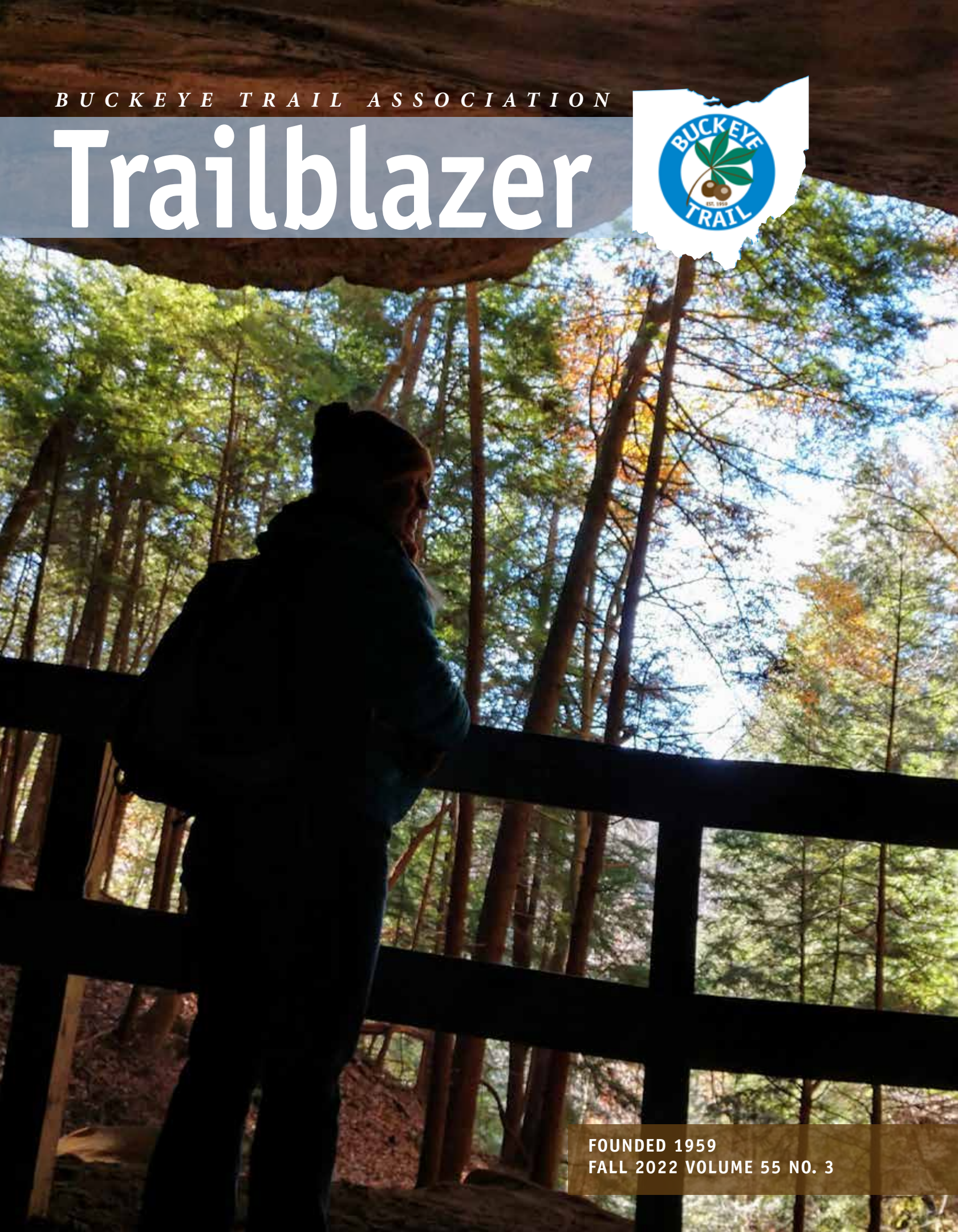


BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Trailblazer



FOUNDED 1959
FALL 2022 VOLUME 55 NO. 3

IN THIS ISSUE...

- 3 Blue Blaze Academy 2023
- 4 President's Message
- 5 On the Trail
- 6 Pikes Lake Ultramarathon ad
- 7 Blue Blase Festival ad
- 8 BTA Funds Report
- 9 Grandma Gatewood Induction
- 10 Fall Hikes With HikerBabes
- 12 The First Pro-League Football Game
- 13 Meandering Thru: A Hiking Film About Perseverance, Friendship & Community
- 14 Plaque of Recognition
- 16 Haunted Hikes on the Buckeye Trail
- 18 No Place Like Home
- 20 A Walk Through Mantua on the Buckeye Trail
- 21 2022 List of Hikes and Events
- 24 New Member Form

Editor's Note

Bob Ebbeskotte's name was spelled incorrectly in the Spring 2022 Issue of the Trailblazer on page 16 for the article, "Take a Hike Into History." It was spelled as "Ebbeskotte" when it should be "Ebbeskotte." We apologize for the error and any confusion it may have caused.

The Buckeye Trail Association fondly remembers the life of Elwood (Woody) Ensor, long time BTA trail adopter, who passed away on January 28, 2021.

Back at the BTA

Jon Flinn

Hello everyone. Back in 2020, I was the Volunteer Coordinator AmeriCorps Member with the Buckeye Trail Association. The past year I have been working in Athens, running the compost facility with Athens-Hocking Recycling Center. Although I loved my time there creating high quality soil amendment for community members and local farmers, I am excited to be back working with the Buckeye Trail Association in a new capacity as the Special Projects Coordinator. Collaborating with partners and volunteers, I will be helping develop and connecting sections of the Buckeye Trail to complete the 100-mile backpacking destination in the Athens Unit of the Wayne National Forest, improving trail networks in the Marietta Unit of the Wayne, and partnering with the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District to improve trails in and around the Muskingum Section of the Buckeye Trail. Ohio has so many great assets, and I am looking forward to spending my time to highlight and further help develop opportunities for recreation and tourism around the state!



Jon Flinn standing on Mt. Katahdin in Baxter State Park, Maine.



Trailblazer

*Published Quarterly by the
Buckeye Trail Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 5
Shawnee, Ohio 43782
740-394-2008
Circulation: 1,200*

Jean Vandervaart
Production & Editing

DEADLINES

*Deadlines for submission are:
February 1 for the Spring issue
May 1 for the Summer issue
August 1 for the Fall issue
November 1 for the Winter issue*

SUBMISSIONS
trailblazer@buckeyetrail.org

ADVERTISING
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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.



*Trailblazer is printed
on recycled paper.*

*Cover photo: Hiker in the
Hocking Hills, Whispering Cave
Photo credit: Andrew Bashaw*

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Blue Blaze Academy 2023 Is Coming...

Morgan Thomas, AmeriCorps Member

Greetings All! You may remember that this past April, the Buckeye Trail Association held its inaugural Blue Blaze Academy at the BTA Century Barn at Tappan Lake. Over the course of two days, participants learned the basics of trail layout and design, tool maintenance, how to survey trail conditions as a trail maintainer, and how to work safely while benching trail and clearing brush from the trail corridor as a BTA work party crew member. (There was also surprise ice cream from the Deersville General Store, courtesy of our friends at the North Country Trail Association!)

Building on this year's success, we are happy to announce that the dates and curriculum have been set for Blue Blaze Academy 2023! We are increasing enrollment, with space for up to 30 attendees, and have expanded the curriculum: for those who have completed the Introduction to Trail-Building course taken by this year's participants, we will also be offering higher-level workshops that include instruction on using and maintaining gas-powered equipment, building trail structures with dimensional lumber, and sustainable trail design and maintenance. The Introduction to Trail-Building, and Advanced Trail Work workshops will run concurrently.

As with Blue Blaze Academy 2022, camping for attendees will be at the BTA Century Barn, April 21-23. Food will be provided. Registration will open later this Fall, so stay tuned for more details!



Blue Academy 2022 attendees pictured maintaining trail building tools (left), and learning where to prune branches on trees during a hike led by North Country Trail's Regional Trail Coordinator (PA & OH), Tom Moustos (right). Photos taken by Richard Lutz.

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

President's Message

Steve Walker

Fall is almost upon us and I hope that you enjoyed your summer. As they always do, summers fly by and BTA volunteers spent this summer trying to clear the downed trees on the Buckeye Trail from the numerous storms that happened this year starting with Winter Storm Landon way back in February. It seemed like every month spawned a new storm that devastated another segment of the Buckeye Trail. With the State Sawyer Program starting to kick in after approval for funding by the BTA Board of Trustees back in April, our volunteers were and are eager to clear those downed trees from our favorite trail.

By the time that you read this, our first TrailFest since 2019 will already be in the books, and it will have been good to get together as the BTA family. All of our other BTA events have already returned and it's time that our main signature event does the same.

One of the things that has been going on behind the scenes this year was the BTA's Advocacy Program. The results of this work are also starting to show significant progress. Last year, the Buckeye National Scenic Trail Feasibility Study Act of 2021 was introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman Tim Ryan and co-sponsored by Congressman Anthony Gonzalez. Just last month, a companion bill was introduced into the U.S. Senate by Republican Senator Rob Portman and Democratic Senator Sherrod Brown.** This shows that there's genuine bipartisan support for helping the Buckeye Trail become a National Scenic Trail.

In March and April, 21 BTA Volunteers worked in concert to secure \$598,800 in funding from the 2023-24 State of Ohio Budget to help with six Buckeye Trail projects. Some of those same volunteers joined other trail advocates from around the State of Ohio on April 6th for events Ohio Trail Partnership's Legislative Day and Ohio Trails Reception to help close the deal on the funding for those six Buckeye Trail projects.

This year's Ohio Trails Reception event was special in another way. Former ODNr Director, Sean Logan, met with BTA officials during the Reception and the seed was planted for the Ohio Trails Partnership's Enhanced Advocacy Program, which began on July 1st of this year. The Buckeye Trail Association is one of the Ohio Trails Partnership's founding members. Mr. Logan's efforts on behalf of the OTP since starting have concentrated on renewing his numerous contacts within state and county governments. The BTA has already seen some benefits through awareness of Buckeye Trail projects and the effort to acquire National Scenic Trail designation for the Buckeye Trail.

Mr. Logan was previously an Ohio State Representative representing Eastern Ohio, a Columbiana County Commissioner, and is also a past member of the County Commissioners Association



Pictured from left to right: Steve Walker and Sean Logan.

of Ohio. All of these acquired skills and capabilities will come in handy when advocating for local trail projects with state officials around Ohio, especially within the forty-seven Ohio counties that the Buckeye Trail traverses.

Having Mr. Logan advocating for us regularly does not absolve us from doing our part to promote the Buckeye Trail to our public officials. We need to be the ones carrying the ball. We're planning to begin advocate training for those of you who are interested in helping advance the BTA's Advocacy Program just like the 21 BTA Volunteers did in March and April. Sean Logan will be assisting in the training, which will be done virtually as needed. If you're interested in helping advocate for the Buckeye Trail and the Buckeye Trail Association, contact me via email at president@buckeyetrail.org. Have a great fall.

****"The Buckeye Trail is one of Ohio's great treasures – extending across Ohio from Lake Erie to the Ohio River, from the farmland of northwest Ohio, to the hills of Appalachia and the Bluegrass region of southwest Ohio..." ~ Senator Sherrod Brown**

"I am proud to introduce this bipartisan legislation to see if the Buckeye Trail is eligible to become a National Scenic Trail, so that we may encourage Ohioans and Americans across the country to experience the beauty Ohio has to offer." ~ Senator Rob Portman



On the Trail

Andrew Bashaw

Purpose is one thing that keeps the Buckeye Trail Association (BTA) moving along the path toward our vision. A primary purpose of the Buckeye Trail (BT) is to provide the access people need to Ohio's great outdoors for unique, life-changing or affirming experiences. We're inspired by the purpose of the Buckeye Trail itself, as well as finding our own purpose within the BTA. A purpose we can find for ourselves within the BTA is sharing our skills, time, and financial support so that an even better BT can be shared with everyone. These two kinds of purposes guided me while I navigated through a dizzying array of activity, success, and challenges this year. Primarily through the hard work of BTA volunteers and staff, we have a lot to be proud of.

This year we are initiating an ODNR AMLER grant to relocate 20 miles of the BT off of roads into the Athens Unit of the Wayne National Forest (WNF), and an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant for improvements to the BT in the Marietta Unit of the WNF. We have begun our work on the 'Green Corridor project' to eventually connect Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) lakes together with a corridor for the BT. We've hired Jon Flinn as a Special Projects Coordinator to assist with implementing these regional multi-year projects.

We've been implementing an Athletic Brewing Company grant to finish the BT at West Branch State Park after 10 years of trail work, completed a grant from the Southern Perry Academic Endowment Fund to supervise a Community Action Youth Crew on new trail construction in the WNF, and successfully completed a major bridge project at Wye Bay of Tappan Lake thanks to funding from Southern Central Power Foundation. These trail projects are not all we've initiated or accomplished, and don't include all of the background work of volunteers and staff on database development, website creation, special event coordination, and more. And, we haven't even reached fall yet!

Growth comes with growing pains. Despite severe weather impacts on trail maintenance and a relative downturn in volunteer hours, the BTA must continue to improve. We continue to increase our administrative capacity, our insurance coverages, our working policies and procedures, and sustainable funding sources in order to support our volunteers and their solutions better. Talking with volunteers and staff who put their blood, sweat, and tears into the tread of the BT, or agonize over the frustrations of organizing complicated projects, it is clear that a sense of purpose is helping them persevere. It certainly isn't always fun to volunteer, but we hope it is at least rewarding. Please do not hesitate to thank our volunteers for all they do.

While our progress is something to be proud of, it also increases our workload as we rise to our next plateau. One big step that we are

investing our energy into is our growing BTA Chapter system. After about 10 years of work, we are very close to 'standing up' our 10th Chapter, covering all 26 Sections of the Buckeye Trail with a local Chapter to achieve the mission of the BTA locally. With this decentralized growth, we are able to engage many more opportunities to build, maintain, protect, and promote the BT. With these opportunities we need even more people to be involved on the trail itself, like completing and maintaining the trail all the way around West Branch State Park, and - in local Chapter leadership roles - to coordinate volunteers and partners on such large multi-year projects around the BT.

Ten BTA Chapters representing the entire BT also provides us a stronger foundation to work together (through efforts like our Chapter Leadership Summits) to support trail-wide initiatives that benefit the BT. Just this year, Chapters, at-large volunteers, and staff coordinated efforts to: successfully nominate and induct Emma 'Grandma' Gatewood posthumously to the ODNR Hall of Fame, showcase our new Chapter outreach kits during 12 days of the Ohio State Fair by ODNR's invitation, develop and campaign successfully for funding for six BT projects from the Ohio Capital Bill, witness ODNR designate the BT as a State Trail and Senators Portman and Brown introduce US Senate Bill 4707 - the Buckeye National Scenic Trail Feasibility Act with an endorsement from Governor DeWine.

I'm looking forward to our next plateau, and I hope you are too. I hope that BTA members and volunteers are satisfied with our progress so far and are able to find a place within the BTA to help us get there better. Thank you to all of our BTA volunteers who continue to carry the torch of BT's purpose for all of us to enjoy. And, if you haven't volunteered yet, take a moment to consider if you could benefit from the sense of purpose it can provide.

Above all, thank you for hiking!

Andrew Bashaw
Executive Director
Buckeye Trail Association



Blue Blaze Festival

October 1, 2022 * Shawnee, Ohio

Trail Run * Hike * Backpacking

On the first Saturday of October the BTA will again host the Blue Blaze Festival, celebrating the Buckeye Trail with running, hiking and backpacking. This year there will be five options for a distance and trail challenge right for you: Half Marathon, 10K, 5K run/walk, 10 Mile BT Hike and an overnight backpacking experience. All events are on the

Buckeye Trail in the Wayne National Forest. The start and finish for all of the events will be in Shawnee, Ohio, near the Buckeye Trail Association office, 127B W. Main Street. Early packet pickup will happen on Friday evening, with camping available at several locations in and around the Village of Shawnee.

Trail Run & Hike

Friday, September 30

Early Packet Pickup:

4:00pm-7pm, Tecumseh Theater (116 Main St.)

Saturday, October 1

7:00 Early Packet Pick-up

8:00am, 10 Mile Hike leaves from Shawnee

9:00am, Half Marathon and 10K start

9:15am, 5k start

For info & to register for the race:

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



Questions? Contact us at:

run4blue@buckeyetrail.org or 740-394-2008

Intro to Backpacking

Participants will be guided by two experienced backpackers along the Buckeye Trail. This is a fully supported course providing food and rentable gear. Hosted in partnership with Appalachian Understories and Tecumseh Theater.

Friday, September 30

6:00pm Meet at Tecumseh Theater (116 Main St.) Guides will go over participant's gear. Lodging info in the link below.

Saturday, October 1

8:00am Backpackers check in at Tecumseh Theater. Backpacking trip will begin from Shawnee.

Sunday, October 2

1:00pm Backpackers return to Tecumseh Theater

Registration & info:

<https://bit.ly/3zf7YgE>

Website:

appalachianunderstories.com





PIKE LAKE ULTRAMARATHON

OCTOBER 22, 2022

10KM

50KM

Visit pikelakeultramarathon.com.

REMOTE. RUGGED. OHIO.

The Pike Lake Ultramarathon is a new trail race from **TINAR Race Series** set in the rugged, technical hills of Pike Lake State Park and State Forest.



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.

MAY 2, 2022 TO AUGUST 1, 2022

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Sandy Reed & Household

On July 27, 2022 at the Ohio State Fair, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources held their annual Ohio Natural Resources Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Emma “Grandma” Gatewood (one of the co-founders of the BTA) was one of the several inductees for 2022. The Buckeye Trail Association and the Gatewood family were present to witness the event. Kate D. accepted the award for her grandmother, and gave a speech, written by Marjorie Gillam Wood (great granddaughter of Grandma Gatewood). Grandma Gatewood’s conservation efforts are just as important - if not more - than all of the thru-hiking trips. All hikers can be stewards of the nature where we roam, just like Grandma Gatewood. You can find the speech on our YouTube channel @BuckeyeTrailTV.



Kay D., granddaughter of Emma “Grandma” Gatewood, accepted the Natural Resources Hall of Fame Induction Award for her grandmother after giving her speech.

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 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.

Fall Hikes With The HikerBabes

Julie Osborn, Ambassador Central Ohio Hikerbabes

"Fort Hill State Memorial is a nature preserve containing one of the best preserved Indian hilltop enclosures in North America. The Hopewell Indians (100 B.C.-A.D. 500) constructed the 1-1/2 mile long earthwork hilltop enclosure, as well as at least two ceremonial buildings and probably a village in the Brush Creek Valley. Lying at the western edge of the Allegheny Plateau, immediately south of the glacial boundary, this hilly area contains an impressive diversity of bedrock, soils, flora, and fauna. There are 11 miles of hiking trails at the 1,200-acre preserve, as well as a picnic area." ~ stateparks.com

One of my favorite Fall Hikes along the Buckeye Trail is through Fort Hill. This area has a wide variety of elevation and history attached to it, as well as, at least, six natural arches within the preserve. Fort Hill has the highest concentration of arches within the State of Ohio, but only a few can be seen from the trail system. Spring Creek Arch, Keystone Arch, and Y-Arch are all visible from along the Buckeye Trail. Keystone Arch is more of a tunnel than an arch, as it is far deeper than it is wide. Y-Arch is an arch that has one front opening and two rear ones. This arch is much better seen in the late fall through early spring, when leaves are absent and do not block your view. Along with the Hopewell Peoples' history (including the earthworks they built), you will also find along the trail a cabin of a formerly enslaved person -- a poignant bit from history, and a nice place to take a lunch break and reflect.

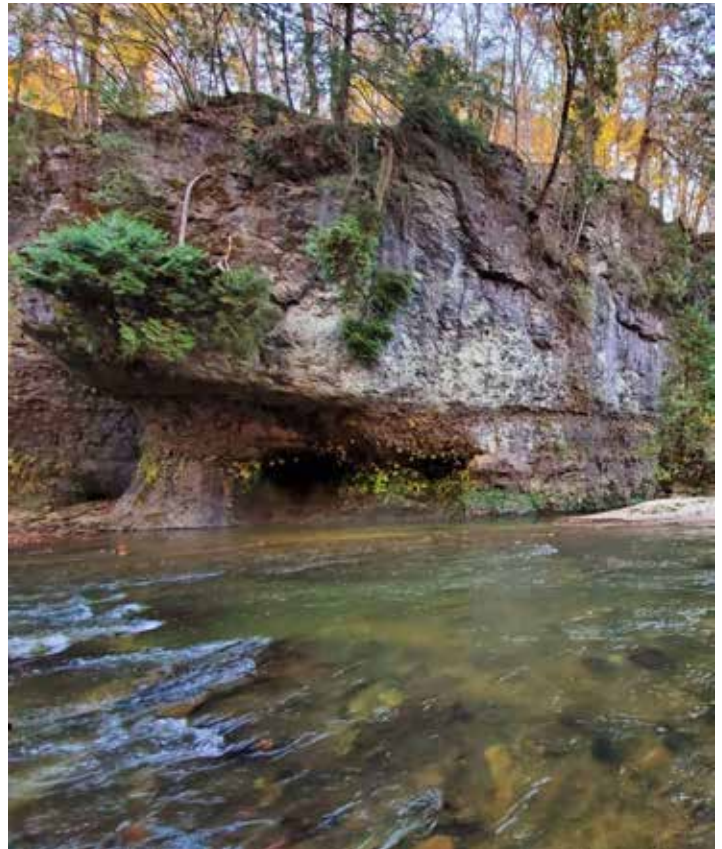
Yellows and oranges are the predominant colors of Fort Hill during fall. The higher slopes of this area are dominated by chestnut oaks, mixed with a few white oaks, and both pignut & shagbark hickory. There are also some black gum, red oak, and red maples near the earthworks. The lower slopes and stream bottoms are dominated by towering 140'-150' tulip trees, with a smattering of red oaks, beeches, white ashes, and sugar maples sandwiched in between on the mid-slopes. An understory of pawpaw and spice bush is quite common. In the Gorge area, you will find sycamore, shumard and white oak, tulip tree, american beech, white ash, basswood, and red oak. There is truly a remarkable collection of tree varieties in this old growth forest.

Plant leaves can contain all or some of the four pigments inside of them: chlorophyll, anthocyanins, carotenoids, and betalains. Leaves are green because of the chlorophyll that they use to convert solar energy into food to nourish the whole plant. When the days become colder, the chlorophyll breaks down, revealing the other plant pigments! Carotenoids are largely responsible for oranges, red and yellows seen during fall.

Top of page: Vibrant red-orange leaves in the underbrush at Archers Fork.

Center-right: Where the trail crosses by a creek at Fort Hill.

Bottom-right: View from the top of a cliff in Fort Hill Nature Preserve.



One of the special attractions of fall in the Hocking State Forest area is the abundant natural vegetation. Plant species commonly found farther north are mixed with typically southern species because of the pocket microhabitats in the deep gorges, sheltered by large rock formations. This provides an biodiversity of native plant life and associated wildlife.

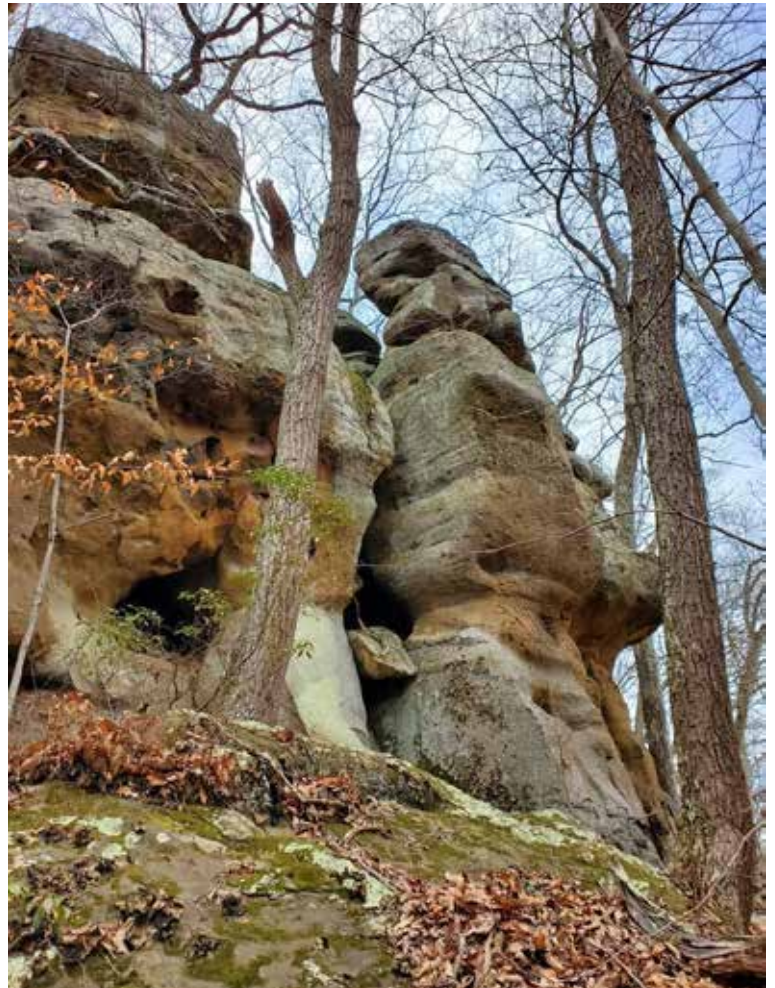
On the dry ridge lines and plateaus, you will find virginia and pitch pines, sassafras; and black, scarlet, white and chestnut oaks growing. In the cool gorges, sloping hillsides, and moist coves, you will find hemlock, beech, black birch, red and sugar maples, yellow poplar, white ash, red oak, basswood and hickories growing. In the understory, you will find flowers, shrubs and ferns commonly associated with shadier, cooler habitats.

Fall in the Hocking Hills provides a wide variety of yellows and greens, with a smattering of reds and oranges. But the wonderful thing about fall here is the thinning of the leaves which opens up the rock faces in the sandstone cliffs completely! Fall in Hocking Hills is an amazing time to explore the Old Man's Cave Section of the Buckeye Trail for this reason.



Left: Cedar Falls. One of several waterfalls that can be found in Hocking Hills State Park.

Right: Rock face formation located in Archers Fork Loop along the Buckeye Trail.



The Archers Fork Loop of the Buckeye Trail is located in southeastern Ohio in the heavily forested northeast corner of Washington County. The area is managed by the Marietta Management Unit of Wayne National Forest. Along the trail you will see many rock formations in the form of caves, cliffs, overhang shelters, and even a natural bridge. The Irish Run Natural Bridge, with its 22 foot span and 5 foot clearance, is located just off the trail and worth taking a extra few minutes to explore. A large cave, named the Great Cave on trail signage, is located just off the trail near the St. Patrick's Cemetery trailhead.

The forest is populated with oak and hickory trees on the ridges and upland areas. On the slopes, you will find a mixed forest of cherry trees, tulip trees, walnuts and ash. Along the Archers Fork Loop, Irish Run, and Jackson Run stream beds, you will find sycamores and beech trees. In the fall, you will see a lot of yellows and browns, but the bonus of the thinning leaves yield better views of the natural bridge, cave, and other rock formations normally obscured by vegetation.

Hiking the entirety of the 14.5 mile loop trail will yield a great deal of elevation change -- to the tune of 2,050 feet. It's a nice challenging section for a long day hike, although most people break it up into an overnight backpacking trip. A short jaunt up the trail to the Lamping Homestead Recreation Area is another great opportunity to explore!

Join our Facebook groups for women's group-hiking opportunities (such as our Buckeye Trail Hike series) for those living in SW, NE, NW, and Central Ohio.

Follow us on Instagram at: @hikerbabes_swoh, @hiker_babes_neohio, @centralohiohikerbabes

HikerBabes is a "community of like-minded diverse women who share a passion for the outdoors. Every day in nature is a gift. Hiking is good for the body, mind and soul." To learn more about HikerBabes, go to HikerBabesCommunity.com.

The First Pro-League Football Game

John M. Smilek, Troy Section Supervisor

What city hosted the first professional league football game? Since this article is in the Trailblazer, that should narrow it down to a city in Ohio where the Buckeye Trail (BT) is near-by. And if you are one to read the narration on the BT Section Maps, you may have a better idea of the location. In the description of the November 2015 edition of the Troy Section Map, there is a sentence at Point 6 that reads in part, "...enters Triangle Park (Dayton City Parks, home of the Dayton Triangles pro football team 1920-1929)." There is no room provided in the map to elaborate about the Dayton Triangles Football Team and that shrouds the importance of the team's place in history.

The Dayton Triangles are foundational to the history of professional football and the National Football League (NFL) as we know it today. Professional and semipro football had a strong presence in Ohio in the late teen years of the last century. Two meetings were held in Ralph Hay's Hupmobile Dealership in Canton Ohio, August 20 and September 17, 1920 that resulted in the formation of the American Professional Football Association (APFA). In 1922, the Association was renamed to NFL.

The Dayton Triangles were represented at the meetings by Carl Storck, the founding owner and future coach of the Triangles. Mr. Storck would go on to be the secretary-treasurer of the NFL, 1921-39, and eventually serve as the league president. Dayton businessmen, Charles Kettering and Edward Deeds, were the team sponsors and responsible for the name, "Triangles". The men were owners of three large manufacturing companies in the Dayton area and the team adopted the delta shape in the honor of the location of the companies around the city. They were: Kettering's National Cash Register (NCR), Dayton Engineering Laboratories (DELCO), and Dayton Metal Production Company. Charles Kettering was an amazing inventor whom you can thank for many things, including your car starter motor. The Dayton suburb of Kettering, Ohio is named after him. Edward Deed is prominent in Dayton history. Deeds Park, named in his honor, is Point 5 in the Troy Section Map of the Buckeye Trail. A little over two weeks after the formation of the APFA/NFL, Dayton hosted the first game of the new APFA/NFL pro league on October 3, 1920 in Triangle Park. Dayton won 14-0 over the Columbus Panhandles, another of the league's founding teams. One of the stars of the Triangles, Lou Partlow, scored the first touchdown in NFL history.



A team photo of the 1920 Dayton Triangles team, unknown photographer, Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

To bring this story home to the Buckeye Trail it is key to know exactly where the former Triangles Stadium was located. For most, if not all, who have hiked the Troy Section of the BT the location is in plan sight, but if you didn't know where to look you might miss it. If you hike clockwise on the BT/Great Miami Recreation River Trail (GMRRT), you will cross the Gayle B. Price Jr Bridge from Island Park over the Miami River to Triangle Park (named for its Triangle shape as the confluence of the Great Miami and Stillwater Rivers and the home to the football team). Once in Triangle Park, if you make a turn to the right/north, you will see Howell Baseball Field to your left/west after 1000ft. Just outside the left field fence, do I dare say, less than a football field away, stands a historical marker (*dedicated 2004, pictured below*).



As it says, the NFL recognizes this place as the hallowed ground of the first NFL game. During the 100th Anniversary of the first game in the fall of 2020, the NFL had big plans to promote the history of the founding game. Unfortunately, this occurred in the middle of COVID and though the anniversary was mentioned on TV, it was not covered as much as it would have been. As a gift to recognize the site, the NFL donated funding for Dayton to build a football field on the location in Triangle Park. This plan was disrupted, too, when Native American artifacts were discovered at the site that could not be disturbed. The field was erected about ½ mile away in the area of Kettering Baseball Fields. The field can be seen to the right/west as you drive south on Interstate 75 just before you cross the bridge over the Great Miami River and into Dayton.

The BT travels past too many historical locations in Ohio to count. The "Gem City" of Dayton has many of the gems including the location of the first NFL game ever played. If you are a fan of professional football, or just history, and are hiking the Troy Section of the BT, make sure to take a couple minute for a side hike to find the marker and stand on one of the historical locations of the early NFL. For those whom are not into hiking, the large parking lot at Triangle Park is about a one-minute walk away from the former location of the field. Most of all enjoy the beauty, nature, and challenge of the BT while keeping an eye out for the history you can find along the path.

Meandering Thru

A Hiking Film of Perseverance, Friendship & Community

Kevin Morrissey

Journeys that pertain to the Buckeye Trail are never straight, much like the trail they always meander. Four years ago, I met Everett Brandt. Little did I know that, at the time, my journey would result in creating my first feature length film *Meandering Thru*. At first, I was intrigued by his plan to hike the Buckeye Trail. I thought it would make a good interview for the television program I was a producer for at the time. Everett came into the studio and shared his ambitious plan with our audience. The next day, he left for the trail and that is when my four-year journey began.

Everett Brandt planned to set the Fastest Known Time (FKT) on the Buckeye Trail. His original plan was to complete the trail in 38 days. Immediately, I started joining him on weekends and holidays or whenever I was able. We hit it off quickly, it was easy to become friends with our shared love of hiking and nature. In those early days on the trail, I helped him post updates on social media when he couldn't access the internet via his cell phone; the more I went down, the more I captured.

Everett began his hike going south from the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and heading towards the Wilderness Loop in southeast Ohio. Along the way, his wife and father offered support. Those first days were challenging in so many ways. Everett always had better days when one or all of us joined him on the trail. Maggie and Everett were newlyweds at the time and having their relationship grow and evolve on the trail, I could see the foundation for a great story.



Everett and his wife, Maggie.

As Everett hiked further into the trail, I started to learn about the trail culture. Obviously, I was aware there were people that maintained or built trails. Had I given it much thought when hiking on these trails? Not really. Then I started to meet these folks as they would come out to provide Everett with Trail Magic*. I have even become one of those folks, now a member and volunteer of the Buckeye Trail. That is when I could see an even larger story than just one man trying to set a record. There was a much longer and deeper story to tell about the Buckeye Trail and the surrounding culture of hiking. Hiking 1,444 miles is a lot more complex than putting one foot in front of another. At first it struck me as odd that someone would receive so much support to do a hike.



Everett Brandt thru-hiking. Shot taken from the film, Meandering Thru.

To me, hiking was always a solo effort in the woods. Everett's wife, Maggie, introduced me to the concept of "Hike your own Hike". In the world of FKT's there was a distinction between unsupported and supported. Everett's hike quickly turned into the latter.

Without giving away the ending I will say Everett's journey ended before the leaves changed. At the time I did not know that for the next four years I would then begin the real part of my journey. Through editing, animating, filming additional interviews and going back out to capture the most gorgeous parts of the trail, I pieced together a 90-minute feature length documentary. This has by far been the hardest thing I have ever done, but I can say I am very proud to see this personal project finished.

While making this film I have seen the world change in monumental ways. This has given me an appreciation for the passage of time and why stories need to be preserved. Preserving this story of Everett and the trail for future generations of Buckeye Trail lovers becomes even more important as the memories of that magical summer fade into the past.

Last month I was notified that *Meandering Thru* had been accepted into the prestigious Chagrin Documentary Film Festival. With this I am thrilled to be able to share Everett, Maggie and the Trails story with the world. Following the festival (October 5th - 13th), there will be several screenings in theaters around Ohio. It has always been my dream to create a film worthy of the largest screens possible and this fall I will be able to share this wonderful Buckeye Trail story.



To find out more about the film, screening locations and times, and to see the trailer you can visit: meanderingthru.com

or follow the film on Instagram [@meanderingthrufilm](https://www.instagram.com/meanderingthrufilm).

Behind the scenes of the documentary with Everett and the BT trail community supporting him.

Plaque of Recognition

By Chuck and Beth Hewett

Once again, we would like to say CONGRATULATIONS! To those who have completed the entire Buckeye Trail!!! Volunteers can be overwhelmed by requests of their time and we learn later that individuals seeking information about the trail go unheeded and those who have completed the entire trail are not celebrated. Individuals who complete the entire BT have a wonderful perspective to offer the organization. Please, if you do complete the entire trail let us use the opportunity to publicly acknowledge your accomplishment through various news channels

and give the trail much needed recognition.

A hiker's plaque has been created to celebrate a hiker's completion of the Buckeye Trail. The plaque allows you to proudly display your accomplishment. It may also provide a little PR for the Buckeye Trail as you talk about your adventure. Thank you to those who have ordered a plaque (both section hikers and thru-hikers).

Below is an updated list of names of individuals who have completed a thru-hike of the completed loop trail (whatever form it was in at the time of their hike).

2000 John Merrill – *England*
2003 Brent & Amy Anslinger – *Miamisburg, OH*
2009 Peter and Joyce Cottrell – *Whitefield, NH*
2011 Andy Niekamp – *Dayton, OH*
2012 Denise Hill – *Cincinnati, OH*
2013 Mary Warren and Lisa Strohm – *Lancaster, OH*
2016 Chuck and Beth Hewett – *Hanoverton, OH*
Sterling Deck – *Warrior Expedition - Monroe, OH*
Martin Strange – *Warrior Expedition*
2017 Mei Ling Liber – *Warrior Expedition*
Preston Hudson – *Warrior Expedition*

Tom Helbig - *Dayton, OH*
2018 Don Lenc, (*oldest thru-hiker 72*) - *Monroe, OH*
Everett Brandt, (*2nd fastest thru-hike: 55 days*) - *OH*
2019 Luke Bushatz – *Warrior Expedition*
Chad Hiser – *Warrior Expedition*
Jim Logsdon - *Warrior Expeditions*
Lucas Smith, (*youngest thru-hiker 18*) – *Cincinnati, OH*
May 22 – Aug 7, 2019 (79 days)
2021 Dain Sutton– (*also was 18 years old*), April 24 - July 17
Josh Horsfall – (*fastest thru-hiker: 39 days, 5 hours*)

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

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

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

Nov. 2002 – Dec. 2004 Cecilia Hartman
Jan. 2003 – Dec. 2004 John A. Bowers
Nov. 1997 – Dec. 2004 John Rethman
April 1998 – May 2005 Don Beattie
Sept. 1998 – Sept. 2005 Steven W. Trimble
April 2000 – Dec. 2005 Louisa J. Kreider
May 2002 – Feb. 2007 Richard E. Harris
April 2003 – August 2007 Mary Baldwin, Mary Jane Decker, Beth Hanna, Harvey Hanna Jr., Jeanne Henry, Ed Horvath, Sharon Horvath, Laszlo Prisko, Rose Prisko, Marty Ritzert, Gayle Shroy, Robert Shroy and Denise & Dave Tobiasz from *North Olmsted, OH*
Jan. 2002 – June 2008 David Janosko, Kenny Janosko (16)
Sept. 2003 – Dec. 2008 Chris McIntyre
Dec. 1997 - April 2009 Bob Pond, Connie Pond
April 2003 – Aug. 2009 Karen Krause, Ted Krause
April 2007 – Aug. 2010 Sean Owens
May 2003 – Aug. 2011 Bob Simons
May 2003 – Sept. 2011 Michael E. Hooper, Paul G. Imhoff Jr.
Aug. 2005 – Nov. 2001 John Fetzer – *Painesville, OH*
Sept. 1999 – March 2012 Gary Wooddell, Gwendolyn I. Wooddell
April 2009 – July 2012 CW Spencer
Sept. 2009 – Aug. 2012 Richard Morgan
Fall 2005 – Aug. 2012 James Wright
Aug. 2012 – July 2013 Mary L. Warren, Lisa A. Strohm

March 2005 – Aug. 2013	Kathleen A. Fix	Sept. 2016 – Oct. 2019	Nancy Shepherd
Aug. 2007 – Dec. 2013	James Gilkey	April 2018 – Oct. 2019	Nathan Simpson
Nov. 2004 – May 2016	Karen L. Walker — <i>Navarre, OH</i>	Jan. 2015 – Nov. 2019	Karen Power
March 2006 – Nov. 2016	Dianne K. Bell	Aug. 2015 – Nov. 2019	Jeri Getts, Karen Power
April 2014 – April 2017	George Tyo	Sept. 2016 – Sept. 2020	Eileen Gerson — <i>Mentor, OH</i>
April 23, 2007 - April 24, 2017	Beverly Phillips	Sept. 2016 – Nov. 2020	Dan Hennis, Cathy King — <i>N.Royalton, OH & Pepper Pike, OH</i>
Dec. 1995 – May 2017	Joan Young	Feb. 2017 – Dec. 2020	Julie Melzak — <i>Beachwood, OH</i>
Nov. 2008 – May 2017	Randall Roberts — <i>OH</i>	Oct. 2018 – Dec. 2020	John Chappel — <i>Wadsworth, OH</i>
Nov. 2004 – July 2018	Tim Gerber — <i>Maryland</i>	June 2021 – Aug. 2021	Daniel Schmidt
July 2008 – Nov. 2018	Mary Ruth Green	Feb. 2019 – June 2021	Richard Daugherty
Aug. 2008 – Nov. 2018	Jeanne DeLaney	Feb. 2019 – Nov. 2021	Jeff Yoest
2008 – Nov. 2018	Mary Ruth Grubbs Green	July 2020 – Nov. 2021	Sandy Bartlett
Dec. 31, 2009 - June 30, 2019	Dale J. Wical	April 2018 – Dec. 2021	John Smilek
June 2017 – June 2019	Andrew “Mr. Truth” Prill	Oct. 20?? – April 2022	Michael Foulkes
Aug. 2015 – Sept. 2019	Kyle Browning	Feb. 2016 – May 2022	Matt Patterson
April 2013 – Oct. 2019	Karen Fisk	Sept. 2019 – May 2022	Christina Costarella
April 2014 – Oct. 2019	Second time for Jim Gilkey & Richard Morgan	Oct. 2014 – June 2022	Dennis Betts
Nov. 2013 – Oct. 2019	Kathleen Fix (Second time!)	Aug. 2017 – July 2022	Susanne Klein
20?? – Oct. 2019	Jacob Thompson, Maria Wingard	May 2, 2020 - July 20, 2022	Kristine Stevens — <i>Twinsburg, OH</i>
May 2015 – Oct. 2019	Jen Weaver — <i>Cortland, OH</i>		
Oct. 2015 – Oct. 2019	Bonnie Spencer, CW Spencer (Second time!)		

From February 1974 to June 1974, before the trail became a loop (in 1980), the following individuals hiked the 500 miles from Lake Erie to Cincinnati: Cliff Thorniley (31) and four high school students from Heath, Ohio – Roger Jones (15), Rick Welsh (14), Carl Cooperider (13) and Craig Cooperider (15). They are listed as having been the 3rd through 7th BT thru-hikers and were honored by Governor Gilligan later in 1974, so who were the two earlier hikers?

Dana Zintek (see 2001 section hiker) found an article

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

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

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

The following hikers completed the 520-mile trail:

19?? - May 1975

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

The following hikers completed the 571-mile trail:

Jan. 1975 – Nov. 1975

James Feeley (*Norcross, GA*), Frank & Miriam Cepp (*Florida*), Louisa McDonough (*Cleveland, OH*), Donna Seither (*McConnell, PA*)

Jan. 1975 - April 1976

Gene DeSimone, Emily Gregor, Donald Howard, Wilma Howard, Kenneth Howard (13), Brian Howard (12), Jane Pendley (*Cleveland, OH*); Rachel Hartman (*Centerville, OH*); Helena Hart (*OH*); Victor Sandorf.

The following hikers completed the 658-mile trail.

March 1977 – November 1978

Dan Springate, Garnet Springate, Jeannette Kozeny, Gene DeSimone (*Cleveland, OH*); Charles Briggs, Cecil Dobbins, Clifton Tate (*Akron, OH*); Lou Shainker.

There are many blanks that need to be filled in. If you know of individuals who have completed the trail or some information to fill in the blanks, please contact me at chuckhewett@yahoo.com or call 330-787-1463. Thank you to those individuals who have helped add a few names to the list. BTA is interested in people who have hiked the whole Trail. A patch is available for any hiker who has completed the entire Buckeye Trail. After finishing the Buckeye Trail, fill out a questionnaire and a patch will be sent to you in 10 business days. The first patch is FREE; any extra patches are \$3 each. The questionnaire can be found at: <https://buckeyetrail.org/circuit.php>. Find the link for the form, download, fill it out and mail it (info below). The plaque can be ordered with your own personal information. The necessary information can be seen below:

Names (and trail names if applicable), thru-hike or section hike, and time of period hiked.

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

Mail the information to:

Hewett
6734 Lakeview Road
Hanoverton, Ohio 44423
(Or email at chuckhewett@yahoo.com)

Haunted Hikes on the Buckeye Trail

Jannette Quackenbush

Those who hike along the Buckeye Trail take in a wide range of unique, natural worlds during their journey, from ghost towns nearly lost to time beneath dense forests to old towpath trails running along fast-moving streams. The occasional deer or black bear may heighten the excitement of adventure as these creatures cross the path. Yet, many do anticipate coming face to face with the supernatural along the way and perhaps, experiencing a ghostly encounter. In the southeastern region of Ohio, old stories and legends, passed down in local communities where the Buckeye Trail winds through, tell us experiences with the paranormal may happen more often than most might think.

When hikers travel the Buckeye Trail in Shawnee State Forest, where it connects with the Wilderness Loop Trail, they come within hollering distance of Dead Man Hollow and a mysterious, lone grave. Some may even hear phantom screams. A skeleton was discovered in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) as they worked to open the area to the public for recreation. They reburied the bones nearby and placed a marker over the grave. After finding implements like combs and tin plates nearby, old-timers agreed the skeleton was that of a peddler who had disappeared under strange circumstances many years before. For years, locals avoided the area of the hollow after dark, reporting wraithlike screams, whistling, and strange noises.

Hike GPS Coordinates: 38.698, -83.255 to 38.705, -83.242

Dead Man Hollow GPS Coordinates: 38.698760, -83.237083



Left: Grave in Dead Man Hollow . Flowers are placed in memory of the peddler. Right: Gorge Overlook Trail, Rim Trail and BT trail sign. The trail intersection is located nearby Cedar Falls and Cedar Creek.

Northeast of Shawnee State Forest, between Logan and South Bloomingville, two young boys in the 1800s were visiting a cave rumored as haunted. Some had heard the low baying of a hound at night, but the source could never be found when they searched for the dog. The boys had only been inside the cave a few minutes when the crunch of footsteps caught their attention. Accompanied by a large, white dog, a bearded old man dressed in buckskins and carrying a gun walked into the cave. The strange man paced back and forth near the edge of the far rocks and, upon coming to a standstill, peered intently at a shallow depression in the sandstone earth. Then the man and the dog vanished into the depression as if they had not been there at all! Upon hearing the boys' story, those in the community were curious and dug into the pit where the ghost had disappeared. They found the skeletal remains of a man and dog. Their presence was explained like this: before American families had formed the towns of Logan and Cedar Grove in the early 1800's, some trappers lived along Cedar Creek, a stream that worked through a deep sandstone gorge. As their jobs required them to travel far into the wilderness, they were gone for many days at a time. One winter, upon returning from a seasonal hunt, neighbors discovered the dead bodies of one trapper named Retzler, who made his home in a cave outcropping along with his old dog Harper. They buried the two side by side in the back of the cave. The place in the Hocking Hills where the bones lay was dubbed Dead Man's Cave or Old Man's Cave and is part of the Buckeye Trail, and some still hear the old hound dog baying in the evening.

Hike Old Man's Cave GPS Coordinates: 39.437124, -82.538276 to 39.427957, -82.541386

Those not too scared to continue onward will pass a long





The A-frame Bridge by Cedar Falls.

A-frame bridge along the rim of Cedar Falls where a grist-mill stood in the 1800s, powered by the waters of Queer Creek. Nearby was a massive beech tree carved deeply with the words “This is the road to hell, 1782” in its ancient trunk by a trapper held captive by Shawnee or Lenape (commonly known as “Delaware”). He escaped, but others did not. Often it was said that agonizing cries emanated from the roots of the old tree where some colonists were killed.

The A-frame Bridge GPS Coordinates: 39.419389, -82.524094



Pictured is the location where Lost Run Road, the creek and Buckeye Trail meet.

Ghosts aside, I will leave you with this last bit of folklore and a thank you to Buckeye Trail volunteers who work hard to keep the trails maintained and carefully marked with blue blazes. Unfortunately, I do have the reputation of getting lost on unmarked trails. So those who hike often and have a poor sense of direction like me will relate to this cautionary legend. Where Lost Run Road and the Buckeye Trail come together in Hocking County, there was an old hunter’s trail along a shallow, nameless creek. In the early years of Ohio, one hunter got lost while pursuing game by the creek during winter. He sat down next to a tree and froze to death. His skeleton was found many years later with a rifle next to it, and so the creek was named Lost Run.

Hike about a mile along Lost Run. GPS Coordinates: 39.553687, -82.258228 to 39.556276, -82.239173

These stories and others can be found in *Haunted Hocking: A Ghost Hunter’s Guide to the Hocking Hills and Jannettes* other books.

You can find her podcast, hikes, books and more at: 21crows.com



The Buckeye Trail goes down wooden steps leading to Ash Cave. During winter, a large ice pillar often forms underneath the waterfall.

If that is not enough, a pale woman follows hikers further along the trail in Ash Cave, and some have witnessed her peeking at them behind trees. No one knows to whom the ghost belongs, but Ash Cave was a shelter for Native Americans, a home for early European-American colonists, and even a place for Sunday church revivals.

Ash Cave GPS Coordinates: 39.400136, -82.537272



No Place Like Home

Rebecca Shawhan

I have lived in Ohio my entire life. Growing up, I dreamed of living by the ocean and surfing every day while perfecting my tan and bleaching my hair. The salty sea air and sparkling blue water sounded way more appealing than being land logged in 70 percent humidity in July and breathing in the scent of freshly mowed lawns that permeated Ohio summers. If the ocean wasn't in the cards, then maybe somewhere closer to the Smokey Mountains. My family visited Gatlinburg almost every other year, and I can proudly list the numerous hikes I've taken, including Cades Cove. Twice. If I lived in these places I would feel like I was on vacation all year. And who doesn't want that?!

At 25 I married my best friend, who also happened to be a dairy and grain farmer. That pretty much sealed the deal of staying put in Highland County. Over time, I've been convinced that Ohio is where I'm supposed to be. I still love the ocean, but with two kids I'm really glad I don't have to battle sand in my home on a constant basis! Also, I'm a redhead and so are our children and we can only endure so many hours in the sun. I still love Gatlinburg, cheap souvenir stores and all, but to be honest, I'm not a huge people person and lately the Smokies are attracting people like bees to honey. I could sit here and write a novel on the good aspects the Buckeye State has to offer (all four seasons, world renowned hospitals and prominent historical figures to name a few) but that's not what I sat down to do. Ohio also offers a gem not every resident knows about. It's very own long distance hiking trail.



It wasn't until last summer, 2021, that I really got into hiking. What started out as nature walks in our woods soon exploded to a full-on obsession. Those hikes soothed my soul like nothing previous ever had. I could leave my problems behind and imagine myself in Colorado on the lookout for grizzlies or crushing miles on the Appalachian Trail. It was in researching the A.T. that I discovered the Buckeye Trail and the fact that I lived about 10 minutes away from it.

June 4th was the Buckeye Trail's biggest day hike. While my family and I failed to officially register, we took that day to explore what had always been so close to home. Fort Hill Earthworks and Nature Preserve is about a ten-minute drive from where we live. It was always something I knew about but had never taken the time to visit. Now thanks to my new hiking obsession and the self-made goal I'd made for myself to hike more off our property, we packed our daypacks and trekking poles and followed the blue blazes.

It was a great way to spend the day as a family. We marveled at the size of the trees. How long had they been there and what had they witnessed of our state's history? Had Tecumseh or Daniel Boone passed them by? What had made the big ones come crashing down? An infectious disease or the ice storm we had in February. I made my husband stand by one of these fallen giants as I took a picture with my phone. We hiked uphill and felt the blood begin to pump while birds sang overhead. The kids called out whenever they saw a blue blaze painted on a tree. The only people we saw on trail were two men hiking together who passed our fallen log where we sat eating peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for lunch. We left tired and sweaty and excited for more.

The very next Saturday saw us once again packing up and following a different section of trail. By taking the Gorge Trail, the kids were excited to follow the river that runs parallel to the trail for a bulk of the way. It was another beautiful sunny day and we easily got glimpses of blue sparkly water and several rocky overhangs that gave us gorgeous views. The trail wasn't very wide in some sections, and the lush vegetation made it hard



Left: Towering tree on the Buckeye Trail.

Right: The kids marveling at the river nearby Gorge Trail.

to see very far ahead. For me it was easy to imagine that section of trail being a good hiding place for those grizzlies. We stopped and had our lunch at the junction of the Gorge Trail and Canby's Mountain Lovers Trail. The kids wanted to cross the river so badly and get their feet wet so we promised them we would come back and take on the Canby's Mountain Lovers Trail in the future. The rocky overhangs reminded us of Alum Cave on the way up to Mount Le Conte in the Smokies. Steep uphill sections reminded us of hiking up Chimney Tops as well. By the end of the hike my knees were reminding me of our hike out to Charlie's Bunion back in March. Upon returning to the truck in the parking lot, it was hard to believe we would be home in ten minutes. It felt as if we would go back to a hotel and clean up then limp through Gatlinburg for food and shopping. But we weren't. We were home.

At a summer solstice festival at Serpent Mound, a representative for the Buckeye Trail had a booth set up and we decided to stop in. I was happily surprised to learn that another Ohio hidden gem was part of the Buckeye Trail. Headlands Beach State Park in Mentor is the most northern terminus of the trail. Headlands Beach is amazing and beautiful and simply astounding. Why more Ohioans don't know about this natural beach is beyond me. We discovered it back in 2018 when we wanted to take a beach vacation minus a 10 hour drive in the car. Perhaps more people don't know about it because it lacks the typical touristy attractions like Port Clinton and Put-In-Bay, but wow...the beach is incredible. Just last week we took our third trip to Headlands for a sun filled day of sitting in the sand and playing in the waves, which were comparable on this trip to those we saw last June in the Outer Banks. Once again, it was hard to believe we were still in Ohio and just a few hours from home. Before leaving Headlands, I tracked down the northern terminus sign and saw several trees sporting the blue blazes. It was fun to tell the kids that if they followed the blazes it would lead them back to Highland County.

Do you want to feel like you're deep in the mountains? Go for a hike on the Buckeye Trail. Do you want to feel like you're at the ocean? Go visit Headlands Beach and enjoy the sailboats and lake breeze. If anyone is looking for a quick escape without all the crowds, gas money and time away from their homes, I can't recommend the Buckeye Trail or its hidden gems more. No matter what sections you chose to enjoy, you will still be in the great state of Ohio. You will still be home. And after all, there really is no place like home.

Top-right: Large rock overhang along Gorge Trail at Fort Hill Nature Preserve. Center right: Fairport Harbor West Breakwater Lighthouse at Headlands Beach State Park. We loved watching the waves.

Bottom left: Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve sign Bottom center: Stone marker indicating the Northern Terminus of the Buckeye Trail. Bottom right: Follow the Blue Blazes!



A Walk Through Mantua on the Buckeye Trail

Toomas Tubalkain

Mantua Station was created at the intersection of the Cleveland-Mahoning Railroad Crossing on the Painesville-Ravenna Road in 1856. The site eventually became the commercial center of Mantua Township superseding Mantua Corners two miles to the north. The Village of Mantua was incorporated three decades later in 1898. As a Buckeye Trail Town, the Buckeye Trail passes through Mantua. Follow along as we journey through Mantua.

The hiking journey begins at to the north-east side of Mantua where the Buckeye Trail joins the Headwaters Trail near the corner of Peck and High Street. Running concurrently with the Buckeye Trail, the Headwaters Trail follows the tracks of the former railroad line of the aforementioned Cleveland-Mahoning Railroad. As you enter the village, you will spy oil storage tanks on the right. The Buckeye Pipe Line Company started in 1886 in Lima Ohio and completed a pipeline into Mantua in 1888. Originally formed as part of the Standard Oil Trust, Buckeye Pipeline has been a presence in Mantua for more than 130 years. Continuing along the trail, you will notice the Marsh Wetlands State Preserve to the south of the trail. The Preserve was dedicated in 1990 and is an excellent example of an emergent marsh along the Upper Cuyahoga State Scenic River.

The Village of Manuta Maintenance facilities, housed in class brick architecture, is located to the north of the Buckeye Trail. It can be hard to see when the trees have leafed out, but there is a gap that will provide a beautiful vista and is well worth a few moments. As you cross the bridge over the Cuyahoga River, a paved walkway to the right will take you to Buchert Park. This is Mantua's largest park and hosts picnic grounds, playground, and a canoe/kayak launch. This park hosts a variety of community events, included the annual Mantua Potato Festival in the fall. The park is located on East High Street.

The Buckeye Trail then enters the downtown area, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 as a Historic Business District. C.H. Thompson, a local businessman, built many of the blocks beginning in 1873. The Prospect Block contains buildings that have, at one time or another, been part of the Mantua Grain and Supply Company. C.H. Thompson built the Thompson Block in 1884 and the grain elevator in 1898. The green pole barn, built circa 1965, housed bulk fertilizer. The next building

is the white wooden structure referred to as the Straw Barn. In the days of the locomotives, railroad cars could directly access the Straw Barn and offload supplies along a plank walkway. The Mantua Grain is last. This building is frequently used for pop up businesses, and during Mantua events, such as Art on the Hill (which is held every summer). Across the street is an old Carriage House that, in pre-automobile days, offered carriages and horses for rent. During Mantua festivals, the building is open and several old, horse-drawn carriages are out on display. They range from fully restored to "barn find" condition and provide insight into transportation before cars.

Lining the south side of Prospect Street is a block of his-



toric storefronts known as the Pelletiere Thompson Block. The facades on this block have a more consistent outline and articulated by slightly projecting piers or buttresses. Jake's Restaurant, also located on this block, is a great place to rest and refuel during or after your hike. Stop for a stretch and enjoy old photos on the village on the restaurant's walls.

Continue down Prospect Street until you reach Main Street, also known as State Route 44. You will find a mini-park with sun sails and seating. A poem written by the third-grade students at Crestwood Elementary is on display here. Next door to the mini park is Restoration 44, a coffee shop that offers coffee, tea (including bubble tea), and pastries. The Village Tavern on the opposite side of the street houses an excellent kitchen and stocked bar. If you wander north down Main Street, you will see the famous Mantua Mural. The Buckeye Trail turns left at the corner of Prospect and Main Street where the Mantua Train Station is located. The building is a gable-roofed, one-story frame structure. The depot served the Cleveland-Mahoning Valley beginning in 1856 and later the Erie-Lackawanna Railroad.

The Buckeye Trail crosses the railroad track as it heads out of town to the south. Refreshments on the south side of town include a fast-food restaurant, Mama's Eats, and The Chilling Station, an ice cream shop. If you are interested in water sports, you will pass by Break Away Excursions where you can rent a kayak or canoe to tour the Cuyahoga River. A left turn on Canada Road leads out of town. This is the only road in the village zoned for Rural Residential. The first farmhouse on the right has a barn that was built in the 1830s. As you cross a bridge over an unnamed creek, you will notice a small hill on the left. This is an Indigenous Peoples Mound, as confirmed in a historic site survey by archeologists from Kent State University.

We hope your hike through Mantua will bring you back to enjoy one of our festivals, or to enjoy a meal, coffee, ice cream, or enjoy time on the Cuyahoga River.

Bottom left: Downtown Mantua. Forage & Feather is a local artisans shop with soaps, lotions, balms, candles, locally-made maple syrup, teas, and more.

Top right: Mantua mural located in the heart of Mantua. It is located at what locals call "The Hole" - now a green space in place of a formerly burned down hardware store. Inspiration for the mural was family, the outdoors, and Trail Town. Photo credit: Kim Love-Ottobre.



2022 Schedule of Hikes & Events

Always check buckeyetrail.org/events.php for more information and last-minute updates, and to register for the work parties and the chuckwagon meals

SEPTEMBER

September 24, 2022

Little Loop Challenge

The Little Loop Challenge will take place on National Public Lands Day with the goal to collectively hike the entire 256 mile Little Loop of Ohio's Buckeye Trail in one day. Registered hikers will choose a segment of the loop to complete and we'll gather to celebrate with a BBQ afterwards at the centrally located Silver Springs Park in Stow. If we all complete the entire Little Loop Challenge hikers will receive a commemorative patch at the post hike BBQ at Silver Spring Park in Stow. Registration will be posted on buckeyetrail.org.

Contact: Randal Roberts at littleloop@buckeyetrail.org

September 24-25, 2022

BTA Circuit Hike - Akron Section

Saturday: Saturday's hike is part of the Little Loop Challenge and is from Akron Section Point 11, Deer Run Trailhead in O'Neil Woods Metro Park off of Martin Rd., GPS Coordinates N41.17049 W081.59076 to Point 20, Summit Lake Park Trailhead parking lot at 380 Lake Shore Blvd, GPS Coordinates (41.05968 W081.54142). This is a distance of 12.4 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Summit Lakes Community Center parking lot to carpool to Point 11, the Deer Run Trailhead in O'Neil Metro Park.

Sunday: Sunday's hike is from Akron Section Point 20, Summit Lake Park Trailhead parking lot at 380 Lake Shore Blvd, GPS Coordinates N41.05968 W081.54142 to Point 25, Congressman Ralph Regula Towpath Vanderhoof Road Trailhead, GPS Coordinates N40.97816 W081.60564. This is a distance of 10.0 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Vanderhoof Road Trailhead to carpool to Summit Lake Park Trailhead.

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

September 30 - Oct 2, 2022

Intro to Backpacking Course

Join the Tecumseh Theater and Appalachian Understories to celebrate the Blue Blaze Festival by backpacking a section of the Buckeye Trail. Participants will learn all necessary skills to complete a backpacking trip, and will leave empowered to hit the trail again soon. This is a fully supported course providing food, rentable gear, and hands-on instruction on all beginner topics.

Friday, Sept. 30th: Meet at Tecumseh Theater for gear shakedown at 6 PM. Expert backpacking guides will go over participants' gear to ensure everyone is prepared for the adventure. Then join the group for comradery around the fire behind the Buckeye Trail Association headquarters.

Saturday, October 1st: Check in at Tecumseh Theater 8 AM. A three to six mile backpacking route with a camping option at mile marker three at the Up Stream Rock Run Restoration Area. Participants will have the option to continue hiking for up to three more miles or stay

at the campsite to learn survival skills and various camping activities and skills. All participants will receive a Leave No Trace (LNT) Awareness certification while hiking with a LNT instructor and learning the various LNT principles throughout the Backpacking Course. Locally sourced lunch and dinner will be provided.

Sunday, October 2nd: Participants will be provided a locally sourced backcountry breakfast. Three mile hike back to trailhead. Debrief & LNT Certifications at Tecumseh Theater.

Location: Tecumseh Theater (116 Main Street, Shawnee, OH 43782)

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3wSFHtY>

Contact: Madison Donohue at madison@ruralaction.org

OCTOBER

October 1, 2022

Blue Blaze Festival

The BTA will again host the Blue Blaze Festival, celebrating the Buckeye Trail with running, hiking and backpacking. This year there will be five options for a distance and trail challenge right for you: Half Marathon, 10K, 5K run/walk, 10 Mile BT Hike and an overnight backpacking experience. All events are on the Buckeye Trail in the Wayne National Forest. The start and finish for all of the events (Run - Hike - Backpack) will be in Shawnee, Ohio, near the Buckeye Trail Association office, 127B W. Main Street.

Location: Shawnee, OH

Register: runsignup.com/Race/OH/Shawnee/RunForBlueBlazes

Contact: run4blue@buckeyetrail.org

October 5, 2022

"Meandering Thru" at The Chagrin Documentary Film Festival

Documentary showing at 3:15pm, time subject to change.

Tickets: <https://www.chagrinfilmfest.org/>

Location: Chagrin Valley Little Theatre (40 River St, Chagrin Falls, OH 44022)

On the verge of starting a new family, newly wedded Everett Brandt took the summer off of teaching to do one last epic adventure. That adventure; setting a 1400 mile record on Ohio's Buckeye Trail, will have him face physical, mental and emotional challenges. To complete his solo trek he will need the support and the love of his wife, father and siblings. Meandering Thru was created by Kevin Morrissey.

October 15-19, 2022

Ohio River Chapter - Williamsburg Section

Opportunities to come join a Buckeye Trail Work Party are running out for the year. Come on out to help us end the year strong for a 5 day work party on the Williamsburg section of the BT! Work will focus on bridge replacement using materials provided by East Fork State Park. We are looking forward to seeing you there! We will work from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

Camping: East Fork State Park Campground, 2837 Old State Rte

32, Batavia, OH 45103

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

Registration: <https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/BuckeyeTrailAssociationInc/btatrailwork2022.html>

Contact: williamsburg@buckeyetrail.org

October 19, 2022

"Meandering Thru" Film Tour: Euclid

Location: Atlas Cinemas Lakeshore 7 & XXDXP (22624 Lakeshore Blvd, Euclid, OH 44123)

Documentary showing at 7:30pm, time subject to change.

Visit meanderingthru.com/screenings for up-to-date screening info.

On the verge of starting a new family, newly wedded Everett Brandt took the summer off of teaching to do one last epic adventure. That adventure; setting a 1400 mile record on Ohio's Buckeye Trail, will have him face physical, mental and emotional challenges. To complete his solo trek he will need the support and the love of his wife, father and siblings. Meandering Thru was created by Kevin Morrissey.

October 22-23, 2022

BTA Circuit Hike - Pemberville Section

Saturday: Saturday's hike is from Pemberville Section Point 14, parking along Elmore Rd about 0.2 mile west of US 23, GPS Coordinates N41.41942 W083.41904 to Point 18+, Waggoner Rd just north of Behring Rd adjacent to the Ohio Turnpike overpass at the intersection with the North Coast Inland Trail, GPS Coordinates N41.447610 W083.25970. This is a distance of 10.8 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Waggoner Rd. just north of Behring Rd. adjacent to the Ohio Turnpike overpass to carpool to Elmore Rd 0.2 mi W of US 23.

Sunday: Sunday's hike is from Point 18+, Waggoner Rd just north of Behring Rd adjacent to the Ohio Turnpike overpass at the intersection with the North Coast Inland Trail, GPS Coordinates N41.447610 W083.25970 to Point 22, Hayes Ave and S Park Ave, Fremont, GPS Coordinates N41.34208 W083.11688. This is a distance of 11.4 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. in Fremont at the intersection of Hayes Ave and S Park Ave to carpool to Waggoner Rd just north of Behring Rd.

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

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

Contact: Jay Shutt at shuttjay@gmail.com

October 27, 2022

"Meandering Thru" Film Tour: Cincinnati

Location: Mariemont Theater (6906 Wooster Pike, Cincinnati, OH)

Documentary showing at 7:30pm, time subject to change.

Visit meanderingthru.com/screenings for up-to-date screening info.

On the verge of starting a new family, newly wedded Everett Brandt took the summer off of teaching to do one last epic adventure. That adventure; setting a 1400 mile record on Ohio's Buckeye Trail, will have him face physical, mental and emotional challenges. To complete his solo trek he will need the support and the love of his wife, father and siblings. Meandering Thru was created by Kevin Morrissey.

October 27, 2022

"Meandering Thru" Film Tour: Shawnee

Location: Tecumseh Theater (116 Main St., Shawnee, OH 43782)

Documentary showing time TBD.

Visit meanderingthru.com/screenings for up-to-date screening info.

On the verge of starting a new family, newly wedded Everett Brandt took the summer off of teaching to do one last epic adventure. That adventure; setting a 1400 mile record on Ohio's Buckeye Trail, will have him face physical, mental and emotional challenges. To complete his solo trek he will need the support and the love of his wife, father and siblings. Meandering Thru was created by Kevin Morrissey.

October 29 to November 2, 2022

Central Ohio Chapter Work Party, Sinking Spring Section

Come down to Pike Lake for the final signature work party of the year. We will be re-benching the trail tread and doing heavy trail maintenance, including blazing and vegetation control. Even if you can only volunteer for a day, come join us! We will work from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

Camping: Pike Lake State Park, Group Camp, 1847 Pike Lake Road, Bainbridge, OH 45612

Meals: The BTA Chuckwagon will be parked at camp. It will provide breakfast and dinner at camp, and everything needed for volunteers to pack themselves a trail lunch. Sign up for the Chuckwagon during registration.

Registration: <https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/BuckeyeTrailAssociationInc/btatrailwork2022.html>

Contact: Brian Batchelder at CentralOhio@buckeyetrail.org

October 30, 2022

"Meandering Thru" Film Tour: Yellow Springs

Location: Little Art Theater (247 Xenia Ave, Yellow Springs, OH)

Documentary showing at 11:00am.

Visit meanderingthru.com/screenings for up-to-date screening info.

On the verge of starting a new family, newly wedded Everett Brandt took the summer off of teaching to do one last epic adventure. That adventure; setting a 1400 mile record on Ohio's Buckeye Trail, will have him face physical, mental and emotional challenges. To complete his solo trek he will need the support and the love of his wife, father and siblings. Meandering Thru was created by Kevin Morrissey.

N O V E M B E R

Nov 12, 2022

BTA Board Meeting

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

Contact: Steve Walker at president@buckeyetrail.org

November 12-13, 2022

BTA Circuit Hike - Pemberville and Norwalk Sections

Saturday: Saturday's hike is from Pemberville Section Point 22, parking at Hayes Ave at S Park Ave, Fremont, GPS Coor-

dinates (N41.34208 W083.11688) to Norwalk Section Point 3, NCIT Trailhead at Riddle Rd, GPS Coordinates (N41.28505 W082.89804). This is a distance of 12.2 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at the NCIT Trailhead on Riddle Rd about a quarter mile south of US 20 and about 3 miles northwest of downtown Bellevue to carpool to Fremont at the intersection of Hayes Ave and S Park Ave.

Sunday: Sunday's hike is from Norwalk Section Point 3, NCIT Trailhead on Riddle Rd about a quarter mile south of US 20 and about 3 miles northwest of downtown Bellevue, GPS Coordinates (N41.28505 W082.89804) to Point 8, 69 S Ridge St (SR 99), Monroeville at the Firelands Rails to Trails Building (N41.24074 W082.70298). This is a distance of 11.4 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at the Firelands Rails to Trails Building at 69 S Ridge St, Monroeville to carpool to the NCIT Trailhead on Riddle Rd.

NOTE: Please bring a day pack with 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

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DECEMBER

December 10-11, 2022

BTA Circuit Hike - Norwalk Section

Saturday: Saturday's hike is from Norwalk Section Point 8, 69 S Ridge St (SR 99), Monroeville at the Firelands Rails to Trails Building (N41.24074 W082.70298) to Norwalk Section Point 14 NCIT Hartland Center Rd Trailhead parking lot, GPS Coordinates (N41.25809 W082.49157). This is a distance of 11.7 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at the NCIT Trailhead on Hartland Center Rd about 0.7 mile north of US 20 near the Village of Collins to carpool to 69 S Ridge St in Monroeville.

Sunday: Sunday's hike is from Norwalk Section Point 14 NCIT Hartland Center Rd Trailhead parking lot, GPS Coordinates (N41.25809 W082.49157) to Point 20++ parking on Zenobia Rd about 0.1 mile west of Butler Rd, GPS Coordinates (N41.19689 W082.36216). The hike is a distance of 12.9 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Zenobia Rd about 2.6 miles E of the Village of Clarksfield and about 0.1 mile W of Butler Rd to carpool to the NCIT Hartland Center Rd trailhead.

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

The Adventures of Tag and Tor!



Country singer Toby Keith's song title "Big Ol' Truck" seems an appropriate caption for this Tag and Tor adventure. We were so happy to see our dear friend Jim Gilkey and his 'big ol' truck' on a BT hike one day in the Bedford section when two, large and aggressive Dobermans barreled across the road toward us. Jim, who had shuttled us that morning, happened to be on the road scouting out the circuit hike for the next day when he spotted the dangerous dogs and blocked their advance with his truck. We hopped in the truck in the nick of time, and yellow blazed the next half mile to safety. Jim and his truck were at the right place at the right time. Thanks, Jim!

--Karen Power and Jeri Getts

Buckeye Trail Association

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