

BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

# Trailblazer



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WINTER 2021 VOLUME 54 NO. 4

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## Editor's Note

### Hello Buckeye Trail Friends!

I hope that the chillier part of the year is fairing you well. It's probably my favorite time of the year because of how much the landscape is transformed in such a short time from fiery colors, to fallen brown leaves and then the snow that eventually graces our presence. Some of you may have already celebrated your late autumn / early winter festivities, some holidays have yet to come. However you celebrate this season, I'd like to wish you all Happy Holidays!

~Jean Vandervaart, Trailblazer Editor

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Want to share your photographs and stories of the Buckeye Trail?

Send them to [trailblazer@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:trailblazer@buckeyetrail.org)!

They might just show up on our social media or feature in the Trailblazer.

## West Branch State Park: Backpack Destination

The Buckeye Trail Association has received a \$28,432.97 grant for the West Branch Destination project from Athletic Brewing Company's Two for the Trails Grant! The BTA aims to create and maintain an off-road natural surface trail experience, primarily for hiking, but including all types of non-motorized trail uses where appropriate. We are striving to develop a destination backpacking trail to Northeast Ohio at the Michael J. Kirwan Reservoir surrounded by West Branch State Park. West Branch State Park provides many outdoor activities and connecting all regions of the reservoir will provide many additional outdoor opportunities for people of all ages. With the ODNR and US Army Corps of Engineers' approvals in hand, we are ready to finish off this epic 10 year project while demand for it is at its peak!

~Jim "Sunny" Sunyak, Akron Section Supervisor

Stay tuned for more updates in the Spring 2022 Trailblazer issue!  
We will also be announcing more about the project on social media.

Athletic Brewing Company donates 2% of all their non-alcoholic beer sales to trail improvements, development and outdoor recreation projects. You can learn more about Athletic Brewing Co. at [athleticbrewing.com](http://athleticbrewing.com).



## Trailblazer

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**Jean Vandervaart**  
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### DEADLINES

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May 1 for the Summer issue,  
August 1 for the Fall issue,  
and November 1 for the Winter issue.

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Cover photo: Dayton Hikers following  
wintry Buckeye Trail  
Photo credit: Dayton Hikers

## Buckeye Trail Association

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# New FKT on the Buckeye Trail!

This year, thru-hiker Josh Horsfall set out to break the Fastest Known Time (FKT) on the Buckeye Trail. The previous holder of the FKT on the Buckeye Trail was held since 2018 until recently by Everett Brandt: 55 days, 6 hours and 12 minutes. Horsfall began his journey on the morning of September 27, 2021 and finished on November 6, 2021 after 38 days, 5 hours and 4 minutes.

“The end of a hike is always a bit bittersweet... unless you’ve been hiking non-stop for over a month. Then it’s just sweet. Looking forward to my upcoming days off where I’ll likely be found doing as little as possible as often as possible. Thank you to everyone who helped me along the way. The hospitality of others is always quite humbling and it’s difficult to express the gratitude felt when strangers are so willing to help you out. Whether it simply be allowing me to refill my water bottles or some people who invite [me] into their homes and give me a place to stay for the night, I cannot tell you how much I truly appreciate this and how much it helps at the end of a long day. You’re all amazing and I thank you once again.”

The Buckeye Trail Association congratulates Josh Horsfall on his FKT accomplishment. Follow the Blue Blazes!



John Horsfall taking a selfie in front of the iconic Hike the Buckeye Trail barn.

# President's Message

*Steve Walker*

I hope that you're all doing well and enjoying the Fall. I'm writing this article on the day before Thanksgiving and it seems an appropriate time. As a whole, the Buckeye Trail Association does have a lot to be thankful for. The Covid-19 Pandemic seems to be finally bashing its head against the inevitable eventuality of herd immunity. Other things in the world may be hard to figure out but the Buckeye Trail and its supporters have been constant.

Trail use is still up from 2019 and trail maintenance and construction in 2021 made a significant return. Nine successful Buckeye Trail Crew work parties occurred this year. One of them solved a long term problem in the Old Man's Cave Section. After years of planning, the Bill Miller Boardwalk became a reality (pictured to the right) in September. The total combined length of the project was over 138 feet and required about 290 volunteer hours to finish it. I'm pleased to report that the safety factor of the structure is calculated at about 5:1.

With the exception of TrailFest, all BTA signature events also returned for 2021. Beginning with MorelFest in April, we had the EGGS Hike in June, the Little Loop Challenge in September and the Run4Blue Blazes Marathon (advertised as "Blue Blaze Festival" then "Blue Blaze Run & Hike this year) in October. In July, your BTA Board of Trustees met for the first in-person Board and Staff Retreat since 2019 and it was a hybrid gathering. With the help of technology, trustees who weren't able to attend in person were able to attend virtually.

This was the year that BTA Chapters began talking to each other regularly through Chapter Leadership Summits. All BTA Chapters have been challenged to come up with a signature event as their resources permit them to, as well as, a signature trail maintenance work party. As time goes on, the Chapters will be taking on more responsibility for protecting, promoting and maintaining the Buckeye Trail in their areas. To help with that, the BTA is considering setting up an annual census day where funds are awarded to each Chapter based on the number of current BTA members identifying with that Chapter.

This is all part of the future growth plan that the Buckeye Trail Association has been working toward beginning with the first efforts to develop the current Strategic Plan back in 2017. Our Strategic Plan will soon celebrate the completion of its second year and there are many successes to report. With the successful implementation and integration of eTapestry, our comprehensive organizational software, we're able to handle almost all of the membership and volunteer questions that come into the office and keep track of memberships and when they expire. We're also able to reach out and communicate with BTA members and partners with this software suite.

Your Board of Trustees met a total of seven times in 2021 (three of which were in special session) and have scheduled six regular sessions in 2022 in order to keep up with the increased levels of business that we're sure to encounter next year. To be sure, virtual meeting technology has helped a lot and that was one result of the Covid-19 Pandemic. At our most recent Board Meeting, one member was actually able to participate actively while hiking in another state.

The work levels are increasing and we'll need your help to keep up with the growth that we've been preparing for since 2017. If you want to help the BTA to its next level of existence, let me know and I'll help you find the way. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Steve Walker - Photos of board walks

# On the Trail ...

The leaves have fallen from the trees, snow - temperature permitting - may be flying, and the holiday season is in full swing. I hope that you and your loved ones are finding ways to navigate through any Covid-19 challenges to spend time with each other, and - as time allows - spend a little of that time together on the Buckeye Trail. It's been another interesting year to reflect on for the Buckeye Trail. This year has presented several challenges: our usual ones and adapting to the pandemic as it evolves. Even with all the challenges, it amazes me to see all of our progress and the many new faces out enjoying the BT, which seems to be more popular than ever (including a host of BT thru hike attempts and a new Fastest Known Time). This is all thanks in part to your continued support and the tireless work of BTA volunteers and partners.

Another BTA AmeriCorps Member term has come to an end; we wish Preston Prather and Jon Flinn the best on their next adventure and thank them for moving the BT and BTA forward. Jean Vandervaart has also hung up their AmeriCorps hat, but has thankfully continued on part-time as a contract worker for BTA marketing and outreach projects such as the BTA map/brochure from last winter. We just welcomed our new AmeriCorps Member, Morgan Thomas, who is devoted to supporting the BTA volunteer program. Please join me in giving him a warm welcome!

Several grant proposals have been awarded, such as an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Power grant and Sunny Sunyak's work on an Athletic Brewing Company grant. And a couple more are very likely to be awarded soon that turn out to have similar scales and theme - developing the Buckeye Trail as the backbone of newly created backpacking destinations.

Our partnerships with public land managers like ODNR, the Wayne National Forest, Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD), Ohio History Connection, Five Rivers Metroparks, and more are deepening and yielding real on-the-ground improvements for the Buckeye Trail hiker in 2022 - thanks in part to decades

of positive BT ambassadors like you.

Our Buckeye Trail Chapters, now numbering eight with the addition of new The Wilderness Chapter (serving the Road Fork and Whipple Sections of the BT), are getting their feet underneath them by comparing notes more regularly. Through the leadership of BTA president Steve Walker, they also give and receive support at regular BTA Chapter Leadership Summits. The dedicated efforts of the community of St. Marys, the Miami & Erie Chapter, and our Buckeye Trail Town Coordinator, Kim Love-Ottobre, helped St. Marys become the latest designated Buckeye Trail Town - embracing Ohio's BT as an important part of the communities future development and the BTA as a partner.

These are just a few highlights of BTA volunteers, staff, and partners struggling through uncertain times to achieve what we promised at the beginning of the pandemic - to get where we were going - not just back to where we left off. As we settle in to winter, the BTA is alive and well, planning for in person events around the state in 2022, like Buckeye TrailFest September 15-18, a full trail work crew schedule, and many more. I can hardly wait to share with you all the big news coming soon for the BT with you as it rolls in 2022. Thank you for all of your support this year, here's to you and the BT in the year to come!

See you on the Trail!

Andrew Bashaw  
Executive Director  
Buckeye Trail Association

# St Marys: Always a Trail Town

*Kim Love-Ottobre, Trail Town Coordinator*

**“St Marys, at the time of its inception, has always been a trail town, in the sense that the river and canal constituted a north-south river way, a transportation trail, with St Marys being a stopping and trading place” - Hobert Scott, prominent in civic improvement of St Marys, 1953 article.**

The St Marys River (known by the Shawnee Nation as “Kokothikithiip” and the Miami and Illinois Nations as “Nameewa Siippiwi”) was an important travel route for Indigenous Peoples and European-American settlers. Before the Miami and Erie Canal, all supplies came into western Ohio from settler colonies via the river. Since St Marys was a portage point on the trail, this locale played a significant role in European-Americans colonizing the Northwest Territory in the 1800s. The first European-American settlement on the portage was Girtys Town, a trading post set up by James Girty, brother to the notorious renegade Simon Girty. Girty maintained his trading post from 1783 to 1790. When General Harmar’s army approached the area, Girty, an unofficial British representative, fled to Canada. In 1794, General “Mad” Anthony Wayne and his forces built Fort St Marys, as a strategic point on the frontier to transfer goods from wagons to boats. The fort was abandoned in 1796 after the fall of Detroit. A new fort, called Fort Barbee, was built in 1812 closer to current downtown St Marys by General Harrison. After the Treaty of St. Marys in 1818, European-Americans settled farther west, pushing out the Indigenous communities living there. The town of St Marys was founded by Charles Murray, William Houston and John McCorkle in 1823. They purchased 400 acres of land from the United States government and laid out the village of 68 lots. The town was officially incorporated in 1834 and became a city in 1904.

## Miami & Erie Canal & Lake

The Miami & Erie Canal was constructed from 1825 and completed in 1845, dug entirely by men using only picks, shovels and wheelbarrows. The canal, measuring a length of 249 miles, connected the Ohio River to Lake Erie, creating a quicker form of transportation for both people and goods. The construction of the canal and its reservoirs significantly lowered freight charges. For example, the cost to ship a bushel of wheat 100 miles dropped from one dollar to fifteen cents. To supply the canal with water, plans were made to also create a reservoir, or man-made lake. The work began in 1837 and was completed in 1845. For many years, St Marys Lake was the largest artificial body of water in the world, a significant feat given that it, like the canal, was entirely built by men with digging



*Historic canal boat in St Marys, Ohio. Photo credit: Kim Love-Ottobre*

tools. The lake has 52 miles of shoreline and is approximately nine miles long and three miles wide. While it lost its title for the largest artificial body of water made, it is still the largest body of water in the world constructed without the use of machinery. The lake is the divide between the north and south waterways of the canal. Water flowing out of the canal to the east ends up at Lake Erie. Water flowing south and west eventually finds its way to the Ohio River.

## Oil Boom on the Lake

Huge quantities of natural gas were discovered in 1884 near Findlay, Ohio. This oil and gas geologic formation was known as the Lima-Indiana trend, which curves in a length of 260 miles from Toledo southwest to Indianapolis. The Lima-Indiana trend created the first giant oil and gas “field” in North America. The town of St Marys and Grand Lakes were part of this field. Many of the oil operators were small local companies. During the oil boom that followed, oil and gas companies drilled many wells in the region.



One of the several locks along the Miami & Erie Canal.  
Photo credit: Preston Bartlett

By 1890 the productive territory had reached the border of the lake, and a year later wells were being drilled in the lake. Derricks were built atop cribs in the lake. Grand Lakes was the site of the first offshore drilling rig in the world. From 1895 to 1903, Ohio was the leading oil-producing state in the nation. There were at least 100 wells drilled, but some estimates reach 200-300 wells in the oil boom era. By 1908, production waned and many wells were abandoned.

## Rise & Fall of the Canal

The growth of the town of St Marys was in direct proportion to the canal period between 1830 and 1900. Main Street, a part of the Anthony Wayne Trail, was expected to be the main street of the town. The opening of the Miami and Erie Canal expanded the town eastward, with businesses opening up near the canal, which became the main artery of transportation. Spring Street (named after the natural spring that was located by the roadway) then became the main thoroughfare instead. Many other businesses were built along the canal in the St. Marys area. There was a gristmill and a lumber yard/sawmill, a linseed oil mill and woolen mill - all of which were run by water power. At Lock 12 on the canal, the water split into two separate levels. The “upper level” or “mill race” provided the water to the grist mill, sawmill and woolen mill. The “lower level” transported the canal boats with passengers and goods through downtown. A large basin - where the present Chestnut Street Parking Lot is located - was surrounded by businesses, including a slaughterhouse, blacksmith shop and livery stable.

The completion of the canal occurred before most of the railroads were built in Ohio. After railroads were established, they competed with the canal as a method of travel and transport. Because the canal froze over in winter, and was generally slower than travel by train, canal travel faced its inevitable demise. By 1906, the canal had largely ceased to operate. The catastrophic 1913 flood ended the canal as a transportation system entirely. Too much damage had occurred: aqueducts being destroyed, banks washing out, and flood water encroaching into nearby towns. As the canal ran out of use, the Grand Lake St Marys was no longer deemed necessary to feed the canal. There was even a political movement to fill in the

lake. However, the lake was saved in the end as the Ohio General Assembly voted in 1915 to designate the lake and adjacent lands as a public park. Grand Lakes officially became a State Park in 1949.

## Rehab of Lock 13

Lock 13 was hidden from sight for many years while it was covered by the buildings of the woolen mill. The St Marys Woolen Manufacturing Co., Inc, was built in 1871 and locally owned and operated for 112 years. When the buildings were demolished, it was found that the wooden structure of the lock was in surprisingly good condition. The city took on the rehabilitation of Lock 13 and the reservoir mill. Lock 13 and Phase 1 of the Mill Building were completed in 2009. There is now a replica canal boat, The Belle of St Marys, moored in a watered section of the canal at Memorial Park. It is now a scenic hike along the Miami & Erie Canal from the K. C. Geiger Park, through the city and Memorial Park, along Lock 13, and north to the Forty Acre Pond and Lock 14. Today, St Marys continues to welcome visitors to enjoy the rich historical structures and trails that the city was founded upon.



Example of a lock in need of repair (Lockington Locks)

# 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.

**SEPTEMBER 2, 2021 TO NOVEMBER 1, 2021**

## **GENERAL FUND**

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## **BUCKEYE TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND**

Jack Winkler

Ohio's Buckeye Trail. Two by six inch blue blazes serve as simple beacons leading us for over 1,400 miles from Lake Erie to the Ohio River all around Ohio and back again. These thousands of blazes have been the starting point for millions of people's adventures of hiking, joining, and volunteering on the Buckeye Trail. The Buckeye trail is many things to many people. What does it mean to you?

Is it a place to find new friends and reunite with family, or a place to lose ourselves in nature? Is it a gateway to a sought after experience, a physical challenge at Archers Fork, an awe inspiring moment at Ash Cave, or knowledge about the history of Serpent Mound? Or is the Buckeye Trail a place to get to know yourself better? Is it a place to step onto and give back, volunteering so that others will have a life changing experience like you? Or is it simply

about being part of something much bigger than ourselves? Is it about being a part of a community, a family? Whatever the Buckeye Trail is for you, it often starts with a hike and those unique BT experiences united by thousands of beacons of blue blazes.

There is a lot of great news for the Buckeye Trail just around the bend thanks to supporters like you. You help us continue the legacy of Buckeye Trail founders like Grandma Gatewood. If you can, please consider donating today to support Buckeye Trail projects like backpack destinations in West Branch State Park, Wayne National Forest and more.

Above all, thank you for hiking the BT!



**HIKE. JOIN. VOLUNTEER. + GIVE**



# Hiking Safety During Hunting Season

*Morgan Thomas*

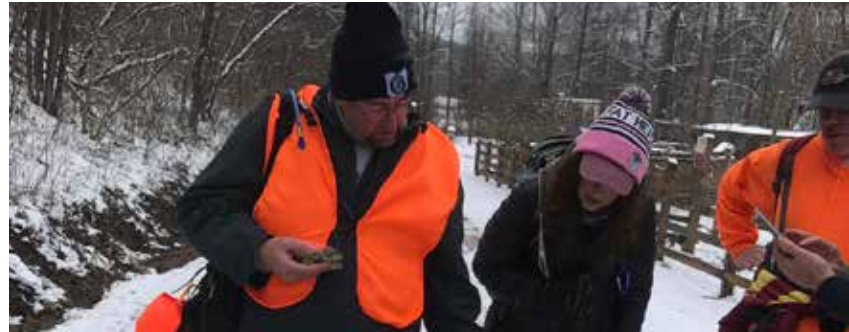
It's autumn again, and that means many of us have been out on the trails enjoying the changing foliage and the crisp October air. As the season gets further underway, however, and heads towards winter, it's important to remember that we are not alone in our enjoyment of the outdoors this time of year. November is generally when Ohio's whitetail deer population enters its mating season, colloquially known as "The Rut," and it is when many of our deer hunters take to the woods looking for game.

It's a good idea to keep track of Ohio's various hunting seasons as we enjoy the Buckeye Trail, so as to avoid accidents and misunderstandings; many sections pass through state and national forests, wildlife areas, and private property, all of which are potential places where hunters and hikers may meet. Regardless of your personal feelings about hunting, these folks have just as much right to the outdoors as we do, and a little knowledge can go a long way towards preventing mishaps. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources publishes specific hunting season dates and regulations each year, available through their website, but a brief orientation to Ohio's various hunting seasons follows, as well as some advice on how to stay safe out there.

Beginning in late September and running all the way through February, it is open season for Deer Archery hunters in Ohio. This means that whitetails may be hunted with compound bows, recurve bows, longbows, and crossbows. Archery hunters rely a great deal on stealth, as the maximum hunting range of most bows is only about 45 yards. If you think you see deer standing still in a field, don't investigate: deer hunters commonly use decoys to attract game to them, as well as deer calls and scent lures. Places like vegetation lines between farms, forest creek crossings, and oak stands (deer love acorns) are common archery hunting locations.

Also taking place during this time, generally early October through the end of November, is Fall Turkey season. Many turkey hunters use archery equipment, though a large number also use shotguns. Again, stealth is crucial to these hunters, as the maximum

*Dayton Hikers wearing orange for safety*



range they are hunting is about 45 yards. Turkey hunters, like deer hunters, often use decoys, so never try to sneak up on the turkeys you see across the field. It's also advisable to refrain from investigating the sounds and calls of wild turkeys off the trail, as hunters make extensive use of various turkey calls to lure the birds close enough to hunt. It's a good idea to avoid wearing red, white, black, or blue during turkey season, as these are the colors of a turkey's head, which is where hunters will be aiming. This advice also goes for the Spring Turkey season in May. Powerline cuts, field edges, and forest roads are likely locations you may encounter turkey hunters.

Beginning the week after Thanksgiving, and lasting exactly one week - plus an extra weekend later in the month - is Deer Gun season. During this time, hunters will take to the deep woods, farms, prairies, and fields with firearms, so it is especially important to use caution when on the trail. The firearms hunters use in Ohio fall into several categories. The most commonly used are shotguns loaded with "slugs." Slugs are lead projectiles that can weigh as much as an ounce, and often have a lethal range of up to 100 yards. Hunters also make use of rifles and handguns. In Ohio, only guns that are chambered for straight-walled cartridges such as .357 and .44 magnum, and .45-70 gov't are legal for deer hunting. These firearms can often be lethal to 100 or 150 yards. Projectiles from all firearms can travel much farther than their "effective" range, so hunters take great care in choosing whether to pull the trigger, but nobody is perfect, and a hiker off the trail during Deer Gun season is creating a hazardous situation for everyone.

Humans and deer don't look much alike, but they do sound similar when moving through undergrowth and dry leaves. No hunter should be shooting at something they can't see, but it's best not to take unnecessary risks: stick to the trail and avoid bushwacking until the season is over. And wear blaze orange. Blaze, or "hunter" orange, is a good idea during any hunting season, but all hunters are required to wear it during gun season as it's visible from a long way off. So do as they do, and deck yourself in as much of it as you can.

It's very likely you may run into hunters pursuing small game, game birds and furbearers along the trail as well. Squirrels and cottontail rabbits come into season during autumn, as do game birds such as ruffed grouse and pheasant, and furbearing animals like raccoons, foxes, opossums, and skunks. You're likely to come across these hunters with .22 rifles and shotguns in open areas such as meadows, prairies, and farms, as well as in the forest, so be aware of your surroundings regardless of where you happen to be hiking. If you must leave the trail (for instance, to go to the bathroom), it's a good idea to announce your presence verbally: hunters would rather have you scare off game than put yourself in danger.

As a final reminder, always remember to be courteous while hiking the trail, and practice leave-no-trace camping. And if you come across a hunter out there, don't be afraid to say hello.

## **Deer Hunting**

Archery: Sept. 25, 2021 - Feb. 6, 2022

Muzzelloader: Jan. 8 - 11, 2022

## **Mourning Dove Hunting**

Dec. 11, 2021 - Jan. 1, 2022

## **Ring-necked pheasant & Chukar Hunting**

Nov. 5, 2021 - Jan. 9, 2022

## **Fox, raccoon, skunk, opossum, weasel Hunting**

Nov. 10, 2021 - Jan. 31, 2022

## **Cottontail rabbit Hunting**

Nov. 5, 2021 - Feb. 28, 2022

## **Common Snipe Hunting**

Dec. 11, 2021 - Jan. 1, 2022

## **Goose & Duck\* Hunting**

Nov. 2021 - Early Jan. or Feb. 2022

\*North Zone & South Zone have slightly different schedules.

Double check the time for your region

# From the North Country Trail

## Reflections of a Regional Trail Coordinator

The North Country Trail Association (NCTA) grew its Regional Trail Coordinator (RTC) staff by two in 2020, “completing the team” to provide support to every one of the eight North Country Trail states. Tom Moutsos and Stephanie Campbell were introduced in the Fall 2020 *North Star* issue, but were asked to reflect on their time so far as employees of the NCTA in the Summer 2021 issue of *North Star*. We’ve included Ohio’s Regional Trail Coordinator, as he is a new partner of the BTA. Welcome Tom Moutsos!

*The following article portion was originally published in the Summer 2021 issue of the NCTA’s quarterly membership magazine, the North Star.*

### *Tom Moutsos, NCTA Regional Trail Coordinator for Ohio and Pennsylvania*

There are some dedicated folks around here. I know it, I swear I know it, and yet I still find myself surprised and impressed by it. How can it be that so much work goes into creating and maintaining a simple path through woods and grasslands? Even more surprising is that the physical part of this work is often the easiest part. Though I began my position as the NCTA Regional Trail Coordinator for Ohio and Pennsylvania less than a year ago, I’ve been doing this sort of work

for over 20 years now - and still I’m surprised at how much work a trail takes and impressed by the people who do the work.

Perhaps I’m slow on the uptake - a point that in some cases I won’t argue, like why I’m still filled with optimism at the beginning of each Pittsburgh Pirates baseball season. However, my defense in this case is one of scale. I’ve certainly been involved in complicated trail projects and big trail systems before, all the way from acting as the human pack-mule on various trail crews to planning and executing large and complex trail projects. But nothing like this. The North Country Trail took nine years of study and planning before it was approved in the hallowed halls of congress, and instantly became the longest National Scenic Trail, by far, in the country. One trail that passes through four huge watersheds (Mississippi River, St. Lawrence River via the Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay, Hudson River), parts of the Great Plains, through the heart of the upper Midwest, and over and through the ancient Appalachian and Adirondack Mountains, now with a terminus in the Green Mountains. The astounding variation of environments and geology along this route is just that: Astounding. And I won’t even begin to mention the historically and culturally significant sites found along the way.

How in the world does an organization go about building and maintaining such a colossus? The answer is simple and always the same: Dedicated and selfless people. When I was



asked to reflect on my early experience in this position, the people I've met and continue to work with came to mind immediately. The volunteers in the Chapters and Affiliates in Ohio and Pennsylvania, and the staff members in the NCTA and the National Park Service, all know the value of a trail like this to their communities, to their states and to their regions - even when, sometimes, those in their communities do not. The volunteers sacrifice an enormous amount of time and energy to ensure that the trail is open and safe for all.

I can think of no greater example than this past, difficult year or so since the coronavirus pandemic started ravaging our country. It seemed for a time that anyone who was able to get out to the Trail did so, and trail use skyrocketed. I know there is a sometimes heated debate over whether this extra use is good or bad. My opinion is the more, the merrier. More people using the Trail generally leads to more support for the Trail, and more support tends to lead to more resources and, finally, merrier trail workers and a healthy and sustainable trail. The other side of the debate is real: More use can lead to the Trail being loved to death. Fortunately,

the current cadre of NCTA volunteers is not descended from weak-hearted ancestors. Undaunted by the challenges, these volunteers created strategies to overcome the myriad issues presented by the pandemic, and continued to sacrifice their time and energy to keep the Trail open and in good shape. With dedicated and selfless people pitching in, this difficult situation was overcome.

Yes, trail work is hard: The planning, the paperwork, the scouting, securing funds and resources, finding volunteers, building the Trail, maintaining the Trail, protecting the Trail, the bugs, the heat, the rain, the cold. I'm still surprised by the amount of work it takes to create a simple path in the dirt. And I will always be impressed by those selfless, dedicated volunteers who put hour after hour of their time and effort into doing all aspects of this hard work on trails around the country. The North Country Trail though... The scale of it! After reflecting on the past 10 months, there aren't just some dedicated folks around here. There are a lot of dedicated folks around here.

## 2021 North Country Trail Association Awards

### Ohio Spotlight

#### Trailblazer Award

*Andrew Schlegal,  
Great Miami Outfitters*

Great Miami Outfitters of Dayton, Ohio has been a huge supporter of the Trail and adventure sports in the Miami Valley for years. Whenever we have requested donations or sponsorships for various events, the answer has always been "sure, how much?" They have consistently donated merchandise and held fundraising events for the Buckeye Trail Association (BTA) on their own, without asking. It is not unusual to receive a call from them, stating they raised money from a promotion and asking where to send the check. They always offer meeting space and assistance, and keep NCT maps handy for the local hiking community.



#### Trail Builder Award

*Jamie Guy*

Jamie was instrumental in planning the Old Man's Cave section of the Buckeye Trail (BT)/NCT to be moved completely off-road. As the property steward for the Pretty Run Preserve in Vinton County, Ohio, Jamie single handedly built the first ever moldering privy on the BT/NCT and constructed, by himself, a new backpacking shelter. Most recently, he helped develop and lay out the new BT/NCT route through two state nature preserves and state forest in Hocking Hills, getting more Trail off-road. His impact on the Trail in this region will be felt and seen for the next 60 years of the Buckeye Trail's existence.





# Safely Enjoying a Winter Wonderland

Jean Vandervaart

Most perhaps would hike during the summer when it's warm and the light filtering through the tree canopy shines on their faces. Some enjoy the somewhat cooler months of spring and autumn. Spring brings new life like the early spring flowers (otherwise known as spring ephemerals) and a migration of birds, easier to spot among the still mostly bare branches. Autumn is wonderful for its fiery colors and the pleasant sound of fallen leaves crunching beneath one's feet. Winter brings its own beauty and wonder, but it also brings its challenges for hikers and campers.

## Hiking Safety During Winter

Wintertime truly transforms the land, especially when it snows. You could hike a trail during all other seasons and it can still feel like a whole new adventure. Some sights you can only see during this time, such as the large ice pillars that form under waterfalls in Hocking Hills. But before you go on a winter walk, the first thing you absolutely need to do is check the weather conditions and any potential hazards. It is key to prepare properly for your hike. Hypothermia is a risk in temperatures below 50°F (10°C). Weather reports also list what time the sun will set - an important time to note as you'll either want to return before then or start setting up camp at least an hour in advance. Make sure to have a map and a plan of your route and inform friends and family where you will be and when you plan to return. If you have a hiking partner or group who could join you on your adventure, even better! Hiking with others not only makes hikes a shared experience, but then you all can keep each other safe.

Hiking during winter requires its own dresscode. Hikers should dress in layers of wool or synthetic fabrics (cotton holds moisture). When you hike, your body generates heat and so you may need to remove a layer of clothing along the way so as not to sweat profusely. Have you ever noticed a sudden drop in your body temperature after taking a break during a winter hike? That's because sweat (any kind of moisture) causes the body to lose heat. It's what sweat is designed to do, but this can spell disaster when the air temperature is already chilling.

## Stages of Frostbite:

### First stage - frostnip

- Affected area will be paler compared to surrounding skin and feel tingly and numb. Damage is reversible still.

### Second stage - superficial frostbite.

- This is when damage begins to occur. The skin will be soft, but become discolored.

### Third stage - severe frostbite.

- The skin has now hardened and become cold. It will appear blue or black, indicating death of the skin cells in the affected area. This is a medical emergency.



So make sure to cover up! Hats, thick gloves, thick socks, water-proof or resistant boots and scarves. For extra measure, you can pack along hand warmer and toe warmer packets and it never hurts to have extra socks. If your fingers or toes start to feel numb from the cold, make sure to check on them as soon as possible and warm them up. This is the first sign of frostbite, known as frostnip.

## Food for Thought

When hiking, it's a good habit to bring water and snacks with you to stay hydrated and energized. This is still true for winter! It may not be hot and so it may not cross one's mind, but staying hydrated (especially with a warm drink in a thermos) is important for one's safety in winter. Our bodies also need food to generate heat to keep us warm. Some great snacks to bring are anything that contain a lot of calories, such as roasted nuts, seeds, or granola treats.



Cross-country skiers enjoying the Buckeye Trail. Photo by Jeanne Dieterich

### First Aid Treatment for cold-related injuries and illnesses

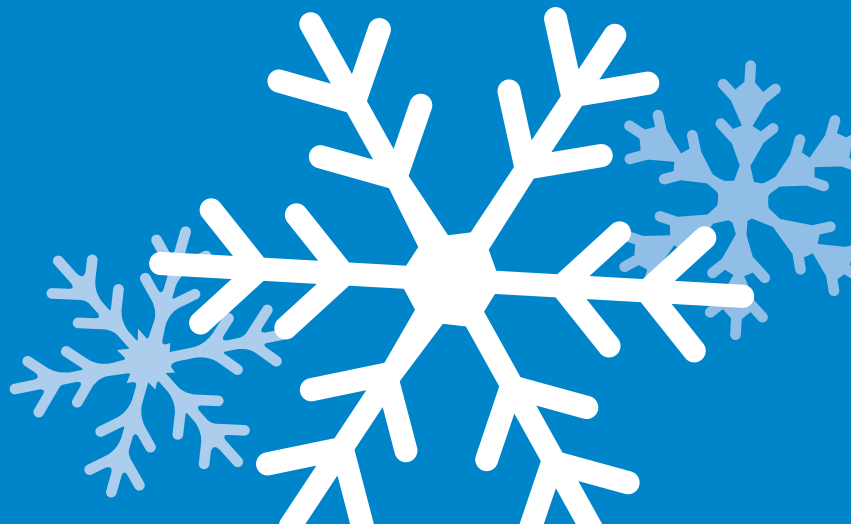
- Send for help immediately.\*\*
- Seek shelter in a dry, warmer area. If there is not an indoors location nearby, take shelter in a natural spot that blocks the wind and rain/snow.
- Remove any wet clothing and replace with dry clothing or blankets. Head and neck should absolutely be covered
- Do not massage any frozen or cold skin. If there is frost damage, elevate the affected area.
- Offer warm, non-alcoholic beverages.
- Chemical heat packs or hot water bottles should be used to warm the person's core to get their body temperature up.
- If with one or more people, huddle together like penguins. Your collective body warmth will help keep you warmer and block some wind.
- If you have the means to start a fire, that is another option while you wait for help.
- Perform CPR if the affected individual stops breathing.

\*\* Having a radio with you is helpful if you will be in an area with little to no cell phone service. However, if you don't have a radio, here is what you should do with your phone: text 911. If you end up in service for even a moment, the text will send. Rescuers can find you via your phone and its signal to a cell tower even when turned off. You can also record your status and location in your voicemail so even if you cannot answer the phone, they will receive information. However, changing your voicemail will deplete your battery quicker, so if you have service, it's best to preserve the battery so that you can answer the phone if park rangers call you. If you have no radio and your cellphone is dead, your last resort will be sending smoke signals - continuous single columns.

### Signs of hypothermia:

- Shivers\*
- Loss of coordination
- Difficulty speaking
- Confusion and impaired cognition
- Weak pulse
- Lethargy
- Slow, shallow breaths

**\*As the body gets colder, the affected person will eventually stop shivering. They may start removing layers of clothing as they falsely perceive that they're overheating.**





# Scouts Following the Scout Oath on the Buckeye Trail

David Harris

Photos by David Harris

In 1908 Robert Baden-Powell wrote the first Scout Promise for the BSA Scouts (formally known as Boy Scouts of America), and through the years it has been changed and renamed as the Scout Oath that is recited at BSA Scout events all across the country. The Scout Oath goes as follows:

*On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.*

This past October, BSA Troop 162 of Cridersville, Ohio (<https://bsac162.org>) put the Scout Oath to practice during a backpacking trip in the Delphos Section of the Buckeye Trail. Five scouts and three adults started the hike at Delphos Section Point 4 (mile 199.5)\* in the late afternoon with their gear loaded in their packs and spirits high. The sky was clear and it was a warm 80 degree fall day. The group hiked briskly to a resting point just north of Delphos Section Point 5 (mile 201.1)\* and, while having their snacks, discussed how to stay hydrated and full of energy with the right type of snacks. Then they continued on past the new day-use parking lot and picnic shelter built by the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District (Delphos Section Point 6, mile 203.1\*) to their camping spot for the night at the trail-side shelter about a half mile north of Delphos Section Point 6.

The shelter was clean and the grounds surrounding the shelter were freshly weedwacked and mowed by BTA members Sam Bonifas, Bob Hammons, and Michael Foulkes. A couple of the scouts set up camp in the shelter and the rest set up tents. Once their sleeping situations were settled, the scouts practiced setting up a backpacking tarp using hiking poles and paracord. It was a great use of their knot tying and shelter building skills. They set up the make-shift shelters multiple times according to normal conditions, heavy rain conditions, winter weather conditions, and for emergency survival. Before the sun set, they chopped wood using an axe provided by the BTA. The older scouts used the EDGE Method (Explain, Demonstrate, Guide, and Enable) to teach the younger scouts how to properly and safely use the axe and cut wood. With the wood prepared, the group started a fire and sat around the fire as one of the leaders led a discussion on how to practice Leave No Trace Principles

and the Scout Outdoor Code. The scouts shared how they used the code and principles during the outing. After the discussion, the scouts cooked their dinner of freeze dried meals over a variety of backpacking stoves (REI backpacking stove, Coleman X Stove, and a Jet Boil system). Everyone enjoyed their meals and the secret dessert given by the Scoutmaster as a surprise: freeze dried ice cream sandwiches! Cleaning up after dinner and dessert, the scouts relaxed until darkness fell, the fire was out, and the coyotes were howling. Then off to bed they went and woke to early morning rain.

The troop packed up their gear, prepared a breakfast of hot oatmeal (again practicing with their backpacking stoves), double checked that the fire was truly out, signed the shelter log, and did a sweep of the area for trash - both their own and others - and headed out to their final destination: Delphos, Ohio. They hiked about five miles and ended just on the south side of Delphos with a race across a ball field to the awaiting cars for pickup. All the scouts had a blast and commented that they would like to do more backpacking. They have previously hiked in the St. Mary's Section and want to connect the two sections with more backpacking. Future Buckeye Trail hikes for BSA Troop 162 include hiking from Lock 14 (1.8 miles north of St. Marys Section Point 24, mile 190.6) to where they started this outing at Delphos Section Point 4 (mile 199.5), and hiking in the Hocking Hills region.

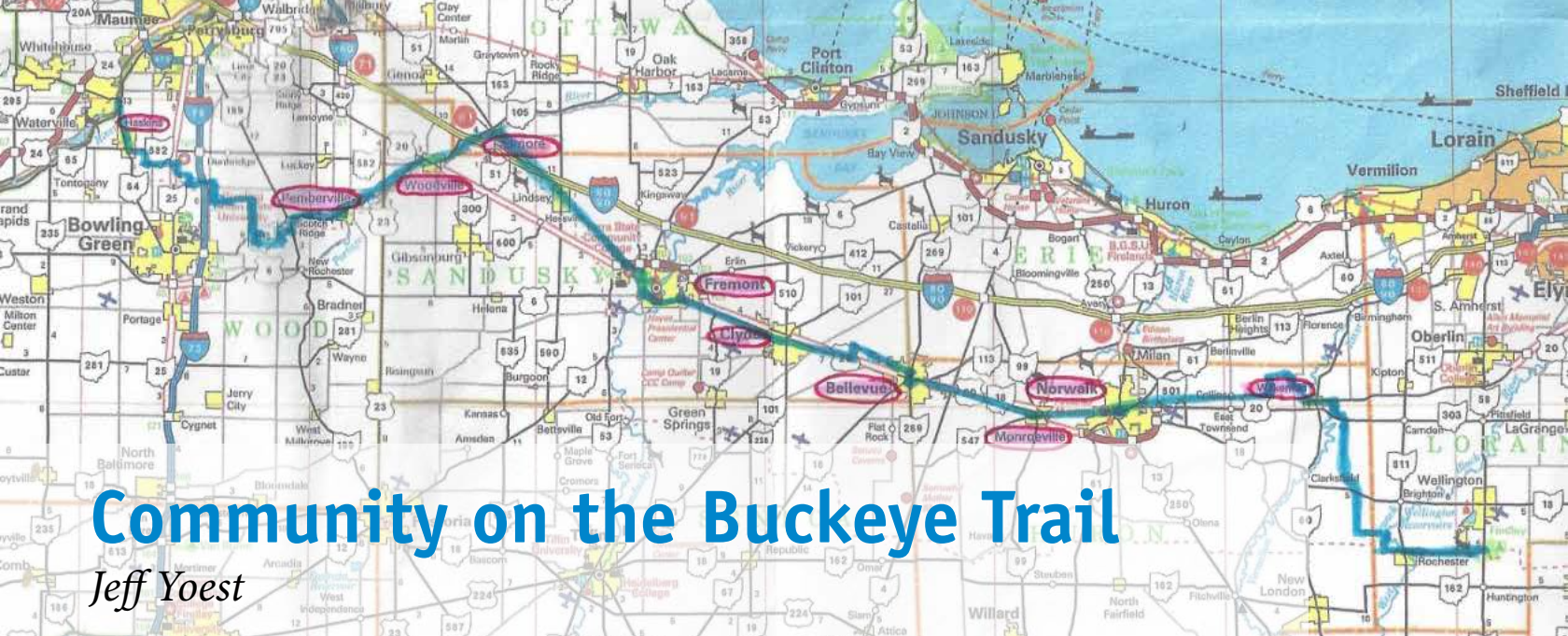
This was the Troop's first backpacking trip in recent years, but was nonetheless exciting and successful because of the ease of access to the trail and assistance from the local chapter (Miami-Erie Canal Chapter of the Buckeye Trail Association), Buckeye Trail website and Guthook App. The miles may have been short and the trip only one night, but it gave the scouts an opportunity to experience backpacking in an inviting way, leaving them wanting more. By following Leave No Trace Principles and the Scouting Outdoor Code; being physically active, learning about the history of the area and the Miami-Erie Canal, and teaching camping skills to each other; and using the resources of Buckeye Trail Association and its Miami-Erie Canal Chapter, BSA Troop 162 stayed true to their Scout Oath and have become excited about their next adventure on the Buckeye Trail.

\* Locations of:

Pt 4 - Spencerville Ball Diamond (142 W. North St., Spencerville, OH).

Pt 5 - Miami & Erie Canal Walkway intersection with OH-81 (locally known as Allentown Rd. (Spencerville))

Pt 6 - Miami & Erie Canal Walkway intersection with Zion Church Rd., Southworth, OH (South of Lock 18).



# Community on the Buckeye Trail

Jeff Yoest

Marked map of my planned route.

## Section Hike (Bike) - Friday, November 22 to Monday, November 25, 2019

The hike from Waterville, Ohio to Findley State Park was one of my more enjoyable outings, despite the Buckeye Trail there being completely either on-road or rail-trail. Because of this, I opted to ride my bike instead of walk this section, expecting it to be a rather dull stretch. What was so remarkable, however, were the numerous wonderful people whom I met.

### Friday, November 22nd

I drove to Findley State Park on Friday morning to park my van, as this would be the end of my journey. John Nemcik, section supervisor of the Defiance Section, met me there. We put my big recumbent bike on his trailer, and he took me back to Waterville. The drive was most enjoyable. John is a retired military and commercial pilot, and an entertaining conversationalist. I listened to his many stories, all suffused with a keen sense of humor. I had contacted him a few weeks prior, and he kindly offered to shuttle me wherever I needed to go and do what he could to assist me on my hike. It took him all morning to drive me. Such is the BTA family.

At Waterville, I crossed the bridge over the Maumee River without a problem, despite all the construction of a new structure. Shortly, I arrived in the little village of Haskins, and had a meal at Mailpouch Tavern. Riding rural roads, I arrived at the next town, Pemberville. There I took a coffee break and visited Beeker's Country Store, an interesting shop with old-fashioned trinkets, candy, and memorabilia. Continuing on again, I stopped in Woodville to give my legs a break, as they were getting sore. Lazy as I am, I do no training prior to any outings, so I suffer the consequences. I found the local history museum my excuse to stop. I talked to the guide on duty. I suspect I was a rare visitor, and he took pleasure taking me around the exhibits and telling me of the area's notable people and events. He was dressed like Johnny Cash, all in black. He said he was a graduate of the Methodist Seminary in Delaware. Pastoring a church was not his calling, but he was going to Toledo that night to give a sermon at a homeless shelter. He kindly ushered me out, as it was closing time and he had to leave for his ministerial duties. My legs felt better as I saddled up again.

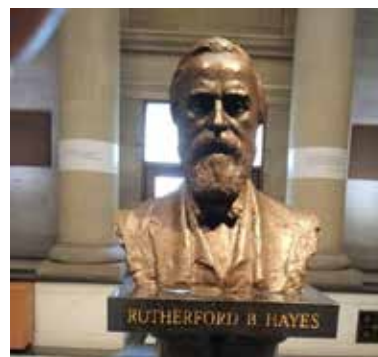
My stop for the day was the little town of Elmore. I arrived in the late afternoon, and took a few minutes to scope out the "downtown." I then

found the local American Legion Post. I had received permission to camp on their property. There was no one at the building to check in with, so I just set up my tent in the grassy area behind.

### Saturday, November 23

I got up at 7:30. I think the thing I detest most about camping is breaking camp and repacking. It was quite cold, with frost covering everything that was not in the tent, and my fingers went numb. I had a little alcohol stove I brought for such situations, but I could not get it to light with the piddly little cigarette lighter I had. The local policeman drove up about then. I greeted him with a smile and told him I was following the Buckeye Trail and had received permission by the American Legion to stay there for the night. Perhaps he had seen me there on his rounds during the night? The conversation was pleasant and he said he knew I wasn't bothering anyone, and wished me well. It was a nice start to the day. I asked where to get a cup of coffee and he suggested the Village Inn. I followed his advice and warmed myself with some bean brew and a good breakfast. More importantly, I thawed out my aching fingers.

The North Coast Inland Trail (NCIT) begins in Elmore. It is a nice paved rail-trail that the Buckeye Trail now follows. It was an easy ride through the little burg of Lindsey, and then on to Fremont. I stopped to visit the Hayes Presidential Museum and Library. The kind people at the museum allowed me to bring my bike into the building. I enjoyed the exhibits highlighting the life of our 19th President and his wife, Lucy.



Statue and black-and-white photo of Rutherford B. Hayes at the Hayes Presidential Museum and Library

Afterwards, I bought a box of matches, since my cigarette lighter wasn't worth a damn and continued along the trail, parallel to a railroad track. Several long trains chugged by me as I pedaled. I noticed several cats along the way. As soon as the cats would see me approaching, they would scamper off into the nearest brush, hunker down, and stare at me until I passed.

My next destination was Bellevue - a fairly good sized town. The trail follows the main drag into the downtown. On the far east end, I found the local VFW Post 1238. Bob, the quartermaster, had given me permission to stay on the property.

When I checked in with the bartender, the lady informed me that a local church was having a free Thanksgiving dinner. I said thanks, but I planned to go downtown for my dinner. While setting up my tent in the shelter house behind the building, a man and woman walked out and invited me to their feast. They made it hard to say no! The two escorted me to their church. It was a small church of about 50 members, and they have been putting on this community event for the past 15 years. Free to anyone and no donations accepted. I went through the line of food and was offered more fare than I could possibly eat. Sitting down at a table, Cheryl, the lady who came out to my tent, joined me. It was heartening to see how much her church community meant to her. It was nice to be a small part of such a Christian gathering. I'm not particularly religious, but I admire people putting their faith into such happy endeavors.

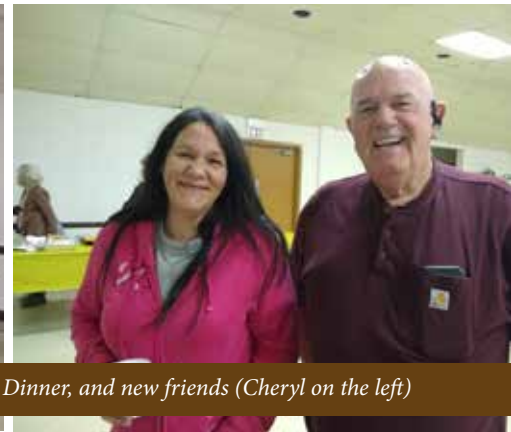
One of the things about being out in November are the long nights. It's dark at 6 PM. The VFW is private, but they welcomed this wayward stranger. My spirits were warmed with cheap spirits from the bar as I reviewed my maps and checked in with family on the phone. Sixties and seventies music from the jukebox filled the room. The head man, Bill, came over and introduced himself, and made me most welcome. He expressed his concern with my being out in the elements during a snowstorm with freezing rain and hoped I'd sleep in the carport. I did not, save for moving my bike there. I went to bed, snug in my tent despite the elements outside. I slept well, other than all the racket of the incessant trains that went by on the nearby double tracks, blowing their whistles all night.

### Sunday, November 24

Despite the night's inclement weather, the morning was clear and pleasant. I packed up my gear on the bike. The trail beyond this point was unpaved, the surface being a crushed gravel surface, smooth, but a bit wet and soft from the previous night's precipitation. While the day began as sunny and clear, clouds soon filled the sky. As usual, I had the trail all to myself, except for a couple of young runners. Two separate pairs of Bald Eagles flew over the path. Just prior to Norwalk, I stopped to admire the old masonry RR bridge over the Huron River the trail crossed on, built in the 1800's. I am struck by the engineering and artistry of



Old RR Bridge (pictured left).



Thanksgiving Dinner, and new friends (Cheryl on the left)

those who created these stone masterpieces in the days prior to power equipment. I just cannot fathom how these beautiful structures were built back then. In downtown Norwalk, I stopped at the Main Street Café for a meal, but the main reason was to warm my cold feet. The last leg of my ride was to the village of Wakeman, much of it with woods on either side of the trail.

About three miles prior to Wakeman, the gravel path ended, and one had to ride roads to get to the village. I was later told that with the railroad bed gone, the land was now agricultural fields in the possession of farmers who have no intent of forfeiting their land. I called Steve Matus, the Village Administrator. He told me to pitch my tent on the grounds of the police station. I did so, a bit tricky in the wind, everything blowing this way and that. It's been my experience whenever in northern Ohio, it's windier than a preacher at a revival.

I was wandering the village when Steve called me back. He suggested that we meet at The Elevator, named for the purpose it once served by the RR tracks. It had since been converted into a restaurant bar. Steve and his girlfriend, Sherri, soon pulled up in a pickup truck. We exchanged greetings and introductions, and went in to the Elevator for a couple of festive beers - Great Lakes Christmas Ale with cinnamon crusted around the edge of the glass. Steve was long-time friends with the lady behind the bar, Mary Beth. Everyone in town knows Steve. He told me he is a retired high school teacher and coach, and now fills his time as the Village Administrator, custodian and "go to man" at his local Catholic Church. He was one of those very friendly people who is very easy to get to know and most interesting to talk to. Afterwards, he and Sherri drove me around the village and then dropped me off at the local pizza place for me to eat before resting for the night.



Steve, Sherri and Mary Beth at The Elevator



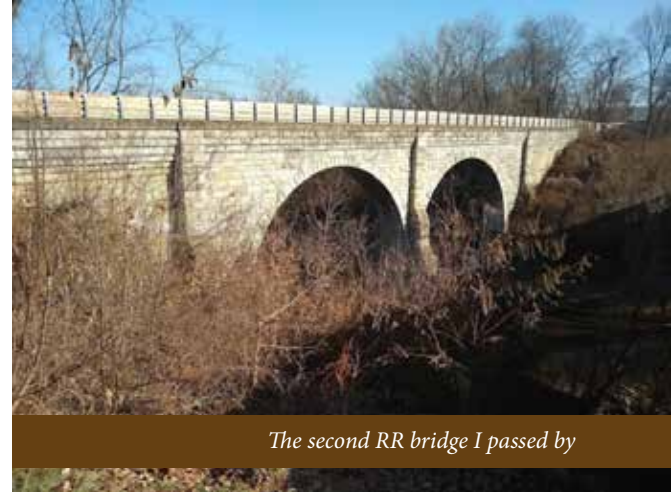
## Monday, November 25

When I just about done loading up my bike, Steve rolled in on his truck, and invited me to breakfast. Before we headed over to Sterk's Restaurant, he introduced me to the police chief, Tim, who said I owed them \$39.95 for the night, with a grin. We took seats at the counter in the restaurant. I suspect we were there an hour and a half, talking with a rotating influx of local characters - all very ornery old men. With the stories, jokes, comments, and teasing the waitress, all I did was laugh the whole time. Steve knew everyone. It's amazing what a small world it is. One of the old gents said his father grew up in Shawnee. The fellow I was sitting next to, Dave, said he had land and a cabin near Londonderry on the Buckeye Trail. I showed him a photo I took of a sign on my hike there, and he exclaimed, "That's MY sign!" What are the odds? The humor of Dave's sign made me laugh at the time I took the photo. Listening to Dave, it did not surprise me that it was his. Steve later told me that Dave Buscher was internationally known in the racing world (when I got back home, I checked....he's all over the internet). Dave built performance engines and had a very successful business he started from nothing. He's now retired.

Steve and I said our goodbyes. I felt like I had been treated like a celebrity in Wakemen. Steve's kindness and generosity, and that of the village, was almost unbelievable. Of all the places I've visited on the Buckeye Trail, little Wakeman holds first place for hospitality. Before leaving town, I stopped at the local park, photographed the historic sign and RR bridge that was sister to the one I admired west of Norwalk. The trail going east was once again paved with asphalt. About a mile or two out of town, the BT left the NCIT and turned south on country roads. It was a quiet ride through the rural farm country of this part of the state. I saw a buck cross the road ahead of me on a full run. It was amazing to see how these animals can move. He darted across a very large field in almost no time. The boy was definitely in a hurry to get somewhere or avoid something behind him! I thought it must've been hunting season. Eighteen miles later I arrived at Findley State Park. My van was still there, with all four wheels and unmarked. I packed up and returned home. Another great outing!

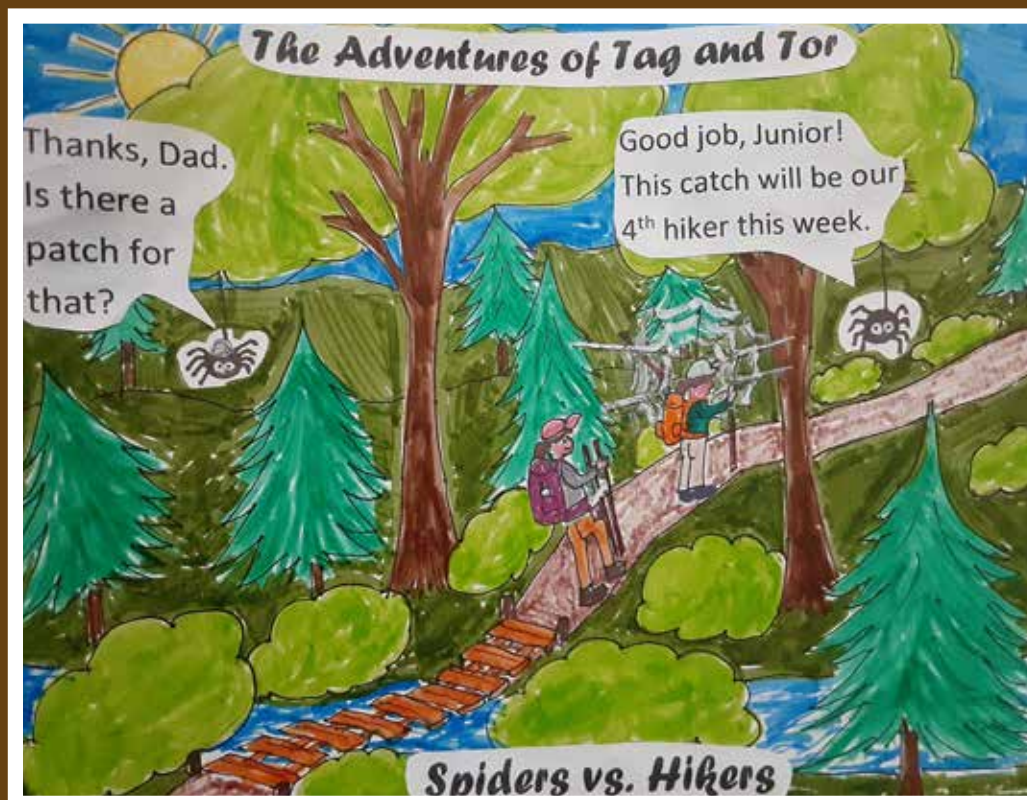


*Dave Buscher's humorous sign by the Buckeye Trail*



*The second RR bridge I passed by*

## THE ADVENTURES OF TAG AND TOR



All of us BT hikers have been caught in the elaborate, sticky, silk orbs created by our arachnid friends. Those pesky webs typically span the gap across the trail and are inconveniently spun at chest and/or face height. What a nuisance for that first hiker on trail. But before guilt sets in for depriving the spider of breakfast, it's good to know that a hungry spider will eat the leftover threads of its web for the protein. How's that for recycling?

~ Karen Power  
& Jeri Getts

# 2022 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

## JANUARY

### January 22-23, 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 a little less than a mile north of Clendening Lake Rd, 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](mailto:shuttjay@gmail.com)

### January 27, 2022

#### Winter BTA Chapter Leadership Summit

The Summit meeting will be a virtual meeting starting at 7:00pm.

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

### January 29, 2022

#### BTA Board Meeting

The Board meeting will be a virtual meeting starting at 9:00am.

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

## FEBRUARY

### February 5-6, 2022

#### BTA Circuit Hike - Bowerston Section and Belle Valley Sections

**Saturday:** Saturday's hike is from Bowerston Section Point 26, SR 800 at Marina Rd., just north of OH 799. GPS Coordinates N40.16339 W081.23693 to Point 32 parking at the intersection of Lodge Rd. and Half Penny Lane., GPS Coordinates N40.13737 W084.35724. This is a distance of 10.9 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Lodge Rd. to carpool to SR 800 @ Marina Rd.

**Sunday:** Sunday's hike is from Belle Valley Section Point 1 parking at intersection of Lodge rd. and Half Penny Lane. GPS Coordinates N40.13737 W084.35724 to Point 6 - Salt Fork Group Camp off of Parker Rd. (T587) about 0.3 mile north of Cadiz Rd (US 22). GPS Coordinates N40.09731 W081.44720. This is a distance of 11.0 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Salt Fork Group Camp to carpool to Point 1 on Lodge 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](mailto:shuttjay@gmail.com)

### February 5, 2022

#### Findley Winter Hike

Join fellow hiking enthusiasts for a great day hiking at Findley Satate Park on the Wyandton & Hickory Trail! There will be two hiking options: a 5 mile hike and a 10 mile hike. The hike will start at 10am. Meet at the campground pavilion (25381 State Route 58, Wellington, OH 44090. We hope to see you there!

**Contact:** Valerie Gardner at [valerie.gardner@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:valerie.gardner@buckeyetrail.org)

### February 12, 2022

#### BRRRR Oak Winter Hike

Join fellow hiking enthusiasts for a great day hiking at Burr Oak State Park in Glouster, Ohio. This year, we will have four starting times for the different hike lengths because of COVID concerns so as to not overcrowd the lodge at once. The 8 mile hike will begin at 9am; the 5 mile hike will begin at 9:30am; the 3 mile hike will begin at 10am; the 1-mile interpretive hike with Park Naturalist, Julie Gee, will begin at 10:30am. All hikers should meet at the lodge at least 10 minutes before their hike begins. Free bean soup and corn bread will be available after the hikes. Wear sturdy footwear and dress for the weather!

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

## MARCH

### March 5-6, 2022

#### BTA Circuit Hike - Defiance Section

**Saturday:** Saturday's hike is from Defiance Section Point 4+ Legion Field across from 1418 Jackson St., Defiance, GPS Coordinates N41.27215 W084.38385 to Point 10 Canal Falls River Access on SR 424, east of the Village of Florida. GPS Coordinates N41.33247 W084.18185. This is a distance of 13.4 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. Canal Falls River Access on SR 424 to carpool to Legion Field across on Jackson St.

**Sunday:** Sunday's hike is from Defiance Section Point 10 Canal Falls River Access on SR 424 east of the Village of Florida. GPS Coordinates N41.33247 W084.18185 to Point 13 Vorwerk Park 1501 E. Riverview Ave., Napoleon (SR 424). GPS Coordinates N41.41013 W084.08972. This is a distance of 9.7 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Vorwerk Park to carpool to Point 10 Canal Falls River Access.

**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](mailto:shuttjay@gmail.com)

## To Register to Trail Crew Work Parties, go to the new registration form link below!

<https://app.etapestry.com/cart/BuckeyeTrailAssociationInc/default/>

The Trail Work Parties will be uploaded by January 31, 2022. Until then, please mark your calendars and let the Volunteer Leader of the work party know that you're interested in joining.

### March 26-27, 2022

#### BTA Circuit Hike - Road Fork Section

**Saturday:** Saturday's hike is from Road Fork Section Point 21, Ring Mill Campground on T575 east of intersection with Jericho Low Gap Rd. GPS Coordinates N39.60722 W081.12162 to Point 26 trail crossing at SR 260 about 0.9 mile east of Rd. 34, GPS Coordinates N39.53693 W081.16335. This is a distance of 11.1 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Point 26 trail crossing at SR 260 to carpool to Ring Mill Campground.

**Sunday:** Sunday's hike is from Road Fork Section Point 26 trail crossing at SR 260 about 0.9 mile east of Rd. 34, GPS Coordinates N39.53693 W081.16335 to Point 31 Trail Head on C.R. 9, GPS Coordinates N39.47557 W081.17663. This is a distance of 11.3 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Trail Head on C.R. 9 to carpool to Point 26 trail crossing at SR 260.

**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](mailto:shuttjay@gmail.com)

W083.86901 to Pemberville Section Point 2+ Lusher Park, 202 S. Findlay St., Haskins, GPS Coordinates N41.46353 W083.70468. This is a distance of 12.9 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Lusher Park to carpool to Providence Metro 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](mailto:shuttjay@gmail.com)

### April 30 - May 4, 2022

#### Trail Crew Work Party - Little Cities of the Forest Chapter

Dust off the ol' trail tools and come out to Hocking Hills as the forest comes back to life during the first work party of the year. We will be working on finishing up the Little Rocky and Sheick Hollow State Nature Preserve trail reroute. We will work from 8:30am to 3:30pm. We hope to see you there to kick off the work party season off right!

**Camping:** Bishop Gardens, 13200 Little Cola Rd, Rockbridge, OH 43149  
**Meals:** Chuckwagon, sign up when you register and check out.

**Registration:** If you plan to attend a this work party, please sign up using our new registration form

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

## A P R I L

### April 23, 2022

#### BTA Board Meeting

This Board meeting will be held in person. Location and time TBD.

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

### April 30 - May 1, 2022

#### BTA MoreFest

BTA MoreFest is the signature annual membership event of the Muskingum Lakes Chapter. Typically held during the last week of April, MoreFest is planned to coincide with the maturing of morel mushrooms in the Muskingum Lakes Region. Since 2017, MoreFest has been based at the BTA's Beall Farmstead on Tappan Lake offering participants the opportunity to camp there. Activities include morel hunting hikes, presentations, live musical entertainment on Saturday evening and lots of sitting around the campfire.

**For more information** on BTA MoreFest 2022, contact MoreFest organizers at [morefest@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:morefest@buckeyetrail.org).

### April 30 - May 1, 2022

#### BTA Circuit Hike - Defiance and Pemberville Sections

**Saturday:** Saturday's hike is from Defiance Section Point 13 Vorwerk Park on SR 424, GPS Coordinates N41.41013 W084.08972 to Point 17+ Providence Metro Park parking lot, GPS Coordinates N41.41772 W083.86901. This is a distance of 12.2 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. Providence Metro Park parking lot to carpool to Vorwerk Park on SR 424.

**Sunday:** Sunday's hike is from Defiance Section Point 17+ at Providence Metro Park parking lot, GPS Coordinates N41.41772

## M A Y

### May 14 - 18, 2022

#### Trail Crew Work Party - Muskingum Lakes Chapter

Here's another chance to volunteer with the Buckeye Trail for a 5 day work party! We will be focusing on maintenance at Clendening Lake between the state route 799 road points. If you are new to volunteering, have no fear, we will provide you with tools and on site training too! We will work from 8:30am to 3:00pm.

**Camping:** The BTA Barn at Tappan Lake, 83949 Beale Rd, Cadiz, OH

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

**Registration:** If you plan to attend a this work party, please sign up using our new registration form

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

### May 21 - 25, 2022

#### Trail Crew Work Party - Miami & Erie Chapter

Here's another chance to volunteer with the Buckeye Trail for a 5 day work party! We will be focusing on trail work in the St. Mary's Section at Leighy Lake, and benching trail near Cole Shelter. If you are new to volunteering, have no fear, we will provide you with tools and on site training too! We will work from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

**Camping:** Lake Loramie State Park Group Camp, 4401 Fort Loramie-Swanders Rd, Minster, OH 45865)

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

**Registration:** If you plan to attend a this work party, please sign up using our new registration form

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

**Buckeye Trail Association**

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