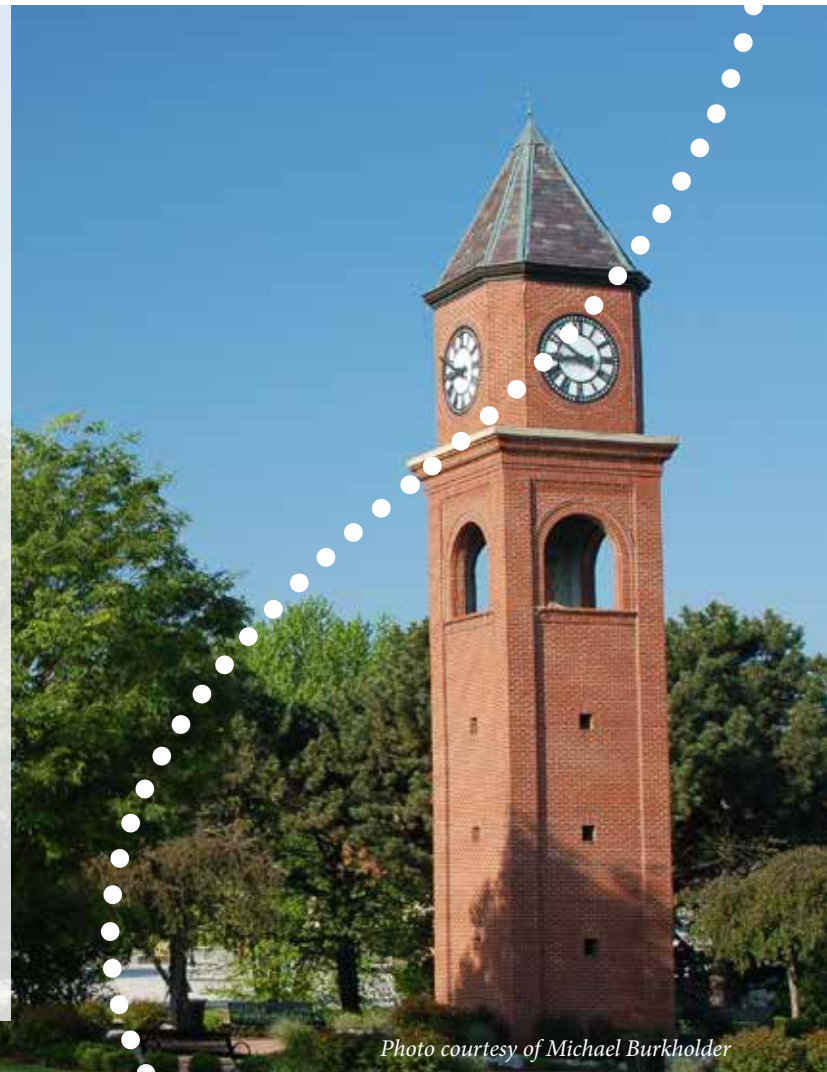


Photo courtesy of Michael Burkholder

Boots

A poem by Clint Sitler

His boots laced tightly, purposely to his feet, were hungry.

Their treads were that of sharp carnivorous fangs, ravenous to feed. Their hunger only satiated by sinking their teeth deep into the muddy terrain, driving the hiker forward.

Their contoured soles thirst for the trail laying outstretched before them, and as each commanding stride conquered mile after mile - they drank.

He was not enslaved by them, as if propelled forward as a mindless host, only purposed to fill their needs.

Rather, it was a mutualistic relationship.

Such as between flowers and bees.

He fed them, they carried him to places he would not have traversed otherwise.

Carried him to wells of inspiration hidden in the forest.

Wells that ran deep and bottomless with dark, syrup like ink that would keep his pen fluidly dancing across his notebook's barren white pages.

At night after the boot's hungers are fully slaked, they are returned to the closet next to yesteryears boots, whose treads and soles are long spent. As the hiker closes the closet door he pauses reflectively, smiling, as he hears a low, distant rumbling. A reminder they will need fed again tomorrow, and the next day, and the next day and everyday for all times.

Buckeye Trail Thru-hiker Completes the Appalachian Trail for the Fifth Time

Karen Power

Another adventure is complete and in the books for Andy “Captain Blue” Niekamp of Kettering, Ohio. On August 17, 2021, Andy summited Katahdin in Maine, the northern terminus of the 2,193-mile Appalachian Trail (AT), finishing the trail end-to-end for the fifth time. He is one of the select few - out of millions who have set foot on the AT since 1937 - to have embraced and completed the challenges of this wilderness trail five times. Most are satisfied to hike the AT at least once. Five times takes an exceptional measure of perseverance, hard-core dedication, and unequivocal love for the AT.

How does anyone sum up hiking the AT once, let alone five times? In terms of time, Andy’s journeys span five decades—the 1980s, 1990s, 2000s, 2010s, and 2020s; 1,000 nights, and three years on trail. In terms of distance, he’s hiked 11,000 miles, 25 million footsteps, and 500 miles of vertical ups and downs. Andy compares the elevation change to hiking a roller coaster of continuous ups and downs over hundreds of miles. Some have compared a single AT hike to climbing from sea level to the summit of Mt. Everest 16 times. Five end-to-end hikes translate into 80 climbs. While Andy’s accomplishment is easy to summarize by the numbers, it’s harder to condense all of the experiences over 32 years and 11,000 miles. Andy’s most dangerous and, subsequently, most memorable experience was surviving a lightning strike in 2015 (AT hike number four) on Black Mountain in Harriman State Park on the AT in New York.

Andy described his experience:

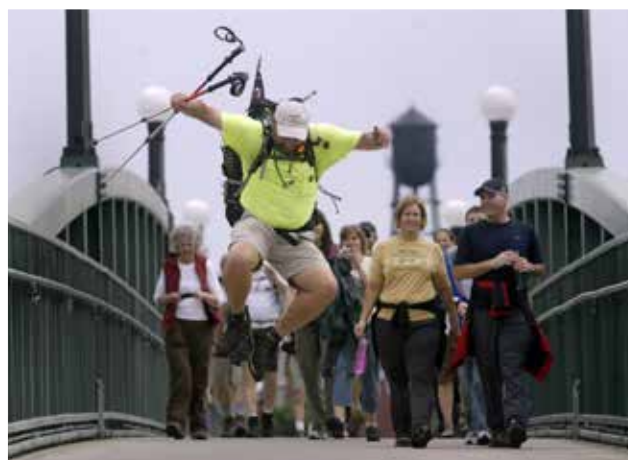
I felt a tremendous electrical surge hit my entire body. My back arched. Every muscle in my body clenched. The intensity of the contracted muscles could have broken a bone. I gasped for air. I was blinded by an orange flash of light and lost most of my hearing. The jolt knocked me backwards on my backpack down an incline. I smelled a whiff of something burning. The excruciating pain lasted a brief millisecond. Yet, in the aftermath, I had no pain except for a sensation of complete numbness in my feet. I lay sprawled on the ground fully conscious of what had just happened.



Luckily, he was able to make it safely down to the EMT members waiting for him at the road. It took a couple of weeks to regain feeling in his feet, but he completed the hike in 2016 and began another the following year. Needless to say, changes in technology and innovation in gear and packaged food over the past 32 years as well as new knowledge about the health benefits of

being outdoors have propelled hiking into the fitness limelight.

In 1989, when Andy began his first AT hike, he wore an old cotton shirt, cut off jeans, and heavy leather hiking boots. His hiking pole was a stout wooden stick. He always carried a quarter in his pocket so he could call his mom whenever he found a pay phone at a crossroad. Losing the white blazes could mean hours of backtracking or bushwhacking. Today, smartphones with downloadable trail maps apps, cell service, and instant communication make hiking and navigating the AT much easier and safer. The conveniences of modern backpacking make the trail more accessible to a wider demographic. Over the years, Andy has seen a significant increase in the number of hikers on the AT, including solo women, families, and retirees, some in their 80's. Whatever his next adventure is, hiking is in his future.



Andy thru-hiked the Buckeye Trail in 2011, after his third AT hike, and is credited with the first solo thru-hike of the entire Buckeye Trail at its current length of 1,400+ miles. Andy is the author of the popular book, *Captain Blue on the Blue Blazes*, a chronicle of his historic Buckeye Trail hike. For more information about his Buckeye Trail hike and book visit www.buckeyetrailhiker.com

(Left) Andy Niekamp on the Appalachian Trail in 1990 in the Great Smoky Mountains.

(Right) Andy Niekamp completes a thru hike of the Buckeye Trail at Deeds Point in Dayton in June of 2011.

(Background) Andy Niekamp on the summit of Katahdin, Maine on August 17, 2021, completing the Appalachian Trail a fifth time.

Farewell 2020-21 AmeriCorps



Preston Prather



Jon Flinn



Jean Vandervaart

Preston Prather (he/him) -

I was lucky enough to still serve in person (safely and appropriately, of course) during COVID and to be able to directly serve the community. The majority of my service was dedicated to constructing the John Knouse Trail in Athens, which will connect to and create a large trail network with Strouds Run State Park. John Knouse played a large role in creating hiking trails in Athens and acquiring the land to do so. The Athens Conservancy has dedicated this trail in his honor, and it was a privilege to lead the work crews for this project.

The Buckeye Trail Association is grateful to Preston for his service on the John Knouse Trail and on the Buckeye Trail. He helped lead the Appalachian Conservation Corps crew, lead trail building events for other AmeriCorps on the Buckeye Trail at Upper Rock Run, and also joined a couple Buckeye Trail Work Crew Parties. We would like to wish him luck on the next chapter of his life in Texas with his wife as they pursue their career goals. Thank you for your service Preston!

Jon Flinn (he/him) -

Over the past year I have had the opportunity of a lifetime to serve an AmeriCorps term with the Buckeye Trail Association as the Volunteer Program AmeriCorps Member. Starting out in a Covid year I started my service working completely remotely. It was a strange start working with many people and having never met any of them in person. Nevertheless I was welcomed into the Buckeye Trail's supportive community and thrived working together with volunteers and staff!

Although the start of my term was "socially distanced," I was still able to connect with many volunteers and collaborate with them on different projects. I have been able to help put on The Buckeye Trail's Biggest Day Hike, further develop our database, extend the accessibility to Techumseh Lake in Shawnee, build trail at Buckeye Trail Crew work Parties, assist in recruiting volunteers, and so many more projects that make The Buckeye Trail an amazing asset to our communities in Ohio. I am honored to have given my time to help the Buckeye Trail Association with these projects and meet so many amazing people that donate their time that make this trail network exist for everyone to enjoy.

My service has taught me so much and grew my drive to help build stronger, healthier communities. As I move forward in my career I hope to stay connected with the Buckeye Trail Association as a volunteer to build more off-road trails and provide additional support in my free time. There is never a dull moment with so many projects happening throughout the state at any given time. The friendships I have made and the community that I have been invited into has impacted me in such a positive way. Thank you to all the volunteers that I have gotten the pleasure of working with!

Jean Vandervaart (they/them) -

2020-2021 was my third AmeriCorps service term. Truth be told, I did not originally plan on completing a third year as - after having completed two years already and receiving the maximum two years of Education Awards - I was ready to move on to a career. But then COVID hit and threw a wrench in that plan, like it did with so many other's plans. I had already been doing some designs on the side for the Buckeye Trail Association, so I decided to join the BTA as a full-time AmeriCorps member. This third year definitely brought its challenges - such as acclimating oneself to video calls instead of face-to-face interaction. But it also taught me lessons on patience, adapting to change, trailbuilding, and more. I improved upon my design skills and marketing skills - even coordinating with a Marketing team. That was definitely a first for me.

I also had more time to write articles for the Trailblazer. I have enjoyed reading articles sent in to me and editing them. While I have not been able to have much interaction with people in-person during COVID, I have had many wonderful interactions with BT members, hikers, volunteers, etc., over social media.

My AmeriCorps term may be ending soon, but I certainly have no intentions on leaving the BTA yet! I will be continuing to read and edit articles for the Trailblazer and interacting with you all on social media. Thank you everyone for the wonderful experience!



Recruiting BTA AmeriCorps Member

Position will run on a year term from 2021 to 2022

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

BTA Volunteer Leader AmeriCorps

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

AmeriCorps Benefits

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

- An annual living allowance of \$16,000
- An education award totaling \$6,345 for a completed term of service, eligible for existing federal student loans or future education expenses at accredited universities
- Child care allowance for members who qualify
- Healthcare Coverage for AmeriCorps members
- Mileage reimbursement for travel during service activities
- Positions allow for part-time outside employment or attendance at an institution of higher learning during service year.

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

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

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

You can also start by going to:
ruralaction.org/our-work/leadership-and-service/appalachian-ohio-restore-corps/



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**The Buckeye Trail
Association would
like to thank SPAX:
for making the
construction and
maintenance of
Buckeye Trail
structures possible!**



*Shelter at Pretty Run Preserve,
photo by Jim "Sunny" Sunyak*

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

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 9, 2021

West Branch Work Day

The work this year will concentrate on the south side of the reservoir building new trail. Trail has been flagged from the US Army Corps of Engineers nature path to the beach area at West Branch. This comprises about 3 miles of trail to be built. We will start work at 8:00AM and end at 3:00PM.

Location: Meet at the East Boat Ramp, Gilbert Road 41.1469262, 81.0861989. There are flush toilets and water available at that location.

Contact: Bill Jindra at jindras@oberlin.net

October 16-17, 2021

BTA Circuit Hike - Delphos Section

Saturday: Saturday's hike will be from Delphos Section Point 4 at Old Acadia Park on North St. in Spencerville GPS coordinates N40.71459, W084.35130 to Delphos Section Point 10 at the intersection of Road U20 and 23T GPS coordinates N40.86689, W084.29704. This is a distance of about 13.1 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Point 10 the intersection of Road U20 and 23T to carpool to Point 4 at Old Acadia Park on North St. in Spencerville.

Sunday: Sunday's hike will be from Delphos Section Point 10 at the intersection of Road U20 and 23T GPS coordinates N40.86689, W084.29704 to Delphos Section Point 16 at the intersection of Road 25M and Road M GPS coordinates N40.99067, W084.34270. This is a distance of about 11.2 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Point 16 at the intersection of Road 25M and Road M to carpool to Point 10 at the intersection of Road U20 and 23T.

NOTE: Suggest bringing a day pack with your lunch and water. Please also watch the forecast and prepare.

Sign Up: Go to the BT Friends Meetup site to indicate you are attending: <https://www.meetup.com/BuckeyeTrailFriends/>

Contact: Jay Shutt at shuttjay@gmail.com

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.

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

Contact: TBD

2021 Schedule of Hikes & Events

October 23 & 27, 2021

West Branch Work Day

The work this year will concentrate on the south side of the reservoir building new trail. Trail has been flagged from the US Army Corps of Engineers nature path to the beach area at West Branch. This comprises about 3 miles of trail to be built. We will start work at 8:00AM and end at 3:00PM.

Location: Meet at the East Boat Ramp, Gilbert Road 41.1469262, 81.0861989. There are flush toilets and water available at that location.

Contact: Bill Jindra at jindras@oberlin.net

October 30-31, 2021

BTA Circuit Hike - Road Fork Section

Saturday: Saturday's hike will be from Road Fork Section Point 11+ at the intersection of Road Fork Rd. and Ohio 260 Harriettsville Rd. GPS coordinates (N39.66711 W081.30930 to Road Fork Section Point 17 at the intersection of Ohio 537 and Dearth Ridge - Rias Run Rd. GPS coordinates N39.64030 W081.21162. This is a distance of about 8.8 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Point 17 at the intersection of Ohio 537 and Dearth Ridge - Rias Run Rd to carpool to Point 11+ at the intersection of Road Fork Rd. and Ohio 260 Harriettsville Rd.

Sunday: Sunday's hike will be from Road Fork Section Point 17 at the intersection of Ohio 537 and Dearth Ridge - Rias Run Rd. GPS coordinates N39.64030 W081.21162 to Road Fork Section Point 21 at Ring Mill Campground on road T575 GPS coordinates N39.60722 W081.12162. This is a distance of about 9.3 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Point 21 Ring Mill Campground to carpool to Point 17 at the intersection of Ohio 537 and Dearth Ridge - Rias Run Rd.

NOTE: Suggest bringing a day pack with your lunch and water. Please also watch the forecast and prepare.

Sign Up: Go to the BT Friends Meetup site to indicate you are attending: <https://www.meetup.com/BuckeyeTrailFriends/>

Contact: Jay Shutt at shuttjay@gmail.com

NOVEMBER

November 6, 2021

BTA Board Meeting

Location: TBD

Contact: Board President at president@buckeyetrail.org

November 13-14, 2021

BTA Circuit Hike - Delphos and Defiance Sections

Saturday: Saturday's hike will be from Delphos Section Point 16 at the intersection of Road 25M and Road M GPS coordinates N40.99067 W084.34270 to Delphos Section Point 22 at Charloe Community Park GPS coordinates N41.13144 W084.43432. This is a distance of about 12.7 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Point 22 at Charloe Community Park to carpool to Point 16 at the intersection of Road 25M and Road M.

Sunday: Sunday's hike will be from Delphos Section Point 22 at Charloe Community Park GPS coordinates N41.13144 W084.43432 to Defiance Section Point 4+ Legion Field across from 1418 S. Jackson St. GPS coordinates N41.27215 W084.38385. This is a distance of about 12.2 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Defiance Section Point 4+ Legion Park to carpool to Delphos Section Point 22 Charloe Community Park.

NOTE: Suggest bringing a day pack with your lunch and water. Please also watch the forecast and prepare.

Sign Up: Go to the BT Friends Meetup site to indicate you are attending: <https://www.meetup.com/BuckeyeTrailFriends/>

Contact: Jay Shutt at shuttjay@gmail.com

DECEMBER

December 11-12, 2021

BTA Circuit Hike - Bowerston Section

Saturday: The hike will be from Bowerston Section Point 7. Parking is along Deer Rd. about 1000 feet south of Point 7 GPS coordinates N40.46778 W081.19731 to Bowerston Section Point 14 on US 250 at Tappan Lake GPS coordinates N40.36072 W081.22366. This is a distance of about 11.1 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Point 14 US 250 at Tappan Lake to carpool to Point 7 at Deer Rd.

Sunday: The hike will be from Bowerston Section Point 14 on US 250 at Tappan Lake GPS coordinates N40.36072 W081.22366 to near Bowerston Section Point 18; parking is on Long Rd. just north of OH 799. GPS coordinates N40.26715 W081.18753. This is a distance of about 10.0 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at parking on Long Rd. near Point 18 to carpool to Point 14 on US 250 at Tappan Lake.

Bring a day pack with your lunch and water. Please also watch the forecast and prepare.

Sign Up: Go to the BT Friends Meetup site to indicate you are attending: <https://www.meetup.com/BuckeyeTrailFriends/>

Contact: Jay Shutt at shuttjay@gmail.com

2022 Schedule of Hikes & Events

More 2022 Events will be scheduled and posted by end of 2021. Check the website for updates.

JANUARY

January 15-16, 2022

BTA Circuit Hike - Bowerston Section

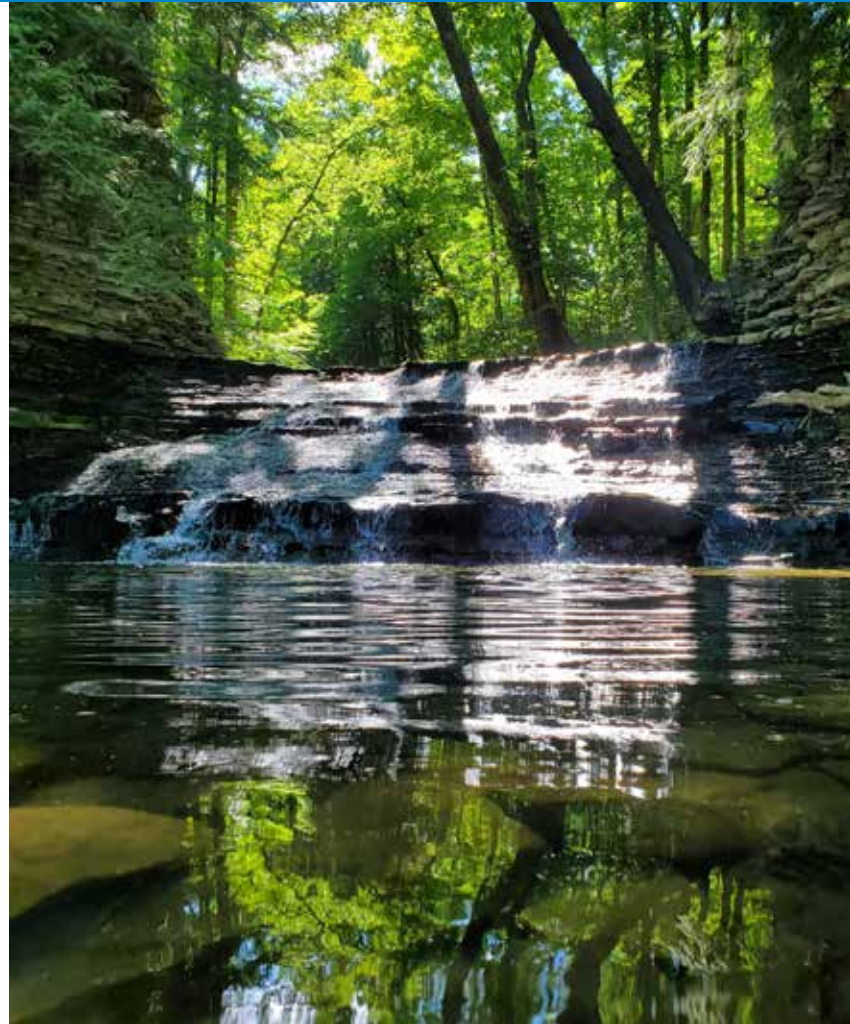
Saturday: Saturday's hike will be from near Bowerston Section Point 18; parking is on Long Rd. just north of OH 799. GPS coordinates N40.26715 W081.18753 to Bowerston Section Point 21; parking on OH 799 just south of Bowerston Section Point 21 GPS coordinates N40.24416 W081.20253. This is a distance of about 10.4 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at parking just south of Point 21 on OH 799 to carpool to parking near Point 18 on Long Rd just north of OH 799.

Sunday: Sunday's hike will be from Bowerston Section Point 21 with parking on OH 799 just south of Bowerston Section Point 21 GPS coordinates N40.24416 W081.20253 to Bowerston Section Point 26 at OH 800 and Marina Rd. GPS coordinates N40.16339 W081.23693. This is a distance of about 11.7 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Point 26 to carpool to parking on OH 799 just south of Bowerston Section Point 21

NOTE: Suggest bringing a day pack with your lunch and water. Please also watch the forecast and prepare.

Sign Up: Go to the BT Friends Meetup site to indicate you are attending: <https://www.meetup.com/BuckeyeTrailFriends/>

Contact: Jay Shutt at shuttjay@gmail.com



More photos by Clint Sittler

Buckeye Trail Association

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