

BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

# Trailblazer



FOUNDED 1959  
WINTER 2022 VOLUME 55 NO. 4



## IN THIS ISSUE...

- 3 Recreating Responsibly
- 4 President's Message
- 5 On the Trail
- 6 BTA Funds Report
- 7 Greetings from Pretty Run Preserve!
- 8 Welcome to the 10th BTA Chapter: Appalachian Foothills
- 10 Findley Winter Hike
- 12 Guided Backpacking on the Buckeye Trail
- 14 Woodland Magic
- 15 Photos from the Buckeye Trail
- 16 Sharing Grandma Gatewood's Story
- 17 Train Safety for Hikers
- 18 2022 / 2023 List of Hikes and Events
- 20 New Member Form



## Trailblazer

Published Quarterly by the  
Buckeye Trail Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 5  
Shawnee, Ohio 43782  
740-394-2008  
Circulation: 1,950

**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**  
**Andrew Bashaw**  
740-394-2008  
director@buckeyetrail.org

*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.*

## Editor's Note

We would like to make a few corrections to our last issue. In Chuck Hewitt's article, "Plaque of Recognition" on pages 14 and 15, we spelled Sandy Barlett's name incorrectly. Her surname appears as "Bartlett" but should be "Barlett." Daniel Schmidt, who is listed as a section hiker, should be listed as a thru-hiker (June 2021 - August 2021). Josh Horsfall completed his thru-hike in 38 days and 5 hours, not 39 days and 5 hours as written in the article. We apologize for any confusion these errors may have caused.

The Buckeye Trail Association fondly remembers the life of Garry Dill, who passed away on November 15th, 2022. Garry Dill was a regular on the Buckeye Trail Crew for many years, a BTA Trustee, and North Country Trail Association Board Member, and a generous BTA donor and volunteer.



We've all seen "displaced" and "misplaced" items along the trail—old tires, rusty wash tubs, broken toys. Have you ever wondered how these out-of-place items ended up on the Buckeye Trail? When a group of Buckeye Trail section hikers came upon several industrial sized springs lying alongside the path in the Akron section, a clever hiker couldn't resist the opportunity for some fun word play. The humor of the situation was too good to pass up.

~Karen Power & Jeri Getts

## Buckeye Trail Association

### B T A B O A R D O F T R U S T E E S

**President**  
Steve Walker

**Vice President**  
Eileen Gerson

**Secretary**  
Mark Heise

**Treasurer**  
Erik Morris

#### Trustees

Heather Stehle	Linda Paul
Lori Luken	Mark Heise
Alisha Adams Fern	Marianne Duvendack
Brandon Bates	John Riggins
Valerie Gardner	Boone Troyer

### B T A S T A F F

**Executive Director**  
Andrew Bashaw

**Director of Trail Development**  
Richard Lutz

**Communications Coordinator &  
Office Manager**  
Jean Vandervaart

**Clerk**  
Connie Pond

**Special Projects Coordinator**  
Jon Flinn

**AmeriCorps Member**  
Morgan Thomas

**Webmaster**  
Mary Hayes

**Scholarship**  
Linda Paul

**Trail Town Coordinator**  
Kim Love-Ottobre

**Scouting Liason**  
Rick Mark

**Buckeye Trail Shop**  
Mark Heise

**Map Team**  
Pat and Mary Hayes

### B O A R D C O M M I T T E E C H A I R S

**Awards & Recognition**  
Randall Roberts

**Bylaws**  
David Thorndike

**Finance**  
Eileen Gerson

**Membership**  
Brandon Bates & Valerie Gardner

**Board Resource**  
Mark Heise

**Trail Preservation**  
Position Open

# Recreating Responsibly

*Jon Flinn*

The Buckeye Trail winds around the entire state of Ohio and, no matter where Ohioans are, they're always within two hours of the Buckeye Trail. This makes the Buckeye Trail a great asset to Ohioans and hikers from surrounding states to explore the outdoors and connect with nature. A hiking trip or any outdoor excursion can be fun, but it always helps to prepare in case of an injury or getting lost. The Recreate Responsibly Coalition provides information on best practices and how to prepare for the unexpected when in the outdoors. To plan ahead and make sure your trip goes as expected, some things that you can do before you leave home are to check the website of the park or trail where you are headed to in case there are any new trail closures, fires, or temporary re-routes. Researching the area and looking for any trail announcements, or route detours to get to the trail head is fundamental in planning ahead to make sure that trips are feasible, and limits surprises. I always look at water accessibility in the area and plan accordingly if I need to bring a water filter or pack enough water for the whole trip. I always make sure that I have a map or guidebook with me as a resource to reference in case I lose the trail, or need to end the hike early in an unexpected event. Each day leading up to the hike, I revisit my plan to make sure that I have all the equipment that I need for my trip, and check in on how I'm feeling mentally and physically to make sure I can follow through with the trip that I had set up for myself.

Parks and trails are places where everyone has common ground and should be seen as a safe place for everyone to enjoy. When going out on trips we all need to work together to be respectful of each other, and to everyone's interests and activities. Everyone has the goal to have fun when exploring a new place and with everyone being mindful of each other we can accomplish many goals in minimizing our personal impacts, grow appreciation for our communities, and enhance our personal wellbeing by getting out.

Next time you go out on your next trip, going the extra mile in planning ahead can help you be prepared for the unexpected, respect others who are also enjoying our natural spaces and be mindful of our impact. We all have shared goals in keeping our favorite places clean and cared for. The outdoors is open for all to explore and recreate. The Recreate Responsibly Coalition, along with Leave No Trace, emphasizes respect for other trail users and natural wildlife in the area. Trails are an asset to everyone, so it takes everyone to keep them clean, accessible, and welcoming.



*Jon Flinn, Special Projects Coordinator, and Scott Krepps, Shawnee Trail Town Coordinator, hiking in Wayne National Forest.*



# President's Message

Steve Walker

Once again, it's time to look back on the passage of another year. Although it's only November 1<sup>st</sup> when I'm writing this, by the time you're reading this article, it will be December. The word "transformative" has been used a lot lately with the hope that things will be changing to a more positive future. The year 2022 was a rocky one for Planet Earth and I hope that the greater powers that lead us will find a way to make things better in 2023. With that out of the way, I think that the Buckeye Trail Association had a "transformative" year in 2022.

The BTA's first major legislative success of 2022 came early on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Buckeye National Scenic Trail Feasibility Study Act of 2021 passed out of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee for consideration of passage by the entire U.S. House of Representatives.

In June of 2022, the BTA had its second major legislative success of the year with six trail projects receiving funding in the State of Ohio Capital Budget process. The funding provided by the State of Ohio didn't cover all the funds needed for three of those projects and the BTA Development Committee is looking to secure the remainder so that those Capital Budget projects can be completed.

In July, the BTA's third major legislative success of 2022 occurred when The Buckeye National Scenic Trail Feasibility Study Act of 2022 was introduced into the U.S. Senate. As I write this, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is looking to schedule a hearing on the Senate version of the bill. By the time you read this, both the House and Senate bills may have been voted on. I'll keep my fingers crossed and hope that you will do the same.

The BTA's participation in the Ohio Trails Partnership's Enhanced Advocacy Program that began on July 1<sup>st</sup> is a sign that the Buckeye Trail Association is letting Ohio know that the organization will be a force for the betterment of all trails in the Buckeye State.

In January of this year, the BTA's Chapter Leadership Council decided to ask the greater BTA about a Chapter chain of command and then gathered an ad hoc committee together to propose some changes that will affect the entire organization.

Changes based on those proposals are being considered by other entities within the BTA and will, no doubt, take until the new year to be fully implemented.

Although the BTA has been adding local Chapters ever since the program was launched in 2012, the pace has picked up in recent years. The organization reached a milestone in September with the chartering of the tenth BTA Chapter. With all Sections of the Buckeye Trail now covered by a local BTA Chapter, new ones will have to form in other areas of Ohio where the Buckeye Trail may not be handy. That precedent has already been set by the Central Ohio Chapter. If there were to be a Mansfield BTA Chapter, I wonder what they would name it.

The Blue Blaze Academy, a dream of BTA leadership for several years, was launched in April (see picture). With several of the BTA's most important partners participating, it could end up being the premier trail building educational venue in the Northeastern U.S.

Just to make sure that the pandemic was pretty much over, all of the BTA's Signature Events returned for 2022 including TrailFest. Some of our newer BTA Chapters are looking to create Signature Events of their own.

It looks like we've had another great year for the Buckeye Trail Association and, with luck, this should drive the BTA to an even greater future. I look forward to sharing the ride with you.



*Inaugural Blue Blaze Academy Graduating Class of 2022. Photo credit: Richard Lutz*

# On the Trail...

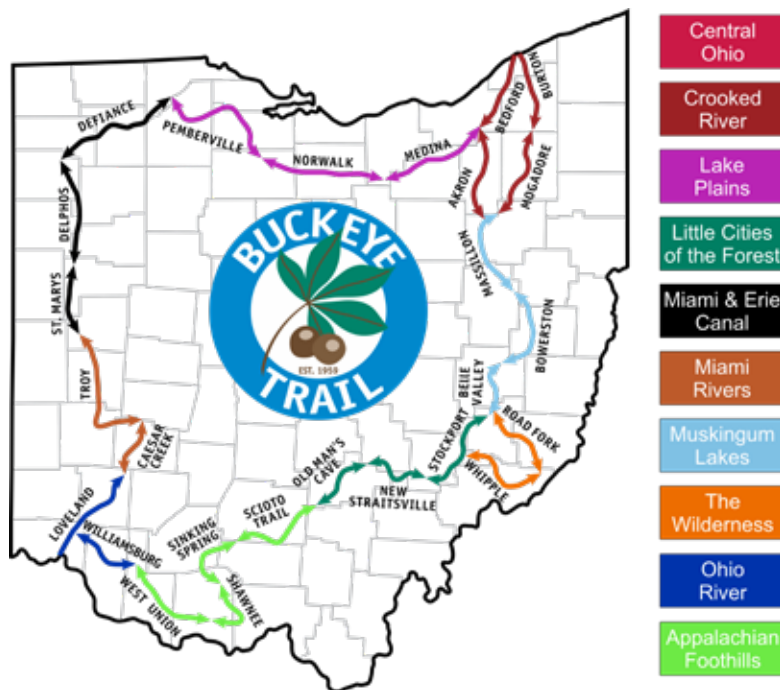
You may have heard that we officially welcomed our 10<sup>th</sup> BTA Chapter, the Appalachian Foothills Chapter, which covers the Scioto Trail through West Union Sections of the Buckeye Trail, at our September Board of Trustees meeting. Earlier this year, the Miami Rivers Chapter split to create the Ohio River Chapter, which covers the Loveland and Williamsburg Sections. We've been working on Chapter development toward this moment for about 10 years thanks in part to BTA volunteer, Darryl Smith, who championed the creation of the first BTA Chapter, Miami Rivers Chapter, in Southwest Ohio. At that time, we did not have a map to follow even though we did have BTA chapters in the past: one in the Dayton area, and the Renegade Chapter centered around Henry County and the Miami & Erie Canal Towpath. The promise that Darryl and I had to work with at the time was that we all would make our path by walking it together. And that is what we all have done.

Since 2012, BTA volunteers and staff worked on policies and procedures to nurture this evolution, including the creation of Chapter financial accounts, Chapter by-laws, a BTA Volunteer Handbook, online and in-person outreach tools, Chapter social media accounts and local event support, membership and contact reporting from our evolving database, Chapter logos, brand standards, email accounts, local advocacy for local trail project funding, and quarterly Chapter Leadership Summits. Recently, we've been amending roles and responsibilities to incorporate Chapters into our decision-making process and leadership opportunities for trail construction and maintenance as well.

It has been a relatively steady and, at times, challenging journey resulting in the achievement of our goal of having a local presence all around the BT, being a part of the communities that that BT passes through. Even though we have a lot of work ahead to perfect our system, we've reached an important benchmark and you all should congratulate yourselves for the steady support that you have given to the BTA so that we could continue this important work in the background to improve the Buckeye Trail experience.

The BTA's Chapter system has yielded many results from recruiting new volunteers and members as well as retaining existing ones, providing local centers of communication, planning, and support, successfully advocating for large local trail projects, improving trail conditions where chronic maintenance overwhelms individual Trail Adopters, engaging local Trail Town communities and more. All of these things are more challenging for statewide efforts, but extremely rewarding for the BTA both locally and cumulatively trail wide.

The fact that we worked on this project for over 10 years is a compliment to our longevity and commitment to our goals and mission. It inspires the next question: what will the next 10 years look like for our BTA Chapters? What are our collective goals for the next calendar year?



For more information about our Chapters, go to:  
<https://buckeyetrail.org/chapters.php>

With leadership in every Chapter engaging with staff and other volunteers checking in at least every quarter, we can see examples of success in one Chapter that can be replicated in others. We are also able to see where one Chapter needs support that all Chapters could use some day. While our overall goals to achieve the mission of the BTA locally have not changed, there is something about this benchmark that makes our work feel more comprehensive now. We will be working to improve our mutual support to increase Chapter membership, volunteerism, volunteer management, feedback and decision making, and approval and funding for Chapter lead projects.

If you haven't indicated your preferred BTA Chapter yet, please do so next time you renew your membership, submit your volunteer hours, or send the BTA a note at [info@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:info@buckeyetrail.org). If you'd prefer to volunteer locally consider helping your Chapter make their next event a success and share the opportunity with your friends and family.

Thank you for helping the BTA become local all around the Buckeye Trail!

Andrew Bashaw  
Executive Director  
Buckeye Trail Association

# BTA Funds Report

Your contribution to any BTA fund is tax deductible. All contributions of \$20 or more are acknowledged. Thank you to all of our donors who have gone above and beyond to support the mission of the BTA during these challenging times! We appreciate you.

## AUGUST 2, 2022 TO NOVEMBER 1, 2022

### GENERAL FUND

Adrian Achtermann  
David Allmon  
Jeffrey C. Barton  
Andrew & Claudia Bashaw  
Donald Bashaw & Family  
Brian Bolam  
Mr. Richard Campbell  
P. Gregory Cross  
Michael Fanelli  
Friends of Crowell-Hilaka  
William & Diane Gartroza  
John L. Hudson

Chris & Stephen Kitsoulis  
Michael Kohr  
Bayard W. Liesch  
Constance Loving  
Richard A. Lutz  
Richard & Judith Mark  
Terry & Nancy McCann  
Douglas McGee  
Michael H. Meyer  
Katherine Nash  
Malena Phillips  
Ms. Cassandra Pritchett

James M. Runk  
Elizabeth Salt  
William T. Shultz & Leslie Floyd  
Mark & Betty Schwab  
Jack Shaner  
John Smilek  
Heather Stehle  
Ethan Tabor  
Dale K. Vest  
Peter Weiner  
Gene Wimmer

### BUCKEYE TRAIL MANAGEMENT

Thomas & Diane Rohr  
Jeffery & Sarah Yoest

### TRAIL PRESERVATION

Robert Johnson  
Jack Winkler  
Dana & Lisa Zintek

*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](mailto:trailblazer@buckeyetrail.org) for more details). The BTA reserves the right to decline ads that may conflict with our mission.



# Greetings From Pretty Run Preserve!

*Morgan Thomas*

Most of us know that the Buckeye Trail is over 1,440 miles long, and that it is the longest loop trail in the country. Many of us know our favorite Sections of the Buckeye Trail, and the state parks and preserves it runs through within that Section. But did you know that the Buckeye Trail Association has its very own nature preserve?

The Pretty Run Preserve comprises 230 acres of forest and meadow in Vinton county, along the Old Man's Cave Section. It is open to all Buckeye Trail users and offers plenty of space for hikers to camp and rest up. Amenities include two shelters, a tent platform, fire rings, a composting latrine, and an unnamed perennial stream that provides access to water year round.

Pretty Run is more than just a comfortable stopover for section hikers or thru hikers, however. The BTA is actively developing it for both recreational and educational purposes. While it will remain open to campers and hunters, the preserve will also host naturalist programming such as wildflower and birding hikes in the future, and an agreement is in the works with nearby Hocking College to make the site available to the school's Natural Resources program for education and research.

All of this is incredibly exciting, but much of it is still a few years down the road. There is a great deal of work yet to do managing and rehabilitating the site. The foremost concern at present is that the creek running through the southern portion of the preserve is currently listed as a legal township road (dating back to a time when one of the property's owners was granted permission to drive his horse and carriage up the streambed in perpetuity), and thus experiences regular traffic from Jeep and ATV enthusiasts. Naturally, this kind of usage creates several issues, not least of which is that the stream is polluted with oil and currently lacks any form of aquatic macroinvertebrate life (meaning it has no creepy, crawly bugs in it). These insect larvae and bugs form the basis of a healthy stream ecosystem, which in turn is the basis for a healthy surrounding ecosystem. Bringing the stream back to its natural state is crucial to the development of the rest of the preserve. Rehabilitation of the stream isn't the only conservation work being done. Just this past year, the BTA planted a large number of chestnut saplings in three areas of the preserve. These trees are hybrids, being 15/16ths American Chestnut and 1/16th Chinese Chestnut. It is hoped that due to their hybrid nature, they will prove resistant enough to Chestnut Blight to survive to maturity and produce viable offspring. The BTA is proud to be part of the ongoing effort to return American Chestnuts to our landscape.

Pretty Run's combination of early successional and mid-successional mixed hardwood forest also provides precious habitat to a large number of animal and bird species. In addition to the ubiquitous whitetail deer and gray squirrels, the preserve is home to American bobcat and ruffed grouse, both of which are species with very specific habitat requirements. Numerous migratory bird species make use of the preserve's resources as well. Blue-gray gnatcatchers, yellow-throated warblers, white-breasted nuthatches, red-eyed vireos, hooded warblers, chipping sparrows, Carolina chickadees, golden-crowned kinglets, and hermit thrushes have been observed on the grounds, and provide ample opportunity for birding enthusiasts to pursue their passion.

If wildflowers are more your speed, well then boy are you in luck! Bloodroot, rue-anemone, spring beauty, wild blue phlox, and several species of violet and trillium are evident in spring, and throughout the year many more species continue the procession, with blue wood asters bringing up the rear in autumn.

We'll continue to make updates on our progress in developing Pretty Run Preserve in the future, but there is plenty to see and experience on the grounds right now. For anyone interested in visiting, directions are included below:

FROM US 33: Take State Rt 664 13.5 miles to its junction with State Rt 56. Turn Left, and then immediately right onto Goose Creek Rd. Follow Goose Creek Rd 2.4 miles to Lowery Road and turn right. Stay on Lowery Rd/Macedonia Rd another 3.4 miles and turn left onto Macedonia Church Rd. Parking is available in the field after crossing the creek. To obtain the combination to the gate, contact our Old Man's Cave section supervisor at [oldmanscave@buceyetrail.org](mailto:oldmanscave@buceyetrail.org).



*Background & top two photos above: wildflowers at Pretty Run, taken by Shannon Chaney-Guy. Bottom photo above: the township road that goes along a streambed, taken by Morgan Thomas*



# Welcome to BTA's 10th Chapter: Appalachian Foothills!

Jean Vandervaart (they/them)

Say hello to the Buckeye Trail Association's newest Chapter: the Appalachian Foothills Chapter! The name of the Chapter came from the specific geography of the region, which sits right at the border of the Allegheny Plateau, colloquially known as the "Appalachian Foothills." The West Union, Sinking Springs, Shawnee, and Scioto Trail Sections - located in Southern Ohio - comprise the 10th Chapter. The creation of the Appalachian Foothills chapter marks the complete coverage of all parts of the Buckeye Trail by Chapters run by local members - a movement which began in 2012 with the Miami Rivers Chapter in Southwest Ohio. For some time, Southern Central Ohio had little to no representation until last year when a group of interested volunteers gathered. Because of their determination and passion, the chapter quickly became a reality. The Appalachian Foothills Chapter officially formed on September 18, 2022, during the 10th anniversary of the beginning of BTA Chapters.



Chapter members expressed their interest in the formation of a local chapter because they felt inspired to help promote and maintain an accessible, local trail system. "Participating in the Chapter is the best way to make that happen," said Adam Batson, the Chapter's treasurer. "As a member of the Chapter Leadership Team I contribute on behalf of the Chapter and local interest." He plans to host one to two public hikes a month starting in January through March. These hikes, he says, will cover local geology (such as the numerous arches and pillars), botany, and cardio-focused hikes for health and well-being.

Another member, Dori Bishop, felt inspired to join the Chapter because she wanted to help improve and maintain the trail to make it more enjoyable, after listening to complaints from backpackers and thru-hikers coming through. "I got tired of hearing, 'ugh, the Sinking Spring Section, it is so overgrown, poorly blazed, tick-infested, and non-existent in places...' I want to help change that impression of the trail. I am thrilled to have this new chapter. We have a group of highly-motivated leaders in the chapter. All [of us] are truly dedicated to getting the BT in these four sections back into tip-top shape and making it a trail we can all be proud of." When she's not hiking or camping, Dori acts as a Trail Angel, providing trail magic to hikers. Trail Angels are volunteers who provide assistance, whether it be shuttling, bringing more water and food, or offering lodging - any form of kindness counts. Dori came to learn about the Buckeye Trail through family camping trips with her children, where they'd see blue blazes on trees in the Hocking Hills area. After years of noticing them, she finally learned about the Buckeye Trail and set out to backpack portions of it. Backpackers in Southern Ohio, including Dori, love traversing through the several State Forests in Southern Ohio. These include: Tar Hollow State Forest, Pike State Forest, Scioto Trail State Forest and Shawnee State Forest (including the Shawnee Wilderness Area, Ohio's only designated State Wilderness Area). Recommended day hikes are Fort Hill, Davis Memorial and Serpent Mound.

"My favorite sections are the ones that travel through Shawnee [State] Forest and the Edge [of Appalachia] because they are quiet and wild and close to home," said Jenny Richards, the Shawnee State Park naturalist. She loves taking visitors out on the state park's trails, and will be leading hikes on the trail on Saturday mornings in December at 10am, meeting at the Shawnee Lodge Lobby. Jenny is also another Appalachian Foothills Chapter member. When asked how she came to learn of and become interested in joining the Buckeye Trail Community, she said it was "from [her] work in Shawnee forest over the past 23 years."

The Chapter is led by Brent Watson (Chairperson of Appalachian Foothills). While he did not learn about the Buckeye Trail until he was nearing retirement, Brent has always had a love for the outdoors. Growing up in Cincinnati he'd regularly take



hikes in the woods with his father and dog, and go camping with his Boy Scouts Troop. This formed an early appreciation for nature that later led him to become a summer naturalist with the Cincinnati Recreation Commission when he was in college. This love for nature still remains. Brent discovered the Buckeye Trail during his hikes and began volunteering in his area. He adopted segments of the trail. Trail Adopters are volunteers who take responsibility for a portion of the trail, regularly hiking it and maintaining it. Some even organize their own small work parties. And when he became aware of the need for a local chapter, he joined the team. "I have always been a cheerleader for Appalachia Ohio and know how easily others (who don't live in this region) can create stereotypes that are not true. I have come to appreciate the resourcefulness, history, culture and values of this area. I have enjoyed living in this region the past 40 years and the relationships that sustain me. I wanted as many people as possible to see the beauty and scenery of this area. It is my role to make sure we stay on task and create a solid foundation to build a sustainable future. We not only have to get the necessary legalities in place but we must build a solid base of active volunteers and create numerous partnerships in order to have a safe trail to enjoy. It is about building relationships that are united for a common cause we believe in."

If you are interested in helping the Appalachian Foothills Chapter, you can find volunteer opportunities and events on their Facebook Group, Meetup and on our website (information listed at end of article). They are always looking for more volunteers to help maintain and blaze the trail or to adopt segments. They also welcome any feedback on how to improve the trails in the Appalachian Foothills region. Or if you would just like to join them for hikes, you can keep up to date on Chapter activities on Facebook, Meetup, and our website as well.



*Top right: Fall group hike at Fort Hill (Darryl Smith); Bottom left: backpacking in Shawnee State Forest (Andrew Bashaw); Bottom right: landscape view of the Edge of Appalachia (Richard Lutz)*

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/459087336068128>  
Meetup: <https://www.meetup.com/buckeye-trail-appalachian-foothills-chapter/>  
You can also find Chapter information and event information at [buckeyetrail.org](http://buckeyetrail.org).

The Appalachian Foothills Chapter can be reached at [AppalachianFoothills@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:AppalachianFoothills@buckeyetrail.org)



# Findley Winter Hike

Lena Dockery

February 04, 2023 will be the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Winter Hike at Findley State Park in Wellington, OH. The Findley State Park Winter Hike began in February of 1981, after Oberlin resident and avid outdoorsman, Tom King, conceived the idea. The event originally resembled a winter festival with activities lasting throughout the weekend. After leading a six-mile hike, Tom served food out of the trunk of his car to Winter Hike participants. Tom volunteered at the event until the late 1980's when he moved from the area.

In addition to the hike, there were classes led by guest speakers for cross country skiing, birding, and ice fishing. Event attendees were able to learn about skiing topics such as glide waxing, ski mounting, ski maintenance, and the proper clothing to wear. Participants could also learn about winter specific tackle, techniques, and ice safety before trying their hand at catching some bluegill or crappie in Findley Lake. Bird enthusiasts relished the chance to spend a winter afternoon searching for boreal irruptive species such as the pine siskin, some species of crossbills, and the red-breasted nuthatch. Purple finch, a more common species, could have been spotted as well. The Findley State Park Winter Hike is now a single day event, where beans and cornbread are the must-have meal. While the event may have changed and there are no longer classes and demonstrations, the core values of exploring and being active in winter remain the same.

Findley State Park consists of 838 acres to explore. The park is heavily wooded with meadows and an 83 acre lake, a 435 foot beach, and four miles of shore for boating, fishing, or swimming. Findley State Park is part of the Lake Erie Birding Trail and forms a mini loop from Findley State Park to the Oberlin Reservoir. Findley also has trails for hiking or mountain biking. The Buckeye Trail

passes through Findley State Park for 1.6 miles along part of the Wyandot Trail and the Thorn Mountain Bike Trail. The park offers two 18-hole disc golf courses, Storybook Trail, camping, hunting, and if the conditions are right, you can also enjoy ice skating, ice fishing, or cross-country skiing at the park.

The Friends of Findley State Park will host the event in partnership with the Lake Plains Chapter of the Buckeye Trail Association. For the Winter hike you'll have the option between either the 5k or 10k hike. The 5K hike will be led by a naturalist, while the 10k will be self-guided. Please make sure you wear proper footwear and dress for the weather. Hiking sticks and water are recommended for any winter hikes. Dogs are welcome for this event so long as they are leashed. Please meet at the campground pavilion no later than 10 minutes before 10 a.m. Parking will be available at the Findley State Park campground (25381 State Route 58 Wellington, OH 44090). The Friends of Findley State Park provide the "best bean soup in Ohio" as well as cornbread after the hike. Donations are appreciated and all proceeds help support Findley State Park. Don't let the cold keep you indoors, come explore all that Findley State Park has to offer with the Buckeye Trail Association.

*Top photo: Hikers crossing field. Taken by Frinds of Findley State Park (FOFSP).*

*Right photo: Hikers enjoying hot chocolate and coffee. Taken by FOFSP.*

*Historical information was found from articles from the Elyria Chronicle Telegram, Feb. 6, 1981 & Jan. 29, 1982.*

<https://chroniclet.com/search/>







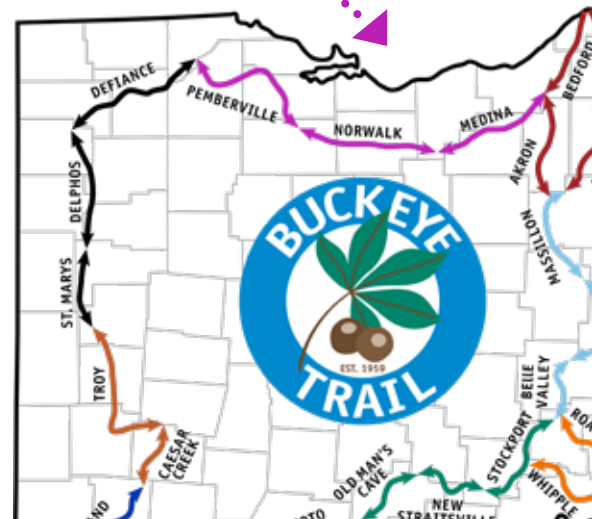
Photographs above taken by Valerie Gardner during the 2021 Findley Winter Hike.



The region covered by the Lake Plains Chapter includes the counties of Medina, Lucas, Sandusky, Ottawa, Wood, Huron, Lorain, Cuyahoga, and Summit. Pemberville Section, Norwalk Section, and Medina Section are part of the Lake Plains Chapter region.

You can find them on Facebook, Instagram, and Meetup.  
 Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/473191103947896](https://www.facebook.com/groups/473191103947896)  
 Instagram: [@BTA.LakePlainsChapter](https://www.instagram.com/BTA.LakePlainsChapter)  
 Meetup: [www.meetup.com/bta-lake-plains-chapter/](https://www.meetup.com/bta-lake-plains-chapter/)

You can also email them at [lakeplains@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:lakeplains@buckeyetrail.org)





# Guided Backpacking on the Buckeye Trail

*Madison Donohue, Tourism Specialist of Appalachian Understories*

The Buckeye Trail Association kicked off the month of October by hosting the Blue Blaze Festival in Shawnee, Ohio. This included multiple trail races and hiking opportunities on the first Saturday of the month. New this year, Appalachian Understories and the Tecumseh Theater collaborated with the Buckeye Trail Association to host an Intro to Backpacking Course over the Oct. 1-2 weekend.

The cold, drizzly weather during the festival was truly ideal for the participants to learn some of the challenging lessons that can come along with backpacking — such as building a fire in the rain and boiling water before bed for not only tea, but also filling water bottles with hot water to stay warm in their sleeping bags. While backpacking in the cold rain can be a drag, the group stayed positive and enjoyed the learning opportunity.

The group spent the first night of the Intro to Backpacking course in town. This created the space for the participants and trip leaders to share the gear they brought and make

As the hike continued, the group saw fewer race participants and the forest grew quiet with only sounds of pileated woodpeckers laughing through the canopy and chipmunks racing through the newly dropped leaf litter on the forest floor.

With a few stops along the hike to teach about Leave No Trace (LNT) Principles and plant identification, the group's sense of community grew even deeper and beyond the community of the Blue Blaze Festival to the ecosystem of the forest that the backpackers called



sure everyone had the equipment they needed to be safe and comfortable while still being able to pick up their pack. The first night also allowed us to have a discussion about what each of the participants hoped to get out of their experience in the coming weekend. With a variety of experience levels and prior knowledge of hiking, camping, and backpacking, everyone was able to learn from each other throughout the weekend.

After staying the first night of the trip in the historic Tecumseh Theater, the group was ready to hit the trail in the morning. Once everyone was packed up and dressed in their rain gear, we set out on the wet and muddy trail. It was impossible not to smile and cheer when we would see runners' smiling faces passing us on Buckeye Trail as they raced toward Shawnee to cross the finish line. The morale and enthusiasm we saw shared among the 5k, 10k, and half marathon participants created a sense of community within the event of Blue Blaze Festival.



*Left: Scott Krepps giving Intro to Backpacking tips to attendees before the backpacking journey. Photo taken by Jean Vandervaart (they/them).  
Right top: Backpackers on the Buckeye Trail. Photo taken by Kay Zhang.  
Right bottom: Backpackers smiling outside Tecumseh Theater before they head out on their journey. Photo taken by Jean Vandervaart (they/them).*





*Backpacking Guide, Madison Donohue, teaching backpackers how to identify fungi. Photo taken by Kay Zhang.*

home for the weekend. Learning the LNT principles allowed the participants to mitigate their impact on the environment while simultaneously exploring their roles within the forest. Learning the names of plants and how people have historically interacted with them helped the backpackers develop a sense of place and deeper connection to the forest.

Once we arrived at the location where we camped for the night, we put to practice some of the skills we discussed the previous evening. Setting up tents, using the camp stoves, and creating a shelter to use as our kitchen to cook dinner under in the rain were all practiced throughout the evening. Although the temperature was in the mid-50s and rained intermittently for most of the day, the group stayed mostly dry and comfortable due to proper planning and a few skills that we passed along to



*Backpackers eating chatting after setting up camp. Photo taken by Kay Zhang.*

the participants. As the sun rose on Sunday, the eggs were cracked for a backcountry breakfast of French toast. The morning sun and clear skies allowed for the tents to dry while everyone enjoyed their breakfast. On the hike back to town, the backpackers held their heads high with a sense of accomplishment and new-found friends.

Water filters, cook wear, tents, hammocks, boots, hiking shoes, backpacks, mess kits, first aid kits — the list of backpacking equipment is neverending. Depending on who you ask, your life could depend on whichever piece of equipment is trending on their timeline that week — or, if you ask a sales representative from an outfitter store, whichever equipment has the highest price tag. The truth is this: backpacking is hard and uncomfortable no matter how much money you might spend on your equipment. The challenge is what makes the experience fun and creates a feeling of accomplishment at the end of your journey. While planning and preparing for your next backpacking trip are essential steps to making sure the adventure is fun, keeping a positive attitude, a sense of curiosity, and playfulness are equally as important to having a good time in the backcountry.

Appalachian Understories provides natural and cultural historic tourism in Appalachian Ohio, hiring local guides, historians, and naturalists to create outdoor experiences for people. Our tours allow participants to enjoy the natural beauty of SE Ohio while learning about the rich cultural history of the region. [appalachianunderstories.com](http://appalachianunderstories.com)

Ohio's Winding Road supports and promotes a new, experience-based economy in Ohio's Appalachian region. We do this for local residents, producers, and makers, as well as visitors from the larger region. We accomplish this through a cooperative regional brand and a collaborative network of people from different agencies and businesses.







## Woodland Magic

*Ellen (@Zeitgeistlens on Instagram)*

Momentary bliss stands before me  
Golden light just beyond the peak  
Horizon walkers jumping from portal-to-portal  
Searching for answers, always curious  
Always exploring, always more to learn

What lies beyond the golden hour sun?  
Where do we go  
When there's nowhere else to go  
But up, down, side-to-side?

I'm not sure I have an answer  
Not sure I want an answer

I'll just continue to chase mysteries  
in the golden light of the fall moon

*Photo taken in Cuyahoga Valley National Park*





Photo credit: Micah Webster.

Top Left: "Life in Ice" | Top Right: "Going Up" | Bottom: "Ash Cave"



# Sharing Grandma Gatewood's Story

*Bette Lou Higgins*

I'm so excited to announce that I will be joining six other women at the 2023 Women's Storytelling Festival's contest to tell stories of perseverance. Grandma Emma Gatewood's story of conquering the Appalachian Trail at 67 years old after raising 11 children and surviving domestic abuse is the perfect example of perseverance. The festival will take place on Friday March 24, 2023 and runs through Sunday, March 26, 2023 both in-person at The Old Town Hall in Fairfax, VA, as well as streaming live online. The contest will be on Saturday, March 25. Judging for the contest will be based on audience votes combined with the judges' scores. Our judges for the 2023 festival are award-winning storytellers, Sheila Arnold and Noa Baum!\* Both the in-person audience and virtual audience votes will be counted. Audiences, however, can only vote during the live show, in-person or virtually. You can find more information about the festival at [betersaidthandone.com/womens-festival/](https://betersaidthandone.com/womens-festival/).

It's hard to believe that Kelly Boyer Sagert, and Peter Huston joined me back in 2009 to begin our own "Appalachian Trail Hike" to tell Grandma Gatewood's story. And we're *still*

bringing her to new audiences! We're so grateful to everyone who helped support us in this project through donations, encouragement, attending and/or hosting events. You helped us bring her story to life!

"On October 25, 1887 Emma Rowena Caldwell was born '... in a ... house back of Mercerville about a mile from where the creeks fork.'" That's located in Gallia County, close to the Ohio River in the southernmost part of the state. A hop, skip and jump from West Virginia, really. "When Emma was born, there were about 2,000 people living in the whole township – and it might have felt as though Emma's family was half of it! The 'puny' log house held her father, Hugh, her mother, Esther Evelyn, and 15 children, including Emma. The children slept four to a bed and sometimes the snow on the roof would tumble through the rafters and give them an 'extra blanket.'"

(from *Grandma Gatewood: Ohio's Legendary Hiker* by Kelly Boyer Sagert and Bette Lou Higgins; Eden Valley Enterprises; Copyright, 2015)

Grandma Emma Gatewood was the first woman to solo thru-hike the Appalachian Trail in 1955 at the age of 67 after raising 11 children and surviving domestic abuse! Before she died in 1973 she had hiked the AT several times, completed hikes in Oregon, Vermont and Pennsylvania. She was a charter member of the Buckeye Trail Association. In 2010 Eden Valley and FilmAffects teamed up to tell her story. The film they produced together, *Trail Magic: The Grandma Gatewood Story*, finally came out in 2016 after much planning, research, and filming. You can read more about Eden Valley Enterprises and about their film *Trail Magic: The Grandma Gatewood Story* at [edenvalleyenterprises.org](https://edenvalleyenterprises.org).

\*To learn more about Sheila Arnold and her work, go to [mssheila.org](https://mssheila.org). To learn more about Noa Baum and her work, go to [noabaum.com](https://noabaum.com).



Photo of Grandma Gatewood (credit: Marjorie Wood)



Bette Lou Higgins



# Train Safety For Hikers

Shawne Bruderly

Operation Lifesaver marked their 50th anniversary in 2022. September 19th to 25th this year was Rail Safety Week, which happened during Buckeye Trail Association's annual Buckeye TrailFest. Shawn Bruderly, an Operation Lifesaver Volunteer, gave a rail safety presentation at the Buckeye TrailFest. The presentation covered the names and meanings of signs that are located around railroad crossings, how to safely cross tracks in a vehicle, and why it is dangerous and illegal to walk on or near train tracks and right of way (the area next to the tracks that have the ballast). There were twelve people in attendance for the presentation and they asked many engaging questions. Topics covered were what types of crossings are there, how long does it take a train to stop, do trains overhang tracks, where is it safe to cross tracks, what is the Emergency Notification Sign, who to call if you spot a problem or emergency on or near the tracks, and the importance of "See Tracks, Think Train!" when approaching all highway rail grade crossings.

## Safety tips and reminders from [www.OLI.org](http://www.OLI.org):

1. Always expect a train.
2. Never walk on tracks; it's illegal trespass and highly dangerous.
3. Crossing tracks on a bike, with a stroller, in a wheelchair, or on other narrow wheels requires caution and extra attention. When possible, walk, don't ride across the tracks at a 90 degree angle.
4. Trains have the right of way 100% of the time.
5. A train can extend three feet or more beyond the steel rail.
6. Trains can move in either direction at any time.
7. Today's trains are quieter than ever, producing no telltale "clackety-clak."
8. Cross train tracks ONLY at designated pedestrian or roadway crossings.
9. Never pass flashing lights or go around lowered gates.
10. Stay alert around railroad tracks.
11. Wait to cross until you see clearly in both directions.
12. Stay off railroad bridges and trestles.
13. Do not attempt to hop aboard.

Shawne Bruderly has been a Buckeye Trail member since 2005 and a locomotive engineer for Norfolk Southern for 17 years. Norfolk Southern is in partnership with Operation Lifesaver to continue saving lives and fostering public awareness of safety around highway rail grade crossings and right-of-way for both drivers and pedestrians. If you want to take the Rail Safety Pledge, you can visit [www.OLI.org](http://www.OLI.org). There you can also find all events planned by Operation Lifesaver. If you would like a free Operation Lifesaver presentation for your community or organization, you can contact the State Coordinator and they will assign an Operations Lifesaver Volunteer in the area for the presentation.

*Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (OLI) is a non-profit organization and nationally-recognized leader of rail safety education. Since 1972, OLI has been committed to preventing collisions, injuries and fatalities on and around railroad tracks and highway-rail grade crossings, with the support of public education programs in states across the U.S.*

*Background photo: Train tracks in the Burton Section of the Buckeye Trail. Taken by Kristine Stevens.*





# Schedule of Hikes & Events

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

## DECEMBER, 2022

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

## Shawnee State Park - Holiday Hike Series!

### December 3rd, December 10, December 17.

Meet on Saturdays, 3pm at the Nature Nook in the Shawnee State Park Lodge. Discover Christmas treasures secretly tucked away in forest nooks along a short trail with the family. Dress warm for this family friendly adventure.

#### Lodge Nature Nook Hours:

Saturdays 12-3pm

or by appointment at 740-858-6652

Contact Park Naturalist Jenny at [jenny.richards@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:jenny.richards@dnr.ohio.gov)

Follow us on...



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

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

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

## JANUARY, 2023

### January 8, 2023

#### 2023 CABIN FEVER HIKE SERIES - Lockkeepers' Hike

**Sunday:** 1pm-3pm at the Lockkeepers' House at 22 S. Water Street, New Bremen, OH in the St Marys Section of the Buckeye Trail. Bundle up the family for a winter hike along the Miami Erie Canal. A fun & free hike for all ages, and leashed pets are welcome too! Hosted by Heritage Trails Parks District.

### January 21-22, 2023

#### BTA Circuit Hike - Norwalk - Medina Sections

**Saturday:** Saturday's hike is from Norwalk Section Point 20++ parking on Zenobia Rd. about 2.6 miles east of the Village of Clarksfield and about 0.1 mile west of Butler Rd., GPS Coordinates (N41.19689 W082.36216) to Medina Section Point 2 parking near the Findlay State Park Check-in Station, GPS Coordinates (N41.12320 W082.20664). The entrance to Findlay State Park is off SR 58 about 3.2 miles south of SR 18 in Wellington. This is a distance of 12.8 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Findlay State Park Check-in Station, to carpool to Zenobia Rd. about 0.1 mile west of Butler Rd.

**Sunday:** Sunday's hike is from Medina Section Point 2 parking near the Findlay State Park Check-in Station, GPS Coordinates (N41.12320 W082.20664) (The entrance to Findlay State Park is off SR 58 about 3.2 miles south of SR 18 in Wellington) to Point 6+ parking at the Letha House parking lot, GPS Coordinates (N41.11522 W082.05724). The hike is a distance of 11.3 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at the Letha House parking lot located on the east side off Richman Rd. about 0.1 mile north of Spencer Lake Rd., to carpool to the Findlay State Park Check-in Station.

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

### January 28, 2023

#### Winter Hike on the Buckeye Trail (Pike State Forest)

Join the Appalachian Foothills Chapter for a hike in the Pike State Forest to Fort Hill State Memorial! We will enjoy the scenery of geologic features and winter flora. Sometimes stopping for a moment to really take it in, but cold weather may keep us moving. This hike may be difficult as it has some steep hills. Be prepared for the weather and wear water-proof boots and warm socks. The hike will go from Buckeye Trail Kiosk, State Route 41, nearby the Butler Springs Christian Camp (Sinking Springs Section).

**Location:** 4131-3631 State Rte 41, 39.115901, -83.377732 · Hillsboro, OH. Meet at the trailhead at 9:00am. The hike will go to 2:00pm.

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



## FEBRUARY, 2023

### February 4, 2023

#### The 42nd Findley State Park Winter Hike

Located in northeast Ohio, 838-acre. Findley State Park was once a state forest and is heavily wooded with stately pines and various hardwoods. A highlight is the park's trail system, including a connection to the statewide Buckeye Trail. The park's forests, meadows and quiet waters offer a peaceful backdrop for camping, boating and hiking. Join us for a winter hike at 10am. The guided hike will be 5k on the Wyandot and Thorn Mountain Bike Trail. The 10k this year will be self-guided. Meet at the campground pavilion. Park is at 25381 State Route 58, Wellington, OH 44090.

### February 5, 2023

#### Winter Hike on the Buckeye Trail (Pike State Forest)

Join the Appalachian Foothills Chapter for a hike in the Pike State Forest to Fort Hill State Memorial! We will enjoy the scenery of geologic features and winter flora. Sometimes stopping for a moment to really take it in, but cold weather may keep us moving. This hike may be difficult as it has some steep hills. Be prepared for the weather and wear water-proof boots and warm socks. The hike will go from Buckeye Trail Kiosk, State Route 41, nearby the Butler Springs Christian Camp (Sinking Springs Section).

**Location:** 4131-3631 State Rte 41, 39.115901, -83.377732 · Hillsboro, OH. Meet at the trailhead at 9:00am. The hike will go to 2:00pm.

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

### February 11, 2023

#### BRRRRR Oak Winter Hike

Join us in the hills for scenic vistas across Burr Oak Lake, as meander through the forest and around rock outcroppings and return to the warmth of fire, hot drinks and free lunch afterwards. One mile, three mile, five mile or eight mile options are available. The one mile hike will be an interpretive hike with Burr Oak State Park Naturalist, Julie Gee! All hikes will start from the Burr Oak Lodge in Glouster, Ohio, where hikers should also check in. Hiking groups will begin departing at 10am. Wear sturdy footwear and dress for the weather.

**Contact:** Ann Furste at [newstraitsville@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:newstraitsville@buckeyetrail.org)

### February 12, 2023

#### 2023 CABIN FEVER HIKE SERIES - Valentines' Hike

**Sunday:** 1pm-3pm at the St. Marys Utilities Building (106 E. Spring Street, St. Marys, OH) in the St Marys Section of the Buckeye Trail. Bring your valentine, friends or family for a pleasant hike along the Miami & Erie Canal. Views include the "Belle of St. Marys" canal boat, the restored Lock #13, and recently restored Reservoir Mill. All ages are welcome! Hosted by Heritage Trails Parks District.

### February 18-19, 2023

#### BTA Circuit Hike - Medina Section

**Saturday:** Saturday's hike is from Medina Section Point 6+ parking at the Letha House parking lot, GPS Coordinates (N41.11522 W082.05724) to

Medina Section Point 10+ parking at the Orth Homestead parking lot, GPS Coordinates (N41.16806 W081.92581). This is a distance of 12.3 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at the Orth Homestead Parking Lot located on SR 57 about 350 feet north of SR 18, to carpool to the Letha House parking lot on Richman Rd. north of Spencer Lake Rd.

**Sunday:** Sunday's hike is Medina Section Point 10+ parking at the Orth Homestead parking lot on SR 57 about 350 feet north of SR 18, GPS Coordinates (N41.16806 W081.92581) to Point 18+ parking at the Hive Indoor Soccer Training Center parking lot, 3074 Remsen Rd., Weymouth, GPS Coordinates (N41.18539 W081.79617). The hike is a distance of 11.5 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at the Hive Indoor Soccer Training Center parking lot in Weymouth, to carpool to the Orth Homestead parking lot on SR 57 north of SR 18.

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

## MARCH, 2023

### March 12, 2023

#### 2023 CABIN FEVER HIKE SERIES - Spring Forward Hike

**Sunday:** 1pm-3pm at the Noble Township Hall, 16586 CR 66A (also known as Brewer Rd.), St. Marys. See the first signs of spring along the Miami Erie canal with friends and family. Leashed pets are welcome! Hosted by Heritage Trails Parks District.

### March 25-26, 2023

#### BTA Circuit Hike - Medina Section

**Saturday:** Saturday's hike is from Medina Section Point 18- parking at the Hive Indoor Soccer Training Center parking lot, 3074 Remsen Rd., Weymouth, GPS Coordinates (N41.18539 W081.79617) to Medina Section Point 25 parking at the Richfield Heritage Preserve, Oviatt Rd. gate about 300 feet north of W. Streetsboro Rd., GPS Coordinates (N41.24033 W081.68197). This is a distance of 11.8 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at the Richfield Heritage Preserve, Oviatt Rd. gate, to carpool to the Hive Indoor Soccer Training Center parking lot at 3074 Remsen Rd., Weymouth.

**Sunday:** Sunday's hike is Medina Section Point 25 parking at the Richfield Heritage Preserve, Oviatt Rd. gate about 300 feet north of W. Streetsboro Rd., GPS Coordinates (N41.24033 W081.68197) to Medina Section Point 30 parking at Brecksville Reservation, Valley Way Parkway about 0.1 mile northeast of Meadows Rd., GPS Coordinates (N41.30522 W081.60894). The hike is a distance of 8.9 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at Brecksville Reservation, Valley Way Parkway 0.1 mile northeast of Meadows Rd., to carpool to Richfield Heritage Preserve, Oviatt Rd. gate.

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



**Buckeye Trail Association**

P.O. Box 5  
Shawnee, Ohio 43782

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

You can also scan the  
QR code to get to the  
membership page of  
our website!



**MEMBERSHIP FORM (for new members only)**

- INDIVIDUAL..... **\$30.00** one year
- \$40.00** two years
- \$55.00** three years
- HOUSEHOLD..... **\$35.00** one year
- \$50.00** two years
- \$70.00** three years
- STUDENT..... **\$15.00** per year
- ORGANIZATION..... **\$50.00** per year
- SUSTAINING..... **\$50.00** per year
- BUSINESS..... **\$50.00** one year
- \$90.00** two years
- \$130.00** three years
- LIFE INDIVIDUAL.... **\$500.00**
- LIFE HOUSEHOLD.... **\$600.00**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

If gift membership, name of donor \_\_\_\_\_

Do not send me e-mails

Do not share my name with other groups

**Please tell us where you got this magazine:**

Friend: \_\_\_\_\_  State Park: \_\_\_\_\_

Library: \_\_\_\_\_  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**PAY BY:**  Check  Credit Card

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Month/Yr \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO & MAIL TO:**

**Buckeye Trail Association**

**P.O. BOX 5, SHAWNEE, OHIO 43782**

**OR JOIN ONLINE AT:**

**[www.buckeyetrail.org/membership.php](http://www.buckeyetrail.org/membership.php)**