

BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Trailblazer



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Editor's Note

In our Autumn / Fall 2021 issue of the Trailblazer, we included a submitted article from a hiker on the Buckeye Trail who had concerns with the trees cut down in Pike State Forest ("Two Hikes at Pike State Forest: the Beautiful and the Ugly"). In this issue, we've included a submitted article from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources about the importance of forest management to preserve biodiversity for wildlife who rely on young forest habitat to survive. You can find their article, "Ohio State's Forests: Managing for the Future" on pages 12 to 13.

The Buckeye Trail Association fondly remembers the lives of BTA members who've passed away this last year; including Richard Tresenrider, Joanne Dobbins (Akron Hiking Club), and Donald Burrell.

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



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Photo credit: Micah Webster

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 feature in the Trailblazer.

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The Blue Blaze Academy is Finally Here!



Andrew Bashaw

As some of you may know, a few years ago the Buckeye Trail Association was developing a series of instructional workshops for its volunteers under the name “Blue Blaze Academy”. It was scheduled to take place in June 2020, but the Covid-19 pandemic put the project on hold. We are happy to announce that we are in the process of launching Blue Blaze Academy anew, in partnership with our friends at the North Country Trail Association.

The first Blue Blaze Academy workshops will be held at the BTA Beall Farmstead by Tappan Lake on April 23-24, 2022. The workshops will cover a variety of topics related to building and maintaining trails, such as trail safety, trail design, corridor rehabilitation, and tool care. The Blue Blaze Academy is designed for volunteers of all skill levels and experience– whether you’ve been on the Trail Crew for years, or have never picked up a Pulaski in your life (don’t worry, we’ll teach you what it is, and how to use it!). Attendees will spend the weekend camping at the Barn and gain hands-on experience in the surrounding trails. Space is limited, so don’t wait to sign up!



Register at:

<https://forms.gle/iuTMoChxkgSrC7g7>

Contact:

morgan.thomas@buckeyetrail.org

President's Message

Steve Walker

As I write this in early March, it's 70 degrees Fahrenheit outside and sunny. The Buckeye Trail is never far from my thoughts but is particularly close today as spring is showing its face. For the past three months, the work of the Buckeye Trail Association has mostly been inside. As noted in other articles in this edition of the Trailblazer, the staff and volunteers have been unusually busy in a time of the year when the usual pace of trail business is slower. For the past year, your favorite trail organization has been preparing for a growth spurt that is starting to unfold now. This growth spurt is not measured in membership numbers — although that is an important consideration for us to remember. The scope of the Buckeye Trail Association and the resources that it can bring to your favorite trail are about to grow steadily. For that growth to be successful, we need more volunteers. Wondering how you can help? Continue reading on!

As mentioned elsewhere in this Trailblazer, we now have our very first bill in the U.S. Congress. Introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives on December 3, 2021, House Resolution 6142, the Buckeye National Scenic Trail Feasibility Study Act of 2021 is the first step for the Buckeye Trail to become a National Scenic Trail like the Florida Trail and the Arizona Trail. We're working with Senators Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman to introduce a precisely similar bill into the U.S. Senate. Both bills need to pass before the 117th Congress adjourns for 2022. We need your help to advocate for passage of these bills.

Financial resources are incoming this year that will allow for capacity building for the BTA administration to manage the many projects that have been or are being planned. With that comes the need for volunteers to help bring the projects to completion. Elsewhere in this Trailblazer, those projects are mentioned and include Buckeye Trail segments in the Athens and Marietta Units of the Wayne National Forest as well as searching for new offroad segments in the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. As these projects begin to be built, volunteers will be needed to make that happen.

The Buckeye Trail's new status as a State Recreational Trail came about partly as a result of our Memorandum of Understanding with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and forges a new relationship with one of our oldest partners. This partnership will translate into more progress for Buckeye Trail projects on ODNR lands. More progress means more volunteers will be needed.



Byron Guy

If you can help with any of the projects and tasks mentioned in the previous paragraphs, email me at president@buckeyetrail.org. It seems like I'm always asking for your help with Buckeye Trail projects because I am. My admiration for our Buckeye Trail volunteers is enormous and I am always looking to grow the BTA family. I'd like to highlight one of BTA's family members and that member's recent encounter with the effects of nature. On February 3, 2022, Winter Storm Landon paid a visit to Southern Ohio, including the Old Man's Cave Section of the Buckeye Trail between Points 14 and 15. A large number of trees as well as some high branches fell across the Buckeye Trail that day in that trail segment. On February 26th, Byron Guy, our Old Man's Cave Section Supervisor, led Joel Timmons and Gabe Zannetti into the devastated trail segment and cleared the way for hikers. It's a great family to belong to and I urge you to join.* I hope to see you on the Buckeye Trail or at a Buckeye Trail event. Have a great Spring.

*The Buckeye Trail Association is in the early stages of developing a State Sawyer program and a chain sawyer registry for the state of Ohio. Since 2018, we have been recruiting and training chain sawyers to help with local maintenance and trail clearing.

If you would like to become a chain sawyer and help to keep the Buckeye Trail clear for hikers, please email me at president@buckeyetrail.org.

If you spot any fallen trees across the Buckeye Trail, you can report them at buckeyetrail.org/report.php



Fallen trees at Tecumseh Lake on Feb. 5, 2022. Photo credit: Richard Lutz

On the Trail ...

There is a lot going on with the Buckeye Trail and Buckeye Trail Association these days, even more than usual! The Buckeye Trail has been designated a State Trail by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the BTA has an Memorandum of understanding with ODNR. U.S. Congressmen Tim Ryan and Anthony Gonzalez have introduced a bill, H.R. 6142, to Congress to conduct a feasibility study on a Buckeye National Scenic Trail. And, the BTA has secured over \$2.7 million in grant funding for three large regional projects over the next two to five years. This is all cause for celebration and a great acknowledgement of generations of volunteer work! We are fulfilling that early pandemic promise of pivoting our work during challenging times to aim for where we were heading, not just picking up where we left off - thriving instead of just surviving.

In the following two pages you'll see explanations on what State Trail designation and H.R. 6142 mean to the BTA. As state in the previous page by Steve Walker, BTA Board President, all this good news also means more work, more opportunities, and a better Buckeye Trail experience for us all.

The funding comes from three separate grants. This includes an ODNR Division of Mineral Resources Management AMLER grant to relocate 20 miles of the BT off of roads between the Village of Shawnee and Burr Oak State Park onto Athens Unit - Wayne National Forest lands, including nine long engineered bridges, which will connect trail systems together to create a 100 mile backpacking network, the largest in Ohio. It also includes our part of an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Power Grant to plan and implement improvements in the 35 mile segment of the BT through the Marietta Unit of the Wayne National Forest with a collaborative of partners. Third, we have received funding from our partners at the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) for the 'Green Corridor' project. This funding will help support our work towards creating a permanently protected corridor for the BT connecting MWCD lakes together into a unified trail experience.

Does \$2.7 million dollars mean the BTA is "rich"? No. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, each of those dollars goes to the mission of the BTA: to build, maintain, protect and promote Ohio's 1,400+ mile State Trail. Each of these projects are right in line with what the BTA has planned and hoped for a long time, but previously lacked resources to accomplish. While a vast majority of the funds are for the physical projects, for example the cost of a 75' bridge and contractor to install it, we were able to designate a portion of the funding for project management by the BTA. Project management in-



*L-R; State Representative Brian Stewart, Andrew Bashaw, BTA Executive Director, Steve Walker, BTA President and Mary Mertz, ODNR Director
Photo courtesy of David Roorbach, ODNR*

cludes many things: organizing the meeting of stakeholders and building consensus, laying out miles of trail, preparing planning documents, overseeing quality control with contractors, organizing volunteers to construct portions of the BT as matching in-kind contributions to the grant project, and more. Leveraging these three funding sources we are able to, and need to, bring on another staff person to the BTA team primarily focused on serving and supporting these three large regional projects for up to five years. We are also able to invest a little more in our core operations in order to serve our current and future volunteers and the increased work load.

These are good challenges to have, and we can't succeed without the support of BTA Members like you who support BTA volunteers, and staff, that have gotten us where we are today. While the BTA is far from "rich," we are growing, and with growth comes growing pains. I appreciate your patience, positivity, and support of your BTA Board, staff and volunteers as we figure out our next best steps to make the BT and the BTA better for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you for hiking!

Andrew Bashaw
Executive Director
Buckeye Trail Association

What does designating the Buckeye Trail as A State Trail Really Mean?

The annual BRRRRR Oak Winter Hike always makes for a good day on the Buckeye Trail and this year was no different. There was an added element on February 12, however, that turned it from a good to an exceptional day on the trail: Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Director Mary Mertz signed an entry in her journal that officially designated the Buckeye Trail as a State Trail.

ODNR and the BTA have been partners since our organization's beginning in 1959. Our partnership is as strong and growing as ever, which may be why the designation as A State Trail may not feel like a dramatic change. But if not dramatic, it is very important. Designation recognizes the prominence of the BT in Ohio's trail network. So, what does it mean for the BT to be designated as a State Trail? First, not only is there an official entry in the ODNR Director's journal, but also the BTA and ODNR now have their first Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) since the 1970's. Together, the MOU and the journal acknowledge and activate many good things, but three specific items are worthy of being called out:

- ODNR will cooperate with BTA to identify any additional state-owned property that may be appropriate for future development of the Buckeye Trail.
- Both ODNR and BTA agree to work collaboratively to create, maintain, and preserve a permanent corridor for the Buckeye Trail, and...
- Work to promote hiking and enjoyment of the Buckeye Trail, including marketing and programming.

We've been proud to call the Buckeye Trail Ohio's State Trail since the 1960's. However, Ohio's Recreational Trail law wasn't created until 1972 which includes the authority of the ODNR Director to designate State Trails. Now, forty years later, the BT is officially A State Trail per Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 1519. The ORC spells out some of the items that shall or may be done for a State Trail, or with a private organization like the Buckeye Trail Association for maintenance of a State Trail.

Being designated as A State Trail does not change anything on the ground for the BT, but it does provide more opportunities for the BTA to work with ODNR on improving the BT experience for years to come. The BTA still is the leader in building, maintaining, preserving and promoting the BT as it has been since 1959. The BT is still primarily developed as a hiking trail, although we continue to cooperate with other trail communities such as the Ohio Horsemen's Council, Ohio Mountain Bike Alliance, and Rails to Trails Conservancy at times to move the BT off of roads

onto shared use trail use. Designation does not make the BT a State Park or State owned. The land management authorities of our vast network of private and public land manager hosts remain the same. It does not mean that ODNR is obligated to provide funding to the BTA, including for general operations. Designation does not obligate ODNR or the BTA to anything that we aren't already working on together today.

A Dynamic Partnership

Over the past year we have worked together to identify many potential relocations of the BT off of roads and on to ODNR owned properties. Just in the recent past ODNR has acquired lands that benefit a wide array of outdoor recreation needs, including a permanently protected corridor for Ohio's BT. Those land acquisitions include 40,000 acres for the new Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area and 1,500 acres added to Shawnee State Forest through the Forest Legacy Program. We also have secured a grant through ODNR Division of Mineral Resource Management to relocate 20 miles of the BT off of roads and on to more Wayne National Forest lands between Burr Oak State Park and the Village of Shawnee. ODNR has helped to promote the BT, BTA, and hiking in a variety of ways, including funding and installing our interpretive panels around the BT on ODNR properties, creating a BT webpage on the ODNR website that highlights our produced video, and more.

The BT has been treated well by our partner thanks to the consistency of good, hard work by BTA volunteers for over 60 years. Recognition as A State Trail and an agreement with the Department can help set shared goals for the BT across ODNR Divisions (Parks & Watercraft, Wildlife, Forestry, Natural Areas & Preserves) where land management values may change. It also can set a standard from one Administration to the next, and through staff turnover at the BTA or ODNR. This will help keep both partners focused over time on cooperatively building, maintaining, preserving, and promoting one of Ohio's greatest outdoor treasures, the BT.

So what's the big deal?

Looking over ORC 1519 and our MOU, it becomes clearer to me that the reason there is no dramatic change due to the big news of designation is because both parties have been working together over the past few years as if the BT were already A State Trail. The recent designation is, in part, an acknowledgement of our existing partnership and shared goals, each item in ORC or our agreement having multiple successes achieved and a lifetime of work to do.

What does H.R. 6142 – the Buckeye National Scenic Trail Feasibility Study Act Really Mean?

On December 3, 2021 Representatives Tim Ryan and Anthony Gonzalez of Northeast Ohio introduced H.R. 6142. Gonzalez had inquired about the possibility a few years back, and Ryan had the same general question: Is Ohio's 1,400+ mile State Trail deserving of national recognition? Since that day, H.R. 6142 has been referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. We provided testimony at the Subcommittees Hearing on February 3, 2022. The House Committee on Natural Resources met on February 16 for a Consideration and Mark-up Session. And the bill, as amended by Committee Chair Neguse, was adopted and ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent. So here we are, the Buckeye Trail has a bipartisan sponsored bill on the Floor of the US House of Representatives.

The Act reads: *“To amend the National Trails System Act to authorize a study on the feasibility of designating the Buckeye Trail as a national scenic trail, and for other purposes.”*

This Bill would not designate the Buckeye Trail as the 12th National Scenic Trail, which would take another bill introduced to congress based on the findings of the feasibility study proposed in H.R. 6142. According to the National Park Service, feasibility studies of this type can take a long time, 6 to 15 years, due at least in part to the current work load of the agency. Feasibility studies include a determination as to whether it would be physically and financially feasible to develop a trail along the route being studied.

So, again, what's the big deal then? Our Buckeye Trail is being considered for national recognition. Just being considered, and getting through Committee, is a great compliment to the hard work of generations of Buckeye Trail Association (or BTA) volunteers who have built, maintained, protected and promoted the trail they dreamed to hike - and share with us all. I don't know about you, but I think it is pretty amazing that 60+ years of BTA volunteers focused on one great idea can create something from scratch, with our own bare hands, that grows into something of national significance.

Is potential designation as a National Scenic Trail really something that the BTA wants? Yes. While we are proud of our self-reliant can-do spirit, this designation would help to leverage our volunteer and staff efforts to bring more resources to the Buckeye Trail itself that would help create an even better Buckeye Trail experience for all BT hikers.

National Scenic Trails are described as “...extended trails

providing for maximum outdoor recreation potential and conservation and enjoyment of nationally significant... qualities of the areas through which such trails may pass.” In our opinion that description sounds like the BT. Now at 1,450 miles, the Buckeye Trail is an extended and continuous route, which would be the 5th longest National Scenic Trail, between the Appalachian Trail and the Florida Trail. The BT maximizes outdoor recreation potential, conservation, and enjoyment by connecting and stewarding sites around the State in one unified experience – including, as you know well, the Wayne National Forest, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, many National Historic Landmarks, National Natural Areas, the Little Miami National Wild & Scenic River, and many more sites on the National Register of Historic Places.

We are pleased Congressmen Ryan and Gonzalez are inspired by the BT in their backyards, connecting their constituents to the rest of the Buckeye State, and the National Trail System, elevating Ohio's treasure for consideration. The idea of a Buckeye National Scenic Trail adds significant visibility to our volunteers' work and our federal, state, and local land management partners. Designating the BT would be an investment in the people of Ohio, our recreation economy, the increased demand for access to Ohio's great outdoors - for a greater diversity of Americans, and sharing our nationally significant stories all around the BT's circuitous route. We believe that consideration of the BT for designation is a cost-effective investment in the enrichment of the National Trails System as a whole.

What you can do to help:

National Scenic Trail designation would be a long road, but you can help today! It's impressive that H.R. 6142 has made it to the House Floor. Now is the time to contact your Representative to ask them to sign on to the Bill. This is relatively simple and painless. Representatives want to hear from you, their constituent, as it is their job to represent your interests. You can call them or email them and ask them directly to sign on to this important bi-partisan bill for the reasons above, or your own personal reasons. Representatives are people just like the rest of us, trying in their own way to make life better for their District. We encourage you to reach out and get to know them and be an ambassador for the great idea of Ohio's Buckeye Trail.

You can find your Representative here: <https://www.house.gov/> by typing in your address to find your Representative. You may also contact Steve Walker, President of the BTA Board of Trustees, for advice at president@buckeyetrail.org.

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.

NOVEMBER 2, 2021 TO FEBRUARY 1, 2022

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Funds Report continued on next page

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**Buckeye Trail's
Biggest Day Hike**



**National Trails day, June 4th, 2022,
Anytime all day**
Where? On the Buckeye Trail!

Goal: Hike as much of the BT in 1 day as possible!
Contact: BigDayHike@buckeyetrail.org



BTA MORELFEST 2022

April 29 - May 1, 2022

BTA Beall Farmstead, Deersville Ohio

Join us for a weekend of hiking,
music, food, camping and, of course,
MORELS!

For more information about MoreFest,
contact morefest@buckeyetrail.org
and follow BTA MoreFest on
Facebook for up-to-date information.

Want to see your business or event advertised in the next Trailblazer?

Ad space is available in each issue of the *Trailblazer* magazine and is sent to people throughout the state of Ohio!

Ad size	For one issue	For FOUR issues
1/8 page (3.75" x 2.5")	\$30.00	\$90.00
1/4 page (3.75" x 2.5")	\$60.00	\$180.00
1/2 page (7.5" x 5")	\$120.00	\$360.00
Full page (7.5" x 10")	\$240.00	\$720.00

Submitted advertisements must be at a resolution of 300 dpi or greater. The BTA can provide some minimal graphic assistance for an additional moderate fee (email trailblazer@buckeyetrail.org for more details). The BTA reserves the right to decline ads that may conflict with our mission

Welcome to Serpent Mound

*Jennifer Aultman, Director of Historic Sites and Museums,
Ohio History Connection*

“Serpent Mound was purposefully built for a spiritual, sacred purpose. I should think that anyone that views the Serpent will realize its sacredness and treat this place as they would any cathedral, synagogue, or mosque. When we see this place, this is our holy ground.”

-Chief Ben Barnes, Shawnee Tribe

Located in Adams County between Fort Hill and Peebles on the Buckeye Trail, Serpent Mound is the largest snake effigy known from the ancient world. Built by American Indians and stewarded today by the Ohio History Connection, the spectacular earthwork is a National Historic Landmark and is on the U.S. Tentative List for possible inclusion on the World Heritage List—a collection of the globe’s most remarkable natural and cultural icons. When visiting the site, prior to seeing the Serpent, hikers will first encounter two burial mounds associated with the Adena culture (800 BC to AD 100) and one mound connected to the later Fort Ancient culture (AD 1000 to 1650). A large Fort Ancient culture village also occupied the area near the shelter house. Archaeologists debate whether the people of the Adena or Fort Ancient culture built Serpent Mound, though evidence leans toward the later Fort Ancient culture. We encourage you to take a few moments to sit quietly and imagine all that this site has been across the past 2,000-plus years before you proceed down the hill to experience the Serpent.

Buckeye Trail hikers have an especially wonderful opportunity to appreciate the Serpent’s broader landscape when approaching the site on foot. The bluff to which the Serpent clings was created by a meteorite impact about 300 million years ago. This impact created unique geology by jumbling layers of sedimentary bedrock, a feature of the land undoubtedly recognized by ancient American Indians who knew the area’s geology well. Ohio Brush Creek, which surrounds the bluff atop which the Serpent coils, must have served as a means of transportation, a place of recreation and cleansing, and a source of life-giving water and food. The bluff, the creek, the rolling landscape, the burial mounds, the Fort Ancient village, and the Serpent are all part of a seamless landscape that speaks to the longstanding presence and continued vitality of American Indian culture in beautiful Adams County.

Serpent Mound remains important today to American Indians with historic ties to Ohio, and it holds a special connection for the federally-recognized Shawnee tribes. For the 2021 summer solstice, Chief Glenna Wallace of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe and Chief Ben Barnes of the Shawnee Tribe came from Oklahoma to

this ancestral site. For three days, they gave public talks about why Serpent Mound is so important to Shawnee people and how the U.S. government’s forced removal of their ancestors from these Ohio homelands in the 1830s still impacts Shawnee people today. Most importantly, a reconnection between the Serpent and the Shawnee and other tribes is underway today. Look for more information about the 2022 summer and winter solstice events at ohiohistory.org/visit/museum-and-site-locator/serpent-mound.

Visiting Serpent Mound

Buckeye Trail hikers visit Serpent Mound often and are an exceptionally respectful group. Please approach the site with the reverence requested by Chief Barnes above, recognizing that this is a sacred American Indian site. Also, to help Ohio History Connection secure and protect this remarkable place please refrain from entering the site when it is closed. Hours change seasonally and with weather conditions, and are online at ohiohistory.org/visit/museum-and-site-locator/serpent-mound or available by phone at 1.800.752.2757. The museum/gift shop and restrooms are available April-October. The grounds and port-a-johns are available during open hours in winter. The site is closed on Mondays year-round for mowing and maintenance.

When visiting the site, please say hi to Beth Jenkins, who serves as the Historic Site Group Lead, and the rest of the staff. They have a wealth of knowledge about the site and local area and pride themselves in serving as a resource for Buckeye Trail hikers. If you live nearby and would consider volunteering to help with regular light trail maintenance on the site’s Nature Trail, please contact Beth at bjenkins@ohiohistory.org or Jen Aultman, Director of Historic Sites and Museums, at jaultman@ohiohistory.org. Thank you!



View of Serpent Mound from the observation tower. Ohio History Connection

Karen Power: Beyond the Buckeye Trail

Andy “Captain Blue” Niekamp

Hiking Power

With six decades under her belt, avid hiker Karen Power made a life-changing decision. “More of my life was behind me than was ahead and that kind of realization is a strong motivator to make changes and set new goals,” she said. “I wanted to live life in a bigger way.” The now 67-year-old found this path on the hiking trail. “My goal was to challenge myself to do something I had never done before – find adventure, meet new people, find a new purpose for getting out of bed every morning, do something I enjoy,” she said. The Fairborn grandmother of four wasn’t satisfied with local day hikes – Power was all-in on hiking. After completing the 1400+ mile Buckeye Trail in 2019, she set her sights on the Florida National Scenic Trail and Sheltowee Trace National Recreation Trail. She recently completed not one but both trails as a section hiker. Power wrapped up the 1,100-mile Florida Trail on December 2, 2021 and was back on the trail a few weeks later, completing the 343-mile Sheltowee Trace – which runs through portions of Kentucky and Tennessee – on December 31, 2021.

“Once I get started on something, I’m committed – I’ve got to finish it,” Power said, smiling. “At my age, I relish ‘first’ experiences. The more I hiked and backpacked, the more confident I became that I could actually physically and mentally do this,” she said of the challenging Florida Trail.

Age is Just a Number

Power is admittedly a bit of a late bloomer when it comes to hiking; She didn’t lace up a pair of hiking shoes until she was 60. “I have never felt that age is a challenge on a wilderness trail or any trail for that matter,” she said. “Trail mantra is ‘hike your own hike’ which means you can set your own daily mileage; you can stop for breaks whenever you’re tired; you can get on trail for a few hours, a few days or a few months.”

Power will take out her foam pad, plop down, and nap for 20 or 30 minutes if she needs a break. Then she is back on the trail. Hiking is empowering – good for her body and soul. “I am enjoying the health benefits hiking brings. It has made my bones stronger and am convinced it’s keeping my blood pressure normal and my lungs as healthy as they can be,” she said.

Not one to sit still for long, Power is already planning her next adventure, this time on the Pinhoti National Recreation Trail, a 350-mile journey through Alabama and Georgia. “I feel like the experience is a privilege at my age,” she said.

Love of Adventure

From knee-high swamp water and perhaps a venomous snake or two on the Florida Trail to five straight December days with wet feet on the Sheltowee Trace, Power is the first to admit that her journeys are not always easy – or dry for that matter. “Hiking isn’t always fun, but it never fails to be a challenge and that’s the part I find rewarding,” she said. “As a female and as a senior, it’s empowering. I’m doing something good for myself



Karen Power at Red River Gorge along the Sheltowee Trace

physically, emotionally, and psychologically. I am carrying everything I need to live for weeks at a time on my back; I wake up every morning on the trail with a sense of wanderlust. Every day there is a new place to go, new sites to see, new people to meet. Each day is a new adventure.”

Hiking also led to other opportunities for Power who became an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist in 2019. She leads interpretive hikes at Oakes Quarry in Fairborn. “I’ve also made a new circle of friends who love to hike, too,” she said. “Hiking is good for the body, soul, and social life. I’m living life in a bigger way.”

Never Too late: Power’s advice for senior hiking rookies

1. Educate yourself on trails. Attending a hiking presentation is a great way to see if hiking appeals to you.
2. Be prepared when you hike. Younger people may be able to get away with hiking in flip flops without carrying water, but it just makes sense to do the minimum – buy quality hiking shoes, poles, and a lightweight day pack.
3. Hike with a friend or in a group. Start with a slow-paced, shorter hike. Hike regularly. You’ll be amazed at how fast your stamina increases by just hiking once a week.
4. If you’re limited in mobility, start with hard, smooth surfaces. A city park trail offers just as much benefit as hiking in the woods.
5. Consider the possibilities. It’s sometimes hard for us seniors to start something new that will take us out of our comfort zones. Give yourself the latitude to try hiking.

Ohio's State Forests: Managing for the Future

Submitted by the Ohio Division of Forestry

When trekking the 1,450-mile Buckeye Trail, hikers will experience Ohio's wide range of terrains and forests. More than a third of the trail passes through properties maintained by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), primarily areas managed by the Division of Parks and Watercraft, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, Division of Wildlife, and Division of Forestry (DOF). Approximately 80 miles of the trail pass through Ohio State Forests. While each division manages their properties for different objectives, the DOF manages for multiple goals, which include sustainable timber production, wildlife habitat, soil and water protection, carbon sequestration, and recreation. Management techniques to achieve these goals require long-term planning and an active role in the landscape that creates a diversity of forest age, structure, and species composition for forest dwellers and hikers passing through.

Recreationally, the DOF provides an array of activities for all visitors. With the Buckeye Trail, there are ~600 miles of hiking, equestrian, APV, and mountain biking trails in state forests. This includes three overnight backpack trails, ranging from 20 to 46 miles long. The Ohio State Forest system offers family and horse campgrounds, remote park & pack camp sites, four shooting ranges, an 8,000-acre wilderness area, and historic fire towers throughout the state. Other popular activities that take place in the forests are fishing, mushroom hunting, rock climbing, birdwatching, and hunting.

Managing for healthy wildlife populations goes hand-in-hand with sustainable timber production. Many songbird and wildlife species require a diversity of forest ages, species compositions, and vertical structures to satisfy habitat requirements, and proper science-



Shelterwood harvest at Brush Creek State Forest. ODNR

based forest management will create that diversity through harvests. Harvests mimic natural disturbances and create young, “early-successional,” forests that provide critical foraging and breeding habitat for birds and other wildlife. In Ohio, clearcut forests respond quickly with rapid growth of trees and shrubs from the seed banks and stump sprouts — planting trees is not necessary (*pictured top of page*). These brushy areas are extremely productive for fruit-producing shrubs as well as insects, which make them highly attractive as foraging sites for birds, bats, and other wildlife. The amount of young forest in Ohio continues to decrease as forests mature, and regenerating harvests are necessary to maintain and increase this critical habitat.

While these harvests are essential and alluring to wildlife, they are not always aesthetically appealing or physically kind to humans. Initially following a harvest there is a short period where the area may look bare while the newly released or established vegetation develops in preparation for its ascension to

the sky. It will not be long before the young regrowth fills the area with a wide variety of plants so thick that it is difficult for humans to navigate, not to mention the presence of thorns. For the first decade or two following a regeneration harvest, the environment is harsh for humans, but ideal for many wildlife species that need that dense cover for food and protection from predators.

In addition to the creation of young forests for wildlife, the DOF also promotes the continued presence of oak forests, which are a high-value forest type for wildlife, the economy, a changing climate, and carbon sequestering. Oaks are considered “foundation species” that provide mast (nuts) and habitat for approximately 100 bird and mammal species, as well as habitat for insects, which represent the base of forest food chains. These forests are established and perpetuated by disturbances, natural or human-caused, that create openings in the forest canopy. This means that these forests require “disturbance” – active management – such as timber harvests and prescribed burns to maintain an oak presence. Due to the lack of fire, insufficient disturbance, and inappropriate harvests, tree species that can tolerate more shade have become a larger component of Ohio’s forests and are threatening to replace oaks into the future. This requires the DOF to continuously monitor and practice management techniques to enhance the competitiveness of oak seedlings.

Harvests not only maintain wildlife habitat and

oak forests but also provide wood needed to create products such as furniture, flooring, paper, and bourbon barrels. DOF timber harvests contribute to Ohio’s \$27 billion dollar forest industry, which employs more than 132,400 people. In addition, the DOF’s Trees-to-Textbook program returns a portion of the revenue received from timber harvests to the counties, townships, and school districts in which the harvests take place. To date, the program has provided more than \$35 million to those local governments.

All timber harvests on state forestlands are performed by Certified Master Loggers, and best management practices for erosion control (best management practices, or BMPs) are applied to ensure the quick recovery of disturbed soil. All harvests and state forests are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), third-party organizations that ensure forests are being managed responsibly and sustainably, based on the latest science.

When hiking through Ohio’s state forests, keep an eye out for management activities and think about how these practices may benefit the flora and fauna of the forest. The DOF envisions healthy, diverse forests valued for the life-sustaining benefits they provide now and forever. Maintaining diversity in Ohio’s forests is a critical piece of managing for the future.



Shawnee State Forest in autumn. ODNR

Buckeye Trail Awarded Athletic Brewing Grant for West Branch Backpacking Destination

Crooked River Chapter, co-written by Jim Sunyak and Jean Vandervaart

On September 24, 2021, the Athletic Brewing Company awarded the Buckeye Trail Association the Two for Trails grant for \$28k to complete a backpacking loop trail at the Michael J. Kirwan Reservoir at West Branch State Park, just one hour southeast of Cleveland. The West Branch Backpack Destination Project has been in progress for 10 years, resulting in 28 miles of Buckeye Trail encircling the Reservoir. The project is nearing its end and could be completed as early as fall 2022. We'd like to thank all of the volunteers who have put in hard work to bring this project to completion. Special thanks go to Jim "Sunny" Sunyak and Bill Jindra for acquiring the grant funds to make this decade-long dream come to fruition.

The Buckeye Trail Association will be using the Two for Trails grant funds to complete the remaining segments of the loop trail, rehabilitate portions of the existing Buckeye Trail at West Branch as needed, build wooden bridges and construct boardwalks across wet and muddy areas, and a backcountry campsite to make this outdoor recreation destination a reality for trail enthusiasts. The West Branch Backpacking Destination project follows the Ohio Trail's Vision Plan of creating backpacking destinations in the state of Ohio.

West Branch State Park offers many recreational activities. Connecting all regions of the reservoir with the backpacking loop trail will provide easier access to additional outdoor opportunities for people of all ages. The Buckeye Trail Association also hopes that the loop trail will boost the local outdoor recreation economy.

This exciting project may be nearing its completion, but the Buckeye Trail Association still needs help from volunteers, local residents, land managers, sponsors and donors.

Five-day West Branch Work Party Dates:

June 25-29 | July 23-27 | August 27-31

More details in the 2022 List of Events.



From left to right:
New bridge built, volunteers building trail, and board walk
Photos taken by Bill Jindra



Map of the backpack (built and planned) at West Branch State Park.
Created by Richard Lutz

Two For the Trails is a hallmark program that donates 2% of all Athletic Brewing Company sales to the great outdoors. At Athletic Brewing, we are committed to not only positively impacting the health and happiness of our customers, but greatly impacting their communities and environment for the better, making the outdoors accessible and sustainable.

The Buckeye Trail Association is the leader in building, maintaining, protecting and promoting use of Ohio's longest scenic hiking trail for our citizens, communities and partners. We provide outdoor recreation, opportunities to volunteer, education, access to the varied resources of Ohio and local economic benefits.

The Buckeye Trail, Ohio's State Scenic Trail, is a sustainable hiking trail that provides a safe and unique experience throughout the state reflecting the diverse resources, people and stories of Ohio. The trail is a dedicated, recognized and protected route developed and maintained by the Buckeye Trail Association, an organization reflective of the diversity of the trail. The Buckeye Trail Association works in close partnership with communities, organizations and agencies around Ohio creating a legacy for present and future generations.

**For any questions about the project, email us at :
info@buckeyetrail.org**

9th Annual BUCKEYE TRAILFEST

in Cuyahoga Valley National Park



SEPTEMBER 15–18, 2022
Camp Manatoc • Peninsula, Ohio

***The Buckeye TrailFest offers a long weekend
packed full of hikes, workshops, presentations,
speakers and social opportunities***

The Crooked River Chapter is excited to play host to the 2022 Buckeye Trailfest. We are going to show off the beauty and richness of the Cuyahoga Valley in a spectacular way. Whether you are local or from a more distant part of the state, you are sure to have a fantastic time! You will wish it was longer.

***Come for the whole weekend or come for the day!
There is something for everyone!***

GET HIKING

Join us for led and self led hikes on the Buckeye Trail and other trails. All skill levels—easy, moderate, difficult.

GET DIRTY

Join a trail crew and help build a section of trail. Learn from the best.



GET CONNECTED

Meet hikers and trail maintainers from around the state. Never hike alone again!

GET INVOLVED

Attend the Buckeye Trail Association business meeting. Learn how you can help.

Registration Opening Soon
BuckeyeTrailFest.org

The Buckeye TrailFest is sponsored by The Buckeye Trail Association, www.BuckeyeTrail.org

Take A Hike Into History

Bob Eebeskotte

This article first appeared in the Delphos Canal Commission Newsletter on January 6, 2022 (delphoscanalcommission.com). Delphos is the newest Buckeye Trail town and is set to have its Trail Town Dedication ceremony in 2022. Delphos welcomed the Buckeye Trail in 1975 by offering its city parks for camping to hikers and looks forward to welcoming more adventurers.



It started as a trail for mules pulling boats and immigrants traveling to new homes. Today, it's the home to bicycles, strollers and cross country teams. The towpath of the Miami and Erie Canal has, for more than 175 years, been a path for people on the move, whether they're traveling the length of western Ohio or just out for a quiet, Sunday stroll.

After being neglected for decades the canal and its towpath have been rediscovered and have since become an integral part of



numerous communities in western Ohio. The current canal towpath stretches 36 miles, beginning in Fort Loramie and traveling north to Delphos where it travels through town and ends near the Jennings Creek Aqueduct on the city's north edge. This stretch is connected to even more improved trails to the south in Piqua, Troy and Tipp city. And all of these trails are part of several other, much larger, systems of trails, including the Buckeye Trail and the North Country Trail. The Buckeye Trail loops more than 1,400 miles around Ohio while

the North Country Trail winds 4,600 miles through nine states from Vermont to North Dakota.

Our local section of trail started in 1999 in the city of St. Marys in association with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water. From there the trail headed north in partnership with the Heritage Park District, Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District and the village of Spencerville. The trail also headed south to the villages of Lock II, New Bremen and Minster. The trails are constructed of packed stone, asphalt or maintained turf and include signage, benches and parking. During the construction of these trails,

the canal towpath was improved and stabilized, at times widened, woody vegetation removed, and the canal banks stabilized with rip rap where needed. The trails accommodate biking, hiking, jogging, wheelchairs, baby strollers and easy walking.

Communities with these improved trails utilize them for community events and an impetus for downtown and community development. St. Marys holds several nature hikes on the trail, including the extremely popular Walk With Nature, in its 51st year, which annually draws up to 2,000 hikers. The city park includes a replica of a canal boat in a restored section of the canal. St. Marys has also rebuilt Lock 13 downtown and has recently renovated the adjacent ca. 1847 Reservoir Mill as a museum/educational facility and a rental space. New Bremen has rebuilt Lock 1 and built a new Lock Keepers house adjacent to the canal. The village holds its two festivals, Bremenfest and Pumpkifest, in Lock One Park, adjacent to the canal and holds a winter hike sponsored by the Miami and Erie Canal Corridor Association. The trails just south of Delphos are utilized by local runners, cross country teams,



Photos of Delphos courtesy of Kim Love-Ottobre, Trail Town Coordinator.



Top left: Delphos Canal Museum (241 N. Main St.)
 Top right: One of the several locks along the canal
 Center: Delphos Herald (405 N. Main St.)
 Bottom: Delphos Fire Department (125 E. 2nd St.)



and those just out for a quiet, afternoon stroll. Former St. John's cross country coach, Steve Hellman, comments that the path was a safe place for his team to train. There was no worry about cars, the stone base was easy on runners' bodies, and it was quiet and peaceful, surrounded by nature and the occasional wildlife experience. Living near the trail, Hellman says it's rare for him to be on the trail without seeing fellow runners, bikers, and walkers. Hiker Kelly North enjoys the quiet and peacefulness of the path, using it to walk and reflect after a busy day. The new Robert Antibus Trail Access at Zion Church Road offers a safe and easy opportunity to access the trail. The location currently contains a parking lot and a small park with a shelter and interpretive historical signs planned.

Opportunities abound from continuing the towpath trail through Delphos. Constructing the trail would repair and improve the canal and the towpath through the entire city. The towpath trail would provide a safe and easily accessible route from one end of town to the other. In this era of increased emphasis on physical fitness, a towpath trail would provide a safe and easily accessible space for families to safely walk or bike or hike together. And it would give us an improved connection to two long, much utilized state and national trails traveled by hundreds if not thousands annually. An improved trail could be part of a historic walking tour in Delphos, taking visitors to our two, wonderful Museums [one pictured top left], a restored Lock 23, Veterans Memorial, a restored Lock 24 and a rebuilt Jennings Creek Aqueduct.

Delphos is also part of two Historic Scenic Byways, the Miami and Erie Canal Scenic Byway and the Lincoln Highway Scenic Byway. The Miami and Erie Canal Scenic Byway runs from the Johnston Farm Historical Area near Piqua to Delphos, following the historic path of the canal for 53 miles through four counties. The Lincoln Highway Scenic Byway begins in East Liverpool, on the Ohio-Pennsylvania border, and runs 379 miles to the Ohio-Indiana border. Add in a new Federal bicycle path from Canton to the Indiana border running through our city and Delphos would be a hub of historic and recreational transportation. Those features add to the quality of life that is so important to those looking to open a business or relocate their family. So, Delphos, are you ready to Take A Hike Into History? Okay, let's go!

Photos of Delphos courtesy of Kim Love-Ottobre, Trail Town Coordinator.





Karen Power and Jeri Getts

Horses, llamas, pigs, cows, deer, snakes, turtles, frogs, goats, dogs, kittens, and chickens are just a few of our animal encounters on the BT. Tor, especially, has a talent for attracting the curious creatures who often want to join us on our adventures and follow us down the trail. Our favorite furry friend met us in Morgan County in the Stockport section. He was a handsome Great White Pyrenees named Elvis. He followed us down the road for two miles before we decided it was best to call his mom to pick him up.



Elvis loving attention from Tor



Kittens following Tag

Snow Melt

Early Spring Photo Gallery



Micah Webster

Snow March: taken by Tommy Liskay on the section that travels upward from the rock climbing area near Conkle's Hollow.

Golden Hour: taken by Micah Webster on the section between Cedar Falls and Old Man's Cave (Grandma Gatewood Trail).

Blue Blaze in Snow: taken by David Harris, Delphos Section Supervisor, last spring along the Buckeye Trail near Deep Cut in the Delphos Section.



Tommy Liskay



David Harris

New Stark Parks Leaders Bring Vast Experience & Knowledge of Stark County

Submitted by Stark Parks

The Stark County Board of Park Commissioners today named Dan Moeglin the new Executive Director of Stark Parks and named Derek Gordon to the newly created position of Deputy Director of Stark Parks. “We are thrilled today to announce the leadership team that we believe will secure an incredible future for Stark Parks and will build on the legacy of service to the residents of Stark County,” said Denise Freeland, Chair of the Stark County Board of Park Commissioners.

Moeglin has served as Canton’s City Engineer since 2005. In that role, he has had hands-on experience in park planning projects and has served on the Natural Resources Assistance Council where he is currently Vice Chairman. “Dan is a well-respected leader who understands government financing and has great experience in making parks better. He is a team builder and an experienced administrator,” Freeland said.

Gordon currently serves as Director of Special Projects for the Stark County Library, but spent almost five years as Canton’s Parks and Recreation Director. Gordon led a revitalized parks department during his time there. “Derek brings passion for parks and recreation and experience in the field. His experience in marketing and park programming will be important as this park district moves forward,” Freeland said. “Both of these exceptional leaders are passionate about Stark County and have demonstrated a real desire to serve our residents and our outstanding staff,” Freeland added. “They know all of the players here in Stark County and will be able to really hit the ground running.”

“I’m thrilled to be the new leader of Stark Parks. This organization is a major driver of quality of life in our county and I am excited to hear from our staff and residents about how they view the future of the district,” Moeglin said. “I am also so excited that Derek is coming on board as well. We had a great working relationship at the city, and I look forward to building on that.”

“I love Stark County and I love the park district,” Gordon said. “This is an amazing opportunity to build on the strong legacy that Stark Parks has created. I know how much our residents value Stark Parks and I look forward to working to continue to make a positive impact on their lives. Dan is a great leader and I am so excited to be a part of his team.”

Moeglin and Gordon will begin their service on Stark Parks on April 4. For more information, contact Denise Freeland / 330-205-1539

ABOUT MOEGLIN & GORDON

For nearly 30 years, Dan Moeglin, P.E. has been a noteworthy leader in northeast Ohio’s engineering and infrastructure community. Prior to accepting the position as the Executive Director for the Stark County Park District, Dan was privileged to serve as the Canton City Engineer for 17 years. Before that, he worked at the state and county government levels and has experience in planning, engineering, administration, operation, and maintenance of public works/services. His favorite projects



Left to right: Derek Gordon and Dan Moeglin

include park development, ecological restoration, recreation, active transportation, flood plain preservation, and overall environmental stewardship.

Dan has been honored with multiple project awards including a recent proclamation from the Ohio House of Representatives for his distinguished career and advocacy for Tree City-Canton. One of Dan’s passions is ensuring access to all public facilities for people of all abilities and backgrounds, and he was recognized by the Paralyzed Veterans of America with a Buckeye Award for his efforts in February 2022. His professional mantra is “Projects don’t make you successful, people make you successful.”

Dan was born and raised in Stark County and graduated from Michigan State University with his B.S. degrees in Civil Engineering and Building Construction Management. He resides in Canton with his wife of 26 years, Dawn and they have three grown children, Joe, Anna, and Catherine. Their family enjoys spending time outdoors at their hobby farm where they grow Christmas trees and make maple syrup.

Derek is a lifelong resident of Stark County. He graduated from the University of Mount Union and holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Kent State University. Prior to accepting the Deputy Director role at Stark Parks, Derek served as Director of Special Projects and Security at Stark Library. In addition to overseeing the construction of the new Jackson Township branch and renovating three Stark Library branches, he also managed the Library’s security responsibilities. Before coming to the Library, he worked for the City of Canton for ten years, spending five of those years as Director of the Canton Park Commission. He led three separate municipal park levy campaigns and managed the merge of the Canton Park Commission and the Canton Joint Recreation District. Derek lives in Canton with his wife and two sons.

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

MARCH

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: 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

APRIL

April 22-24, 2022

Blue Blaze Academy

The Buckeye Trail Association and the North Country Trail Association are happy to announce the first Blue Blaze Academy! Join us for two days of trail maintenance, volunteer leadership and risk management training. Attending the Academy is free and food will be provided. Participants are welcome to camp at the Buckeye Barn, and the trainings themselves will take place at and around the facility. Tools will be provided. Please bring your own camping and personal gear. Sign up by using the link to the registration form below. Once you have signed up, more detailed information will be sent your way. Participation is limited, so sign up today!

Location: BTA Century Barn. 83949 Beale Rd, Cadiz, OH

Registration: <https://forms.gle/iuTMoChxkgSrC7g7>

Contact: Morgan Thomas at morgan.thomas@buckeyetrail.org

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

April 29 - 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.

April 29-May 1, 2022

Trail Reroute Work Party Road Fork Section

With ODOT's relocation of a portion of State Route 537, we will be rerouting the trail from RF Pt. 17 to Pt. 18. This will bring the BT more off road. Instead of heading east on SR 537, the trail will follow a shorter distance south to TWP 313 (Burkhart Hill Road). TWP 313 crosses the Clear Fork of the Little Muskingum and soon becomes an abandoned roadway. Along with members from the Forest Service, the work party will clear a trail from this point over toward Lamping Homestead. This is a distance of about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. We will meet at the Lamping Homestead parking area at 10:00am on April 29th and at 9:00am on April 30th and May 1st. On all days, we will work until mid-afternoon. Overnights and food will be on your own. Overnight commercial lodging is available in Woodsfield, Caldwell and Marietta. The Forest Service will designate an area at Lamping for camping. There is no water at Lamping, so please bring your own.

Contact: Tom Rohr (419) 281-7465

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 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: 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

To Register to Trail Crew Work Parties, go to the new registration form link below!
<https://app.etapestry.com/cart/BuckeyeTrailAssociationInc/default/>

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

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

M A Y

May 14, 2022

Trail Crew Work Day - New Straitsville Section

The Little Cities of the Forest Chapter and Central Ohio Chapter are hosting a Go Blaze Day event to prepare for the Biggest Day Hike on June 4th. We will have trail work training by BTA's Director of Trail Development, Richard Lutz, and a presentation on invasive species removal. The rest of the time will be maintaining the trail. After the work party, we will enjoy hot dogs and smores around the campfire Saturday night. Bring lunch, snacks, water, gloves, and work boots/shoes and clothes.

Camping: Available starting Friday evening on may 13th through Sunday morning on May 15th at Burr Oak State Park's Group Camp area.

Meals: This is not a Chuckwagon event.

Registration: <https://www.meetup.com/BuckeyeTrailFriends/events/283488032/>

Contact: Ann Furste at newstraitsville@buckeyetrail.org

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

May 21-22, 2022

BTA Circuit Hike - Belle Valley Section

Saturday: Saturday's hike is from Belle Valley Section Point 6 - at Salt Fork Group Campground off of Parker Rd. T587, about 0.3 mile north of Cadiz Rd. U.S 22, GPS Coordinates N40.09731 W081.44720 to Point 12, parking at the intersection of Putney Ridge Rd. and Salem Rd., GPS

Coordinates N40.01383 W081.38975. This is a distance of 10.6 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Putney Ridge Rd. to carpool to Salt Fork Group Campground.

Sunday: Sunday's hike is from Belle Valley Section Point 12, parking at the intersection of Putney Ridge Rd. and Salem Rd., GPS Coordinates N40.01383 W081.38975 to Point 17+ 0.9 miles at paved driveway to Baptist Assembly Camp, about 100ft west of SR 574. Park at the Seneca Lake Campground Office located on Park Road about 300ft east of SR 574, GPS Coordinates N39.90630 W081.42134. This is a distance of 10.6 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Seneca Lake Campground Office to carpool to Point 12 on Putney Ridge Rd.

NOTE: 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

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

J U N E

June 4, 2022

BTA Biggest Day Hike

For the third year, we will attempt to hike the entirety of the BT's 1450 miles in one day. Details coming soon.

June 4-5, 2022

BTA Circuit Hike - Belle Valley Section

Saturday: Saturday's hike is from Belle Valley Section Point 17+ 0.9 miles at paved driveway to Baptist Assembly Camp, about 100ft west of SR 574. Park at the Seneca Lake Campground Office located on Park Road about 300ft east of SR 574, GPS Coordinates N39.90630 W081.42134 to Point 22, parking at the intersection of Cooper Rd. and SR 146., GPS Coordinates N39.84940 W081.51920. This is a distance of 10.6 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Point 22 on Cooper Rd. to carpool to Seneca Lake Campground Office.

Sunday: Sunday's hike is from Belle Valley Section Point 22, parking at the intersection of Cooper Rd. and SR 146, GPS Coordinates N39.84940 W081.51920 to Point 25 Wolf Run Rd C126 at

Main St. parking at Belle Valley Park, GPS Coordinates N39.78683 W081.54821. This is a distance of 7.0 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Belle Valley Park to carpool to Point 22 on Cooper Rd.
NOTE: 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

June 11, 2022

BTA Board Meeting

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

Contact: Steve Walker at president@buckeyetrail.org

June 11-15, 2022

Trail Crew Work Party - Appalachian Hills Annual Work Party

The BTA is hosting a work party in the Belle Valley and Stockport section at the new Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area (formerly AEP ReCreation Lands). Come volunteer for this 4.5 day work party.

We will be re-benching the trail tread, doing trail maintenance and vegetable management. All volunteers are welcome with no prior experience needed! Volunteering is great for making new friends and giving back to the local community. We will work from 9am to 3pm.

Camping: Bicentennial-Campground K at Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area. 10766 Lincoln Hwy, Caldwell, OH 43724

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

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

Contact: bellevally@buckeyetrail.org

June 18-22, 2022

EGGS Hike Prep Work Party - Little Cities of the Forest Chapter

Spend the week (or a day) doing vegetation control and preparing the Buckeye Trail at Burr Oak State Park for the EGGS hike. Meet at the group camp, safety meeting at 8am, work 8:30am to 3:30pm. Bring trail tools (if you have them), water, long sleeved shirt and pants, gaiters. Chuckwagon event.

Camping: Burr Oak Group Camp by Boat Dock 3

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

Contact: Ann Furste at newstraitsville@buckeyetrail.org

June 23-26, 2022

E.G.G.S. Hike

Save the date for our annual EGGS Hike. Details TBD.

Contact: Byron Guy at oldmanscave@buckeyetrail.org

June 25-29, 2022

West Branch Buckeye Trail Destination Project

Come join us for an hour, or the day! Tools and guidance will be provided. We will work from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. What we may be doing: Building new trail, installing reroutes, constructing wooden bridges, laying boardwalk, building Kiosks, installing or rehabbing signage, heavy maintenance, installing stepping stones, hardening and/or armoring trail.

What to bring: Wear sturdy boots and work gloves. Bring water and lunch in a small pack. Dress for the weather. The project is rain or shine. Training and equipment are provided. Meet no later than 9:00 AM at West Branch State Park - Picnic Area 'A'

Meals: Chuckwagon, registration coming soon.

Camping: TBD

Registration:

[meetup.com/crooked-river-chapter-buckeye-trail-association/](https://www.meetup.com/crooked-river-chapter-buckeye-trail-association/)

JULY

July 9-10, 2022

BTA Circuit Hike - Pemberville Section

Saturday: Saturday's hike is from Pemberville Section Point 2+, Lusher Park, 202 S. Findlay St., Haskins, GPS Coordinates N41.46353 W083.70468 to Point 8, intersection of Nelson Rd. and Chamberlain Rd, GPS Coordinates N41.41413 W083.56161. This is a distance of 10.8 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Nelson Rd. and Chamberlain Rd. to carpool to Lusher Park in Haskins.

Sunday: Sunday's hike is from Pemberville Section Point 8, intersection of Nelson Rd. and Chamberlain Rd, GPS Coordinates N41.41413 W083.56161 to Point 14, parking along Elmore Rd about 0.2 mile west of US 23, GPS Coordinates N41.41942 W083.41904. This is a distance of 12.4 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Elmore Rd. to carpool to Nelson Rd. and Chamberlain Rd.

NOTE: 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

July 9-13, 2022

Wilderness Chapter - Road Fork and Whipple Work Party

We will be focusing on trail maintenance and vegetation management.

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

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

Registration: If you plan to attend this work party, registration will open soon.

Contact: Matthew D. Edmonds at thewilderness@buckeyetrail.org

July 23-24, 2022

BTA Board Retreat

BTA Board and Staff Retreat - 9:00 A.M. both days.

Contact: Steve Walker at president@buckeyetrail.org

Jul 23-27, 2022

West Branch Buckeye Trail Destination Project

Come join us for an hour, or the day! Tools and guidance will be provided. We will work from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. What we may be doing: Building new trail, installing reroutes, constructing wooden bridges, laying boardwalk, building Kiosks, installing or rehabbing signage, heavy maintenance, installing stepping stones, hardening and/or armoring trail.

What to bring: Wear sturdy boots and work gloves. Bring water and lunch in a small pack. Dress for the weather. The project is rain or shine. Training and equipment are provided. Meet no later than 9:00 AM at West Branch State Park - Picnic Area 'A'

Meals: Chuckwagon, registration coming soon.

Camping: TBD

Registration:

[meetup.com/crooked-river-chapter-buckeye-trail-association/](https://www.meetup.com/crooked-river-chapter-buckeye-trail-association/)

Buckeye Trail Association

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