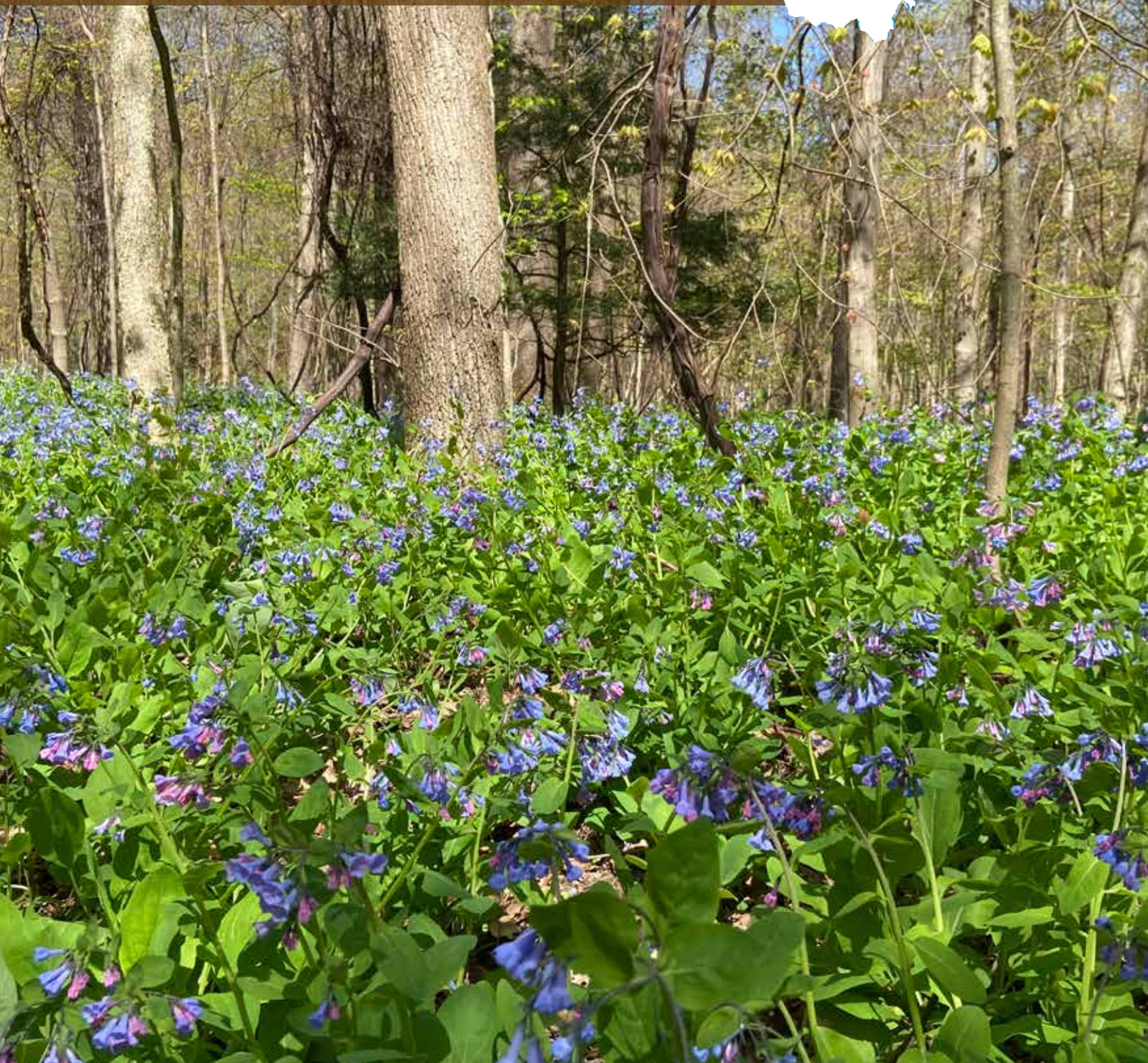


BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Trailblazer



FOUNDED 1959
SPRING 2023 VOLUME 56 NO. 1

IN THIS ISSUE...

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|----|----------------------------------|
| 3 | The Broken Bridge | 10 | Conserving a Path for Connection |
| 4 | President's Message | 12 | Remembering Bob Pond |
| 5 | On the Trail | 13 | BT Winter Hike & Potluck Dinner |
| 6 | BTA Funds Report | 14 | 50+5 Challenge |
| 7 | TrailFest ad | 17 | Inspiration on the BT |
| 8 | Congratulations Tim Murphy! | 18 | 2023 List of Hikes and Events |
| 9 | Tag & Tor BT Finishers at Findley | 20 | New Member Form |



Trailblazer

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

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 correction in the Winter 2022 issue. In the General Fund on page 4, we misspelled William T. Schultz's name. The error shows as "Shultz" but should be "Schultz."

We would also like to make a correction in the Fall 2022 issue. On page 14 in the "Plaque of Recognition" article, Don Lenc's hometown is incorrect. It should say Medina, OH, instead of Monroe, OH.

We apologize for the errors and any confusion they may have caused. Thank you for your understanding!

Follow us on...



facebook.com/buckeyetrail



meetup.com/pro/buckeyetrail



youtube.com/user/BuckeyeTrailTV



@buckeyetrailassociation



@hikethebt

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.

Photo by Mary Douglas

Cover photo: Bluebell flowers in the woods
Photo credit: Mary Douglas

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	Randall Roberts
Valerie Gardner	Nick Govelovich

B T A S T A F F Executive Director

Andrew Bashaw

Director of Trail Development
Richard Lutz

Clerk
Connie Pond

Special Projects Coordinator
Jon Flinn

AmeriCorps Member
Morgan Thomas

Webmaster
Mary Hayes

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

Scholarship
Linda Paul

The Broken Bridge: A Mystery Novel on the Buckeye Trail

Maureen Wise

Maureen Wise, Buckeye Trail Association member and author, published her debut novel last May, *The Broken Bridge: A Succulent Sleuth Cozy Mystery*. The setting is a fictional garden center in Northeast Ohio with the Buckeye Trail running behind it. Hikers frequent the shop for snacks and a bathroom break. When a hiker that visited the shop goes missing, the garden center manager gets involved with the case to uncover what happened. The story is a “cozy mystery” which means that someone dies (spoiler?), but the act is off the page and it’s also a clean read with no swearing or sex. Cozy mysteries always include amateur sleuths with many suspects and are often seen as fun escapes.

Wise states that she actually got the idea to write the novel during a run on a trail in the Brecksville Reservation. She started writing a fictional hiking trail into her novel but decided that using the Buckeye Trail would be a lot more fun. “My family loves to go on hikes on our local Cleveland Metroparks trails, Cuyahoga Valley National trails, as well as the Buckeye Trail that runs through Brecksville. I decided to use the Buckeye Trail in my novel because it’s so unique to Ohio. We really enjoy both Deer Lick Cave and My Mountain Overlook. We’ve found ourselves hiking those trails the most, and sometimes even unplanned because we’re passing the trailhead and enjoy the trail so much.”

“The words ‘succulent sleuth’ came to me and I knew I needed to base my book series on it. I wanted my main character to have some things in common with me so she really likes hiking and has hiked more of the Buckeye Trail than I have. I also wanted her to be good at things that I’m not, so she has a much, much greener thumb than I do. I kill succulents most of the time.” There are two short stories in the Succulent Sleuth Series beyond *The Broken Bridge* and Wise is currently working on the second novel.

Learn more at IrisMarchBooks.com.



available at
amazon

Rakuten
kobo

BARNES & NOBLE
Download on
Apple Books



Left: Photo taken on the Buckeye Trail / Deer-Lick Cave Trail by Maureen Wise

President's Message

Steve Walker

Here's hoping that you all had a great winter. Activity on the Buckeye Trail does seem to taper down a little toward the end of the year but pent-up urges to get back outside start showing up after the first of the year. We do have some signature winter hikes starting in January, one of which was started by a founding member and then outgrew our organization. We managed to hold on to the rest and they have become a tradition. The biggest one we host is the BRRRRR Oak Winter Hike. At this year's event, our own Ann Furste was presented with the North Country Trail Association Honor Award (see picture) which was richly deserved. Ann has done a great job as the New Straitsville Section Supervisor along with taking the lead in organizing the BTA's Little Cities of the Forest Chapter. On top of that, she was the Event Organizer for the BRRRRR Oak Winter Hike. There's BTA folks like Ann all over Ohio and there's not enough room to properly acknowledge them here. Trying to do that would be a full time job (and a fun job at that).

Our enhanced email communications have been trying to help with putting that word out. Since April of 2020, our monthly email newsletter, *The Loop*, has been going out on the 27th of each month (except one time it was five days late due to a software issue). The Loop ends up in over 3,800 inboxes. Since late 2020, the *BTA Friday High Five* has been going out to more active BTA volunteers and partners on most Fridays (unless the 27th of the month is close and then *The Loop* takes care of BTA news that week). The *High Five* has tried to inform this group of the weekly comings and goings of BTA folks and what is generally happening on the Buckeye Trail in a timely way. News comes in from all over Ohio and is shared weekly with the *High Five* Group. If you have some-

thing that you'd like to share with the *High Five* Group, send it my way. If you want to be a part of the *High Five* Group, let me know that, too. You'll get BTA news every week.

Enhanced email communication can often take other forms. With a growing awareness of our State Sawyer Program, help with downed trees is often provided quickly. When downed trees are reported to a Chapter or one of the chain sawyers who are part of this program, the word is spread quickly and a local sawyer often dispatches the errant tree in short order. This program was the brainchild of Byron Guy, the Old Man's Cave Section Supervisor, who first proposed it in 2018. After a slow start, a pilot effort was started in 2019. This effort proved the worthiness of the concept and it's been evolving ever since. We have a growing cadre of certified chain sawyers already and more are welcome. Let me know if you're interested.

Pretty soon, our enhanced communication efforts will include reaching out to other hiking groups in Ohio. The Buckeye Trail Association is going to try to gather these groups into a coalition that will advocate for hiking trails in Ohio. The BTA is a founding member of the Ohio Trails Partnership that includes users of equestrian trails, multi-use trails, mountain bike trails and water trails. If you know of a hiking group in your area, send me their name and how to contact them and we'll reach out. Have a great Spring and I hope to see you on the Buckeye Trail or at a BTA event.

Steve Walker - president@buckeyetrail.org



Ann Furste receiving the NCTA Honor Award from Volunteer Coordinator AmeriCorps Member, Morgan Thomas. Photo taken by Brian Batchelder

On the Trail...

Spring is in the air out on the Buckeye Trail, but the Buckeye Trail Association (BTA) didn't slow down throughout the Winter. We've been busy planning a year's worth of opportunities for you and... anyone. It's a little overwhelming to look at the calendar of events we have organized and committed to partner on throughout 2023: hiking, trail running, outreach, member drives, social gatherings, volunteer opportunities, trail construction and maintenance, advocacy efforts, volunteer training, and more. Looking over the year, I have the good challenge on how to balance out how many places on the Buckeye Trail (BT) I can be at once and still be a good family member. Writing this article gives me an opportunity to stop planning for a moment and think about what all of this activity has in common, and what's the point of it all, and are we still on mission and vision described in that 1958 article, *A Buckeye Trail; So Far It Is Just an Idea?*

One big thing that all of the activity has in common is an overwhelming commitment by many leaders of the BT community to share what they love about the BT experience with others. BTA Board members, staff, and volunteer leaders are taking on the challenge of organizing and evolving the Association to better serve BTA volunteers and balance their time to move the BT towards our shared vision. That can be a lot of challenging work, many long meetings for Board members, staff, BTA Chapters, and individual volunteer leaders and teams. There is always a lot to learn, and a lot to figure out on how to do as much as we can, the best that we can, with the time and resources we have.

Our common goal is not always stated during all of the meetings or during events, but from my perspective we all want you, and anyone, to have a positive life impacting experience out on an ever improving Buckeye Trail all around Ohio.

Except for some scheduling overlaps, it would nearly be possible to spend the entire year hiking the entire 1,400+ mile BT, and attend an organized BT event nearly every weekend of the year - if you didn't have any other obligations or a re-

quire a regular paycheck. Think of all the places you would see, the great people you would meet, thing things you would learn about Ohio and yourself, the awe-inspiring experiences you would have, the challenges you would overcome, all in one big Buckeye Trail year!

It's fun to imagine, even if it isn't exactly practical. A more reasonable challenge for you is to commit to one BT event this year to try something new. Come get a taste of a BTA Chapter trail work party for a day, join us at a special event like Buckeye TrailFest from August 17th to 20th at Shawnee State Park, join all of us to completely hike the BT in one day during the BT's Biggest Day Hike on June 3rd (National Trails Day). Check out our calendar of events, or your local Chapter's Meetup.com site for so many more opportunities.

This time of year we can see BT map sales and BTA member map coupons increase in preparation for the peak hiking season ahead. I enjoy imagining all the maps arriving in the mail, or digitally, the cups of coffee at the kitchen table, pouring over an unexplored part of Ohio wondering where I would park or camp on a planned BT adventure. If that's you, I hope you have a great experience out on the BT and fulfill all the planning and trail maintenance and construction by BTA volunteers and staff. The only other thing I could ask of you is to share that experience with someone else you care about to inspire yet another adventure out on the BT someday. Enjoy! And if you have some extra time and energy, join us in helping others enjoy as well.

Thank you for Hiking!

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.

NOVEMBER 2, 2022 TO FEBRUARY 1, 2023

GENERAL FUND

Janet Aldana	Michael Doherty	Rick Lohr	Charlotte & Quincy Robe
Rick & Rita Amstadt	Maria Douthitt	Kimberly & Dennis Love-Ottobre	Linda & Mike Rose
Steve Anderson	JoAnne Fassbender	Constance Loving	James Michael Saxton
Barbara Armitage	Joyce Fernandez	William Lowery	Richard & Susan Schmidt
Perry Bacino	Gerald Forrider	Maurice Maddock	Kenneth & Patricia Schug
Terry & Patricia Barnhill	Dorothy Garn	Tom Mancino	Barry Schumann
Andrew & Claudia Bashaw	Tom Gilbert	Robert L. McCoy	Mark & Betty Schwab
Dorsey Bates, Jr	Jim Gilkey	Dennis McCurdy	Jack Shaner
Mel Beers	Bruce Goodell	William & Andrew McGovern	Vijay & Neeti Sharma
Dianne Bell	Norm Grell	Christopher McIntyre	Heather Stehle
Allen & Sandy Benton	Michael Gutmann	Kevin & Maxine McKee	Moe Stutler
Scott Bernard	Mary Hamilton	Paul McKibben	Ethan Tabor
Betty L. Bowers	Harvey L. Harris	Matthew McLain	Richard Tennant & Family
Ryan Bowles	Gary Hattery	Laura Melby	Cliff Thorniley
Loren Brown	Rick Hohman	Michael H. Meyer	Kenny & Jan Tkach
Bob & Ruth Brown	Lee Hutton	Wendy Miller	Richard & Claire Troha
Martha & Dale Brown	Richard A. Ingalls	Michael Miller	Patricia & Dennis Tuttle
John Burnell	Steve & Mary Ivory	Bernie & Sally Miner	Robert Ulrich
Stephanie & Jay Byrne	Lorana Jinkerson	Leonard Monnin	Nancy Vallen
Peter & Kathleen Carels	Grant Joy	Wilson & Peggy Monnin	Mario Vargas & Eva Danies Vargas
Chris Carmichael	Holly Kaskey	Ruth Morley	Dale K. Vest
Kosby Carrico	Cathy J. King	Sophia Morton	Douglas Wagner
Christine Chidester	Josh Knights	Travis Neely	Steve & Karen Walker
Christine Coblentz	Michael Kohr	Cathy & Jim Oda	Ernie Welch
James Crabtree	Cheryl Kreindler	Kelly E. O'Keefe	Holly Beth Wilson
Elizabeth & Timothy DeBaal	Barbara Kuhns	Linda Paul & Paul Bingle	Jessica Yeager
Leo A. Deininger & Ruth Skuly	Alison LeRoy	Scott & Donna Pendleton	Susan & Clifford Yeager
Guy Denny	Bayard W. Liesch	Bob & Connie Pond	Joshua York
Roderick Dibble	Virginia Skinner-Linnenberg &	Dorothy Pritchard	Carol Zazubek
Garrett & Sydney Dill	Daniel Linnenberg	Cassandra Pritchett	
Paul Dittmar	Robert Litt	Tim Reimund	

TRAIL PRESERVATION

Georgia & Eric Adams
Douglas & Laura Bell
Matthew Collings

Scott & Mary Anne Kamph (In memory
of Garry Dill)
Andrew Lowman

Raman Ras
Margaret E. Sondey & William Hines

LITTLE CITIES OF THE FOREST

Ann Furste

BEQUEST RECEIVED

Edward C. and Phyllis Chambers

129 PROJECT SHAWNEE, OH

Chris Carmichael (In memory of
David Carmichael)

IN MEMORY OF GARRET DILL

Mary & Pat Hayes
Bob & Connie Pond

IN MEMORY OF BOB POND

Vicki Fogarty
Doris Osburn

IN MEMORY OF ALYSSA JESWALD LEE

Mary & Pat Hayes

IN MEMORY OF RALPH RAMEY

Jean Ramey

IN CELEBRATION OF DIANE WRIGHT & HOWARD AMMONS' MARRIAGE

Tricia & Michael Ettinger

Karen Krieger

IN RECOGNITION OF TIM MURPHY'S COMPLETION OF THE BT

Jan Geho

IN RECOGNITION OF TRAIL ANGELS RUSS FLESHER AND RICHARD LUTZ

Mary & Pat Hayes

IN RECOGNITION OF TRAIL ANGELS TOBY AND KRISTA DARKINS, OHIO RIVER CHAPTER

Merri C. Wozniak

10th Annual BUCKEYE TRAILFEST

in Shawnee State Park



AUGUST 17-20, 2023 | Shawnee State Park Lodge
4404B OH-125, West Portsmouth, OH 45663

The Buckeye TrailFest offers a long weekend packed full of hikes, workshops, presentations, speakers, and social opportunities. Come for the whole weekend or come for the day. There is something for everyone.

Hikes cover all skill levels - easy, moderate, difficult. Meet other hikers and trail maintainers from around the state and learn about nature, history, survival skills, trailbuilding tips, and more!

Event Organizers and Partners:



The Appalachian Foothills Chapter is excited to host the 2023 Buckeye TrailFest. Welcome to Appalachian Ohio, rich in biodiversity and unique habitats. Whether you are local or travelled hours to get here, we hope you have a great time!

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.



Congratulations Tim Murphy!

Congratulations to Tim Murphy, also known by his trail name “Walkinman”, for completing all 1440+ miles of the Buckeye Trail! He finished the entire loop section hiking and was joined by his hiking crew, the Loopy Loopers, and other friends as they hiked the last segment of his Buckeye Trail Hike from Milford, Ohio to Eden Park in Cincinnati, the Southern Terminus. Tim Murphy is a long-time Co-Section Supervisor of the Burton Section along with Jan Geho and has been a member of the Buckeye Trail Association since 1990. He’s also an avid hiker of the Buckeye Trail, even completing the entire Little Loop four times. He has also done the Little Loop Challenge every year since its inception - six times. The group he hikes with - The Loopy Loopers (Meg Sondey, Bill Hines, Raman Ras, and emeritus member Doug Keller) - have joined him at some point in all these exploits.

“I started hiking the whole Buckeye Trail (BT) the first time in January of 2010 and I stopped hiking the trail on November 9th, 2014. After completing half of the BT, I was injured at work on November 14th of 2014 when an 816-pound steel road plate fell on me, crushing both my legs. My injuries included two fractured legs, a torn left meniscus, a destroyed right knee patella, renal failure, congestive heart failure, and two massive embolisms - one in each lung that made breathing very difficult. I was given the last Rites around Thanksgiving of 2014. I left the hospital on December 1st of 2014 after 10 days in the hospital. It took me four to five months to walk a half mile in 30 minutes - a large mountain to overcome considering,

just a few months before, I could walk a Half Marathon in 2 hours and 20 minutes. It took me two years before I could walk 10 miles again. The first continuous 10 miler that I walked was with Meg Sondey and Bill Hines on July 15th of 2017 during the first Little Loop Challenge. This is the date that I restarted hiking the Buckeye Trail again. I finished the BT on November 11th, 2022 at the Southern Terminus in Cincinnati, almost eight years to the day the steel road plate fell on me in November of 2014.”

-Tim Murphy

“There are so many stories that I could tell about hiking the Buckeye Trail with Tim. Some of our hikes were so memorable that we actually gave them names — the Watermelon Hike, the Slog over the Logs, and so on. We literally have laughed, argued, and complained through every season and type of terrain, be it mosquitoes, mud, streams, ice, or Tim’s favorite — briers. I’m not sure what our next adventure will be, but I’m certain that we’ll continue as hiking buddies, even as we race our walkers down the retirement home hallways!”

-Meg Sondey

“Tim Murphy is an overcomer. On the many hikes on the Buckeye Trail with him I saw him deal with chronic pain mostly from a serious work accident years ago. He never complained and persisted through his agony on his quest over the years to complete on the trail over 1400 miles. On these hikes, we endured at times: hills, cold, heat, wind, snow, mud, and rain. One time, it was raining so hard, the four of us huddled in an outhouse. Another memorable moment occurred when we went to lunch after one of the hikes. Tim expressed that he was going to eat light since his girlfriend was serving him a big meal for dinner. He ordered nachos. When it came, you should have seen the expression on his face since there was enough nachos on the plate to feed four to five people, which he finished. In concluding, what Tim accomplished was truly amazing!”

-Doug Keller

Tim Murphy joins a long list of section hikers who have finished the Buckeye Trail. If you’ve completed hiking the entire Buckeye Trail, let us know at info@buckeyetrail.org so we can add you to the BT Completionist list.

Meg, Bill, and Raman will finish the Buckeye Trail at Yellow Springs (Caesar Creek Section) in March and Tim will be hiking right beside them.



Top photo: Terry Blackenstone. Bottom Left: Photos provided by Meg Sondey

The Adventures of Tag and Tor

As section hikers, Tag and Tor have had a few car mishaps: parking the car at the wrong end location and parking the car in a spot that turned into a muddy mess by the end of a rainy day. Each time, we relied on the kindness of strangers to help us out. So, this installment of the Adventures of Tag and Tor is no surprise to our readers.

Driving home to Dayton from a BT section hike in Akron with tired bodies and sore feet, we decided to stop at a rest area 30 miles from home. Standing outside the car, we heard a click that meant one thing: the car locked with our purses, our phones, and - to our horror - the key fob inside.

We begged and borrowed phones from bystanders to contact roadside assistance. It was raining and getting dark. On the fifth borrowed phone and the fifth call, we finally reached a real person at Mazda roadside assistance to explain that the key AND our phones were locked in the car, so could they please stop sending messages to the phone locked in the car and just send an actual person to unlock the car.

After three hours, the Mazda person was spotted by the people who were trying to help us, despite the language barrier (thankfully, we knew some Spanish!). We were busy borrowing another phone when a guy with big hair down to his shoulders, a bushy mustache and wearing an aloha shirt pulled up in an unassuming white car. He was good at his job and unlocked the car in a matter of seconds. At which point, we threw our arms around him, gave him a hug and also hugged all the people who were standing there watching the entire event unfold. Just our way of saying "thank you."



*By Karen Power and
Jeri Getts*



Photo taken by Patrick Buffington.

Buckeye Trail Finishers at Findley State Park

Congratulations to Patrick Buffington (pictured on the left) for completing the 1,400+ mile Buckeye Trail! He began his section hiking journey on March 18, 2018 and ended this year on October 8th at Findley State Park (Medina Section, point 1). His hiking friends pictured with him are also BT finishers. John Chappel (middle) finished the Buckeye Trail with the Cleveland Hiking Club in November 2020. Rich Dougherty (right) finished the Buckeye Trail on Father's Day in 2021.

Conserving a Path for Connection

Jennifer Murphy

A personal connection with nature—whether by individuals or a committed group of outdoor enthusiasts—has led to the establishment of some of the world’s most cherished environmental institutions, from local land trusts to global organizations with missions ranging from wildlife protection, ocean conservation, clean air and clean water to environmental and climate justice and more. As fate would have it, The Nature Conservancy in Ohio (TNC) and the Buckeye Trail Association (BTA) share similar beginnings, both being formed in the late 1950s by passionate individuals who were driven by the intrinsic value of Ohio’s varied landscapes.

For TNC, E. Lucy Braun’s desire to preserve southwest Ohio’s unique prairie systems culminated in our organization’s first land purchase in 1959—42 acres of prairie habitat, later named Lynx Prairie. Steady efforts to conserve additional prairie openings and the surrounding Appalachian foothill forests have resulted in more than 21,000 acres of protected area known as the Richard and Lucile Durrell Edge of Appalachia Preserve. It is one of the largest privately owned and maintained nature preserves in the Midwest and harbors an incredible array of biodiversity.

And through the support of many dedicated staff, volunteers, donors and partners, we’ve helped to protect more than 63,000 acres of beautiful and ecologically-sensitive areas across the state. At the same time, we know that lasting conservation success depends on people, including the individual and collective action needed to speak up and act on nature’s behalf. But in a world filled with distractions, creating that conviction requires opportunities for people to connect with the natural areas we seek to conserve.

So ten years ago, TNC and our partner Cincinnati Museum Center embarked on a plan to improve the trail system at the Edge of Appalachia preserve, anchored in the belief that increasing public access would bolster our efforts to broaden support for conservation. Since then, we’ve expanded and improved the preserve’s network of trails by adding one new trail (Helen C. Black Trail at Cedar Falls) and extending two others, including upgrades to the parking lots and trailheads (Lynx Prairie and Buzzardroost Rock).

We also collaborated with BTA to reroute a large portion of the Buckeye Trail that passes through the Edge of Appalachia Preserve.

This collective effort with BTA increased visitors’ safety and enhanced the hiking experience by moving part of the 16-mile trail off-road and into the forest through the Edge of Appalachia Preserve. Today, Buckeye Trail hikers can leave the road at the Dr. George Rieveschl, Jr. Creek’s Bend Overlook and hike eastward to Shawnee State Forest. BTA volunteers and grant-funded contractors built this impressive section of trail, which highlights the transition between two distinct ecological systems: the Interior Low Plateau to the west and the Unglaciated Appalachian Plateau to the east.

In the spring, the trail offers hikers views of unbroken forests, cliffs of dolostone and rich displays of ephemeral spring wildflowers. Hikers should also be alert to the songs of neotropical bird species such as ovenbirds belting out their out-sized calls and the faint buzz of ruby-throated hummingbirds nectaring on the newly-opened flowers of yellow buckeye trees.

This land bridge between TNC’s Edge of Appalachia Preserve and Shawnee State Forest is known as the Sunshine Corridor, named after a ridgetop that traverses the two protected areas



Photo taken by Randall Schieber



Photo taken by Terry Seidel on the Portman Trail

and has served as a focal point of our land acquisition efforts at the preserve since 2009. It provides habitat for bobcat, black bear, Indiana and Northern Long-eared bats, dozens of migratory bird species and many other species that depend on intact forests. The vision is to conserve land in this corridor, thereby ensuring a migratory pathway between these two biologically diverse areas.

TNC continues to acquire properties in the Sunshine Corridor, galvanizing support from passionate individuals and organizations, much like we imagine E. Lucy Braun did, to achieve a lasting positive impact on the irreplaceable biodiversity that calls Ohio home.

In addition to protecting the region's forest, prairie and freshwater habitats, TNC is working to restore lands degraded from unsustainable logging practices, addressing threats from non-native species, pests and pathogens and improving the resiliency of Ohio's forests in the face of a changing climate. Yet while the scope of our work has grown to mirror the importance of Ohio's natural areas and the benefits they provide, we continue learning about what attracted conservationists to this special place more than six decades ago, and remain committed to sharing the preserve with others.

Because whether you are moved by the call of the wood thrush, captivated by the splendor of lichen-covered cliffs or find focus in walking the trail beneath your feet, the more we appreciate nature, the harder we will work to care for and promote it. And she needs all of us.

The Nature Conservancy is a global conservation organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Guided by science, we create innovative, on-the-ground solutions to our world's toughest challenges so that nature and people can thrive together. Working in 76 countries and territories, we use a collaborative approach that engages local communities, governments, the private sector and other partners. To learn more about TNC's work in Ohio, visit [nature.org/ohio](https://www.nature.org/ohio). To plan your visit to the Edge of Appalachia preserve, visit [nature.org/edgeofappalachia](https://www.nature.org/edgeofappalachia)



Photo taken by Terry Seidel on the Portman Trail

Remembering Bob Pond, BTA Volunteer

September 8, 1938 - January 16, 2023

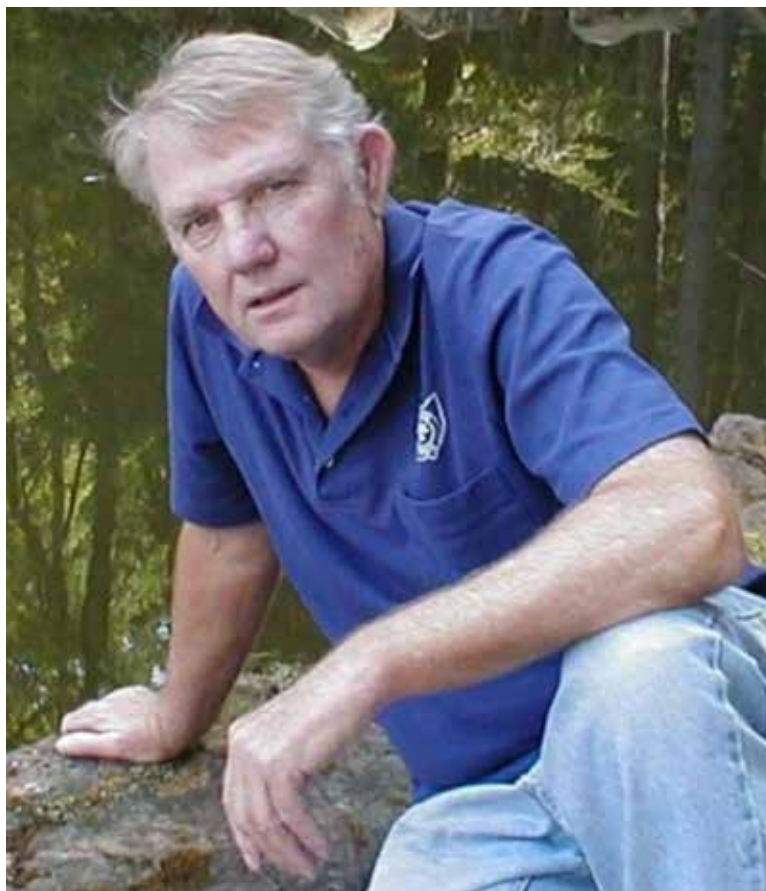
Steve Walker

If the most important position in the Buckeye Trail Association is that of BTA Member and Volunteer, then Robert J. Pond will always be close to the top of the list. Bob discovered the Buckeye Trail in 1974 and chose to hike it with his son, David, as a shared experience. Later, in 1981, Bob and his wife, Connie, decided to join the Buckeye Trail Association community and they were an active part of it from then on.

Bob was born in Hebron, Ohio on September 8, 1938, the son of William and Harriet Pond. Upon graduation from Jefferson High School, he served in the United States Air Force for four years before returning to Ohio to work at the Newark Air Force Station. In 1963, he married Connie Wilkins and, together, they raised their son, David. Bob's career path took him to Central Ohio Technical College in Newark, Ohio where he became Chairperson for Engineering Technology. While teaching there, he pursued and received a Masters Degree from The Ohio State University in Administration for Vocational Tech Education.

In the past, Bob was a Section Supervisor in the Muskingum Lakes region and required regular reports from his Trail Adopters. Mary Hamilton reports that she was one of his trail adopters and was initially resistant to the idea of submitting trail condition reports. In the end, Bob and Mary came to a mutual understanding on this. During this time, Bob coordinated an Eagle Scout project that relocated the Buckeye Trail in the Salt Fork area to take advantage of a primitive camping area. Bob was particularly drawn to the history and natural beauty of Adams County and Serpent Mound. The Buckeye Trail passes through Serpent Mound State Memorial.

Besides his service as a Section Supervisor, Bob served a three year term as a BTA Trustee and was Vice President of the organization for two years under President Emily Gregor. In 1987, Bob was presented an Award of Appreciation for his service as Vice President and as Chair of the BUFILO Committee (predecessor to the current BTA Finance Committee) for straightening out the BTA's finances. In the early years, Bob worked hard to accu-



Bob Pond. Photo provided by Connie Pond.

mulate 500 hours with the Buckeye Trail Crew in order to receive the coveted blue flannel shirt. He made sure that a camera was brought along on those occasions along with a Pulaski.

One of Bob's biggest contributions to the Buckeye Trail and the Buckeye Trail Association was to spread the word through print. Bob was already a published author in his chosen field long before being asked to write a book about the Buckeye Trail. *Prep Tech High*, which he co-authored with Norval Walker, was first published in 1983. Later, his *Introduction to Engineering Technology* championed for engineering students to develop skills in algebra, trigonometry and geometry. This book is currently in its eighth edition.

With encouragement from Herb Hulls in 1995 to write a book about their favorite trail, Bob and Connie embarked on the Buckeye Trail to explore Ohio and find material for *Follow the Blue Blazes*, the First Edition of which was published in 2003. In 2014, the Second Edition came out with help from Connie. These books have helped thousands of folks to know more about the Buckeye Trail and the Buckeye Trail Association.

Bob passed away at home on January 16, 2023. Connie suggests that Bob had a love affair with the Buckeye Trail; the history, the mission and the people. She welcomes Bob's BTA friends to A Celebration of Bob's Life on Saturday, May 13th from 1:00 until 5:00 P.M. which will be held at Harbor Hills Country Club at 225 Freeman Memorial Drive, Hebron, Ohio 43025. Everyone is encouraged to memorialize Bob by supporting the charity of their choice or the Buckeye Trail Association at <https://buckeyetrail.org/donate.php>



Connie and Bob Pond signing Follow the Blue Blazes books at TrailFest 2015



Buckeye Trail Winter Hike & Potluck Dinner

Andy Niekamp

Sunny skies greeted the 85 hikers who attended the Buckeye Trail Winter Hike & Potluck Dinner at Caesar Creek State Park on January 7, 2023. This annual event hosted by Dayton Hikers offered four hikes ranging from 3 to 13 miles in length. All the hikes used the Buckeye Trail and were led by experienced hike leaders.

Hikers came from Dayton, Cincinnati, Columbus, and all points in between. A potluck dinner followed the event at the Caesar Creek Lake Visitor Center. Hikers shared food, hot drinks, comradery, and tales from the trail. For many attendees, this was their first hike on the blue blazes of the Buckeye Trail.

Caesar Creek State Park is the perfect location as it has some of the most beautiful scenery on the Buckeye Trail in southwest Ohio. The event showcases the Buckeye Trail to new hikers and provides opportunities to hike on the Buckeye Trail with an experienced guide. At the winter hike, hikers reconnect with their friends after the holidays and make new friends at a time when people are ready to get outside and hike in the new year.

This event was created in 2014 by Andy "Captain Blue" Niekamp, Buckeye Trail thru hiker and founder of the Dayton Hikers, in response to a need for a winter hike on the Buckeye Trail in southwest Ohio. Mark your calendar for Saturday, January 6, 2024. We hope to see you there!



Bottom Left: Potluck dinner at Caesar Creek Lake Visitor Center. | Top: Hikers on the Buckeye Trail | All photos provided by Andy Niekamp.

5+5 BUCKEYE TRAIL VOLUNTEER Challenge



In 2018, The 50+5 Challenge was created in celebration of the Ohio Legislature's Year of the Trails and the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act. Then in 2019, for the 60th Anniversary of the Buckeye Trail and Buckeye Trail Association, we again invited Ohioans to challenge themselves to hike 50 miles on Ohio's 1,400+ mile BT and give back five volunteer hours to the trail we love. Now, we are bringing back the challenge to encourage Ohioans to go and enjoy the trail. Those who complete the hiking challenge and register their volunteer hours will receive a congratulatory packet including a certificate of completion, a 50 mile hiking patch, and a Buckeye Trail Association 5 hour volunteer patch to commemorate their accomplishment.

Once you have finished 50 miles and 5 volunteer hours, go to buckeyetrail.org/50-5-challenge.php to register the hours.

If you take any photographs during your 50 miles or 5 volunteer hours that you'd like to share with the Buckeye Trail community, you can send your files to trailblazer@buckeyetrail.org! Photo submissions should be at least 1,080 px wide regardless of layout (square, landscape, portrait) with at least a resolution of 72 ppi to a maximum of 200 ppi. Photos should be clear and not blurry or over- or underexposed.

Hike 50 Miles

Looking for some opportunities to log some miles on the Buckeye Trail? With over 1,400 miles of trail, dozens of organized hiking events, group day hikes and backpacking trips, or your solo BT hike, adventure is waiting all around the state! You could use the 50+5 Challenge to explore new places around Ohio on the BT and make all 50 miles unique. Or you can hike the same five miles ten times if you want. Hiking five miles out and five miles back counts as ten. You choose your adventure!

Join us at Events

Check out our events and group hikes coming up this year to help you complete your 50 miles. You can find a schedule of events on pages 17-19 or on buckeyetrail.org/events.php.

Get Involved with Your Local Chapter

Our BTA Chapters organize and promote all types of hikes year round at our meetup sites. Visit meetup.com/pro/buckeyetrail/ to view those activities. This is a great way to get more involved with BTA Chapters and log more miles on the trail.



Hikers at the annual EGGS challenge

Volunteer 5 Hours

Join Buckeye Trail Work Parties

Join any of the BTA's Chapter Work Parties. This is a great way to meet other outdoor enthusiasts, learn about building and maintaining the trail we all love, and make new friends. The schedule for these events can be found on pages 17-19. Come for a day, a weekend, or join us for the whole week if you want!

Work with a Buckeye Trail Adopter

Trail Adopters are volunteers who maintain one or more stretches of the Buckeye Trail. Contact volunteer@buckeyetrail.org to find out if there is an Adopter in your area who could use a hand with a project or some help maintaining their stretch of trail.

Organize Events and Public Outreach

The BTA hosts many events throughout the year and our volunteers man BTA information booths at festivals, county fairs, and other events around the state. These types of opportunities can be found on the Events page of the BTA's website, and on your local Chapter's Meetup.com page. Events need planning and organizing, which requires several volunteers before, during and after events. Chapters are often the ones organizing information booths around the state.

Volunteer for a BTA Chapter

The BTA has 10 Chapters around Ohio and they can use volunteer help all year round for their own volunteer and outreach events, as well as Chapter leadership. To find a Chapter local to you, check out our Chapters' web page* for descriptions. Visit our Meetup.com page for the events that the Chapters have scheduled around the BT.

For general questions about volunteering, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@buckeyetrail.org

For all other questions, contact us at info@buckeyetrail.org



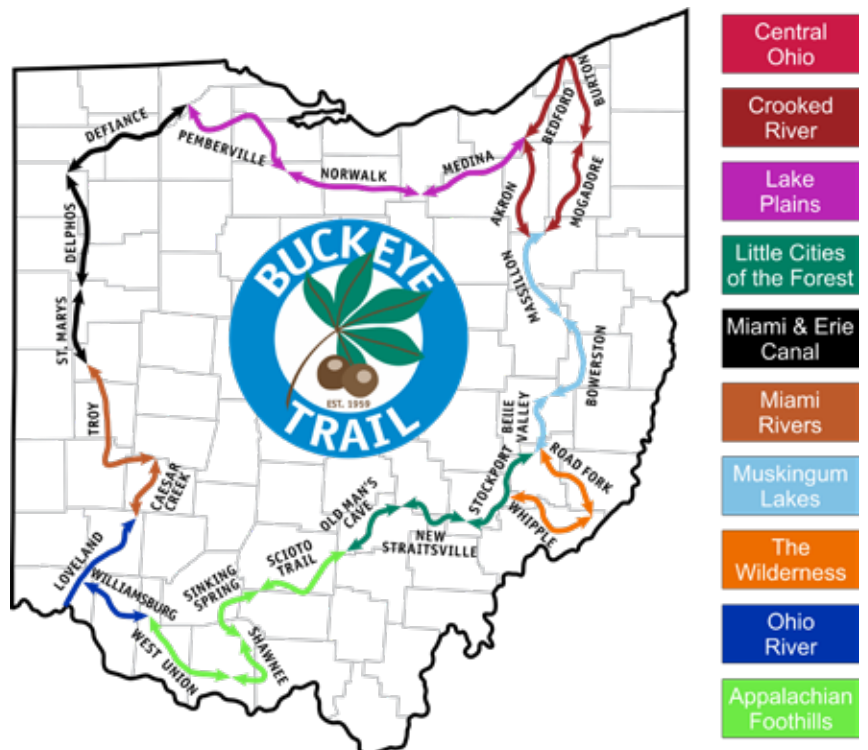
Volunteers doing stonework on the trail.

BTA Chapters

Chapters are localized efforts taking on the challenge of the mission of the Association along the Buckeye Trail around Ohio. Chapters are busily building, maintaining, protecting and promoting the use of Ohio's longest scenic hiking trail for our citizens, communities and partners in Ohio. They are providing outdoor recreation, opportunities to volunteer, education, access to the varied resources Ohio and local economic benefits along the Buckeye Trail.

* For more information about our chapters, go to buckeyetrail.org/chapters.php

You can also find Chapter events at: meetup.com/pro/buckeyetrail/



Inspiration on the BT

Stephanie Fuller

As far back as I can remember, I always enjoyed being in nature and near the water. I often explored the woods as a child, using my imagination for entertainment. A lot of us lose touch with this part of ourselves as we become adults. Life gets busy with work, family, and being pulled in multiple directions to meet all our responsibilities and expectations.

Approximately seven years ago, I was looking for something to fill my time that was meaningful and would give me a sense of peace. My kids and I set out to complete the Fall Hiking Sprees, but never ended up finishing them. I asked friends to go on hikes, but many times they were not available. I wasn't comfortable going alone yet. Not because of fear, but because I didn't know I could. That might seem odd, but I never really did anything on my own. Time after time, people canceled at the last minute. One day I decided I would go anyway - by myself. This was a total game changer! It still took a while to gain the confidence of hiking alone on a regular basis, but I definitely got there.

I started posting my hikes on social media. Friends messaged about coming along or asking me questions about which trail to go to. I was told my posts were inspiring people to get outside more. If that's not motivation to keep going, I don't know what is. Over time, I gained a sense of autonomy. I also grew increasingly grateful for living in Ohio, essentially having the Cuyahoga Valley National Park in my backyard. Not to mention all the other amazing Metroparks and trails in Northeast Ohio. Exploring the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, I started paying more attention to signs for the Buckeye trail. Knowing that it intertwined in some places, I wondered what it was all about.

I thought the little Loop seemed like a reasonable goal, with no real set timeframe in mind. The Mogadore section encompasses my original stomping grounds, so what better place to begin? I found myself walking past houses I saw from the school bus many moons ago, now comparing memories to reality, as well as recognizing how much things change over the years. Nostalgia! It is extremely peaceful walking along rural back roads on a Sunday afternoon, watching the clouds and admiring the landscape.

I became more interested in photography, being surrounded

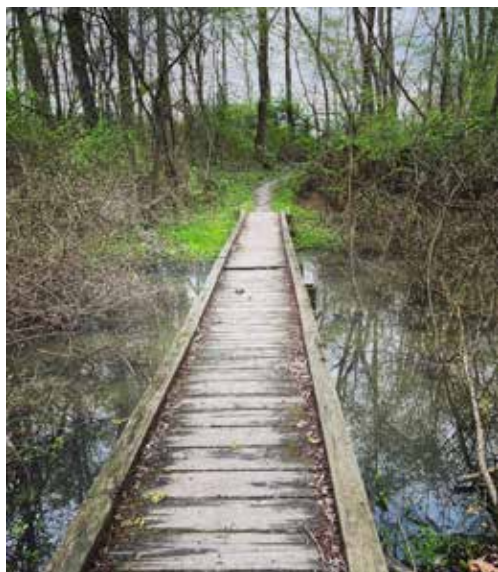


A snowy day on the towpath near Sand Run in Akron.

by nature so much. I've always loved taking pictures, but never made an effort to truly capture what I was seeing with my eyes. I am definitely not a professional, but I have quite a collection I've gathered throughout my time on the Buckeye Trail that I find to be quite beautiful. It's fun to look back through what I saw along the way. I love how each time I add some miles to the map, the environment is completely different. It forces me to think more openly and be grateful for something new. Even after living in Ohio my whole life, I had never gotten used to the cold. Hiking the Buckeye trail has given me a tolerance for the winter, because I have a goal. The snow is also beautiful and fun to photograph.

Hiking has inspired me to do more outdoor activities and widened my general sense of adventure. This has also led me to travel by myself and plan my first solo camping trip (summer 2023). Thank you for always motivating and inspiring me, Buckeye Trail. From April to December 2022, I completed the Mogadore Section of the map. I also chipped away at the Medina, Akron, Bedford, and Hocking Hills sections, for a change of scenery. My goal is to finish the Akron and Bedford sections in 2023.

You can follow Stephanie's journey on the Buckeye Trail on her Instagram account, [@_getmeoutside_](#)



Crossing a bridge at West Branch.



Farmland in the Mogadore Section.

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

MARCH

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.

Contact: Jay Shutt at shuttjay@gmail.com

APRIL

April 16, 2023

2023 CABIN FEVER HIKE SERIES - April Showers Hike

Sunday: 1pm-3pm at the Noble Township Hall, 16586 CR 66A, St. Marys. Our final Cabin Fever Hike of the 2023 series.

Visit <http://www.htparks.org> for program info.

April 21-23, 2023

Blue Blaze Academy

The Buckeye Trail Association and North Country Trail Association are proud to announce the 2nd Annual Blue Blaze Academy! Come join the fun, and spend a weekend learning about how trails are designed and built, volunteer leadership, gas powered equipment operation, and a host of other topics. Attending the Academy is free for all BTA members and food is provided. Attendees are welcome to camp at the BTA Barn, and the workshops will take place in and around the facility. Tools are provided, please bring your own camping and personal gear.

Registration: <http://bit.ly/3XjWZfo>

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

Contact: morgan.thomas@buckeyetrail.org

April 22-23, 2023

BTA Circuit Hike - Bedford Section

Saturday: Saturday's hike is from Bedford Section Point 1 parking at Brecksville Reservation, Valley Way Parkway about 0.1 mile northeast of Meadows Rd., GPS Coordinates (N41.30522 W081.60894) to Bedford Section Point 8 parking at the Bedford Reserve Egbert picnic area parking lot located on Gorge Parkway about 0.4 mile northwest of Egbert Rd., GPS Coordinates (N41.38432 W081.53937). This is a distance of 12.0 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at the Bedford Reserve Egbert picnic area, to carpool to Brecksville Reservation, Valley Way Parkway about 0.1 mile northeast of Meadows Rd.

Sunday: Sunday's hike is Bedford Section Point 8 parking at the Bedford Reserve Egbert picnic area parking lot located on Gorge Parkway about 0.4 mile northwest of Egbert Rd., GPS Coordinates (N41.38432 W081.53937) to Bedford Section Point 13 parking at Cleveland Metropark - Henry Church Rock parking lot on Hawthorn Parkway about 1.4 miles east of South Central Rd. (SR 91), GPS Coordinates (N41.41678 W081.41559). The hike is a distance of 11.9 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at the Cleveland Metropark - Henry Church Rock parking lot, to carpool to the Bedford Reserve Egbert picnic area.

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

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

Contact: Jay Shutt at shuttjay@gmail.com

April 29, 2023

BTA Regular Board Meeting

Contact: Steve Walker at president@buckeyetrail.org for additional information

April 29-May 3, 2023

BTA Work Party: Bowerston Section (ML Chapter)

It's the first Work Party of the year! Join the Muskingum Lake Chapter at Clendening Lake as we perform heavy trail maintenance (including vegetation management, re-benching trail tread, minor trail reroutes around obstacles, and bucking and limbing of fallen trees). Along the north side of Brushy Fork Bay. Chainsawyers needed!

Meals: The BTA Chuckwagon will be parked at camp. Breakfast and dinner will be provided, along with plenty of choices to pack yourself a trail lunch.

Camping: BTA Beall Farmstead - 83949 Beall Rd, Cadiz, OH 43907

Sign Up: bit.ly/3DhJqVR

Contact: bowerston@buckeyetrail.org

MAY

May 5-7, 2023

BTA MorelFest

Come to for a weekend of hiking, music, food, camping and of course, morels at MorelFest, held at the BTA Beall Farmstead on the shore of Tappen Lake! Guided hikes/mushroom hunting will start and finish at

the barn. Hikes may be two to five hours, and will vary in difficulty and terrain. Dogs are welcome and must remain on leash. Bring your own food for Friday evening and lunch on Saturday. Saturday a free-will donation breakfast will be served by Deersville General Store at 8am. For the Saturday Potluck at 6:15pm, please bring something to share; refrigerators and electricity for crock pots are available. Camping is available on site at the farmstead.

Sign up: bit.ly/3jDClS2

Contact: morefest@buckeyetrail.org.

May 20-21, 2023

BTA Circuit Hike - Bedford Section

Saturday: Saturday's hike is from Bedford Section Point 13 parking at Cleveland Metropark Henry Church Rock parking lot on Hawthorn Parkway about 1.4 miles east of South Central Rd. (SR 91), GPS Coordinates (N41.41678 W081.41559) to Bedford Section Point 18 parking at the Chagrin Reservation Wilson Mills Rd. trailhead located about 1.4 miles northeast Som Center Rd. (SR 91), GPS Coordinates (N41.54986 W081.41758). This is a distance of 11.3 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at the Chagrin Reservation Wilson Mills Rd. trailhead, to carpool to Cleveland Metropark Henry Church Rock parking lot.

Sunday: Sunday's hike is Bedford Section Point 18 parking at the Chagrin Reservation Wilson Mills Rd. trailhead located about 1.4 miles northeast Som Center Rd. (SR 91), GPS Coordinates (N41.54986 W081.41758) to Bedford Section Point 22+ parking at the Chapin State Forest, Pine Lodge Ski Center located off Hobart Rd. about 0.4 mile north of US 6, GPS Coordinates (N41.58943 W081.36926). The hike is a distance of 9.4 miles. Meet no later than 8:30 a.m. at the Chapin State Forest, Pine Lodge Ski Center, to carpool to the Chagrin Reservation Wilson Mills Rd. trailhead.

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

Contact: Jay Shutt at shuttjay@gmail.com

May 20-24, 2023

BTA Work Party: Mogadore Section (CR Chapter)

Join the Crooked River Chapter at West Branch State Park to rejuvenate an old spur trail that leads onto the BT. We will be re-treading the trail and performing heavy vegetation management, as well as reblazing.

Meals: The BTA Chuckwagon will be parked at camp. Breakfast and dinner will be provided, along with plenty of choices to pack yourself a trail lunch.

Camping: West Branch State Park Horse Camp.

Sign Up: bit.ly/3DhJqVR

Contact: mogadore@buckeyetrail.org

JUNE

June 3, 2023

Biggest Day Hike

We are encouraging everyone to hike a little bit of the Buckeye Trail to see how much we can hike together in one day. Just think, it will only take 300 people hiking 4.8 miles each to hike and complete the entire trail! You are welcome to bike the portions where bikes are allowed, horseback where horses are allowed, and even kayak where rivers are parallel to the trail. Not only are we building a better trail, we are also building a better community. Buckeye Trail's Biggest Day Hike is a

completely free event. So get out there and have some fun!

Information / Registration: Visit the Biggest Day Hike web page for all the information and links to everything you need to successfully hike the Biggest Day Hike. <https://www.buckeyetrail.org/biggestdayhike.php>

Contact: For more information or if you have any questions, please email us at: bigdayhike@buckeyetrail.org

June 3-7, 2023

BTA Work Party: Stockport/Belle Valley Sections (ML & CO Chapters)

The Muskingum Lakes and Central Ohio Chapters are working together to clear the trail through the Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area. Trail maintenance will include vegetation management, mowing (lots of mowing!), and bucking and limbing of fallen trees. This is a great opportunity to get some hands-on experience using a DR mower.

Meals: The BTA Chuckwagon will be parked at camp. Breakfast and dinner will be provided, along with plenty of choices to pack yourself a trail lunch. **Camping:** Bicentennial Campground K, 10766 Lincoln Hwy, Caldwell, OH, 43724

Sign Up: bit.ly/3DhJqVR

Contact: bellevalley@buckeyetrail.org

June 10-14, 2023

BTA Work Party: New Straitsville Section (LCF Chapter)

Join the Little Cities of the Forest Chapter at Burr Oak State Park to help replace an old boardwalk and move a bridge to a better location. We will also be doing maintenance work managing vegetation, removing downed trees, and stabilizing the trail tread in preparation for the EGGs hike happening at the end of the month.

Meals: The BTA Chuckwagon will be parked at camp. Breakfast and dinner will be provided, along with plenty of choices to pack yourself a trail lunch.

Camping: Burr Oak State Park Group Camp, 10153 Williams-Homer Rd, Gloucester, OH 45732

Sign Up: bit.ly/3DhJqVR

Contact: newstraitsville@buckeyetrail.org or oldmanscave@buckeyeTrail.org

June 22-25, 2023

14th Annual E.G.G.S. Hike

Located at Burr Oak State Park and Wildcat Hollow, the E.G.G.S. Hike is a multi-day hike challenge that honors Emma Grandma Gatewood, a founding member of the Buckeye Trail Association. The event consists of hiking challenges of either 20, 40, 60, or 80 miles.

For more info and to register, go to buckeyetrail.org/eggs.php

Contact: oldmanscave@buckeyetrail.org

June 24, 2023

BTA Regular Board Meeting

Contact: Steve Walker at president@buckeyetrail.org for additional information

JULY

July 8-12, 2023

BTA Work Party: Whipple/Road Fork Sections (TW Chapter)

It's the height of summer, and what better way to get outside and enjoy the outdoors than joining The Wilderness Chapter in Washington County for some heavy trail maintenance along the Whipple and Road

Fork Sections. We'll be engaging in vegetation control, re-benching some of the trail, and clearing any fallen trees.

Meals: The BTA Chuckwagon will be parked at camp. Breakfast and dinner will be provided, along with plenty of choices to pack yourself a trail lunch.

Camping: Little Muskingum Watershed Association, Ohio 26, New Matamoras, Ohio.

Sign Up: bit.ly/3DhJqVR

Contact: roadfork@buckeyetrail.org or whipple@buckeyetrail.org

July 22-26, 2023

BTA Work Party: Burton Section (CR Chapter)

We have a good sized reroute to complete along the trail off of Rapids Rd in the Burton Section. Join the BTA as we build new trail and as well as a bridge. We'll be clearing the trail corridor, grubbing out trees and shrubs, and laying a new trail tread..

Meals: The BTA Chuckwagon will be parked at camp. Breakfast and dinner will be provided, along with plenty of choices to pack yourself a trail lunch.

Camping: TBD.

Sign Up: bit.ly/3DhJqVR

Contact: burton@buckeyetrail.org

AUGUST

August 12-16, 2023

BTA Work Party: Delphos Section (ME Chapter)

It's the dog days of summer, but the BTA has plenty of work to complete do this year. The Miami & Erie Canal Chapter will be rerouting the trail to complete in the Delphos section, moving the old trail out of a canal and back onto the adjacent towpath. We are also going to be fixing a length of existing trail that has slid due to erosion and ground slump. If construction is more your thing, help us build a tent platform at a backcountry campsite!

Meals: The BTA Chuckwagon will be parked at camp. Breakfast and dinner will be provided, along with plenty of choices to pack yourself a trail lunch.

Camping: TBD

Sign Up: bit.ly/3DhJqVR

Contact: delphos@buckeyetrail.org

August 17-20, 2023

Buckeye TrailFest

The Buckeye TrailFest offers a long weekend packed full of hikes, workshops, presentations, speakers, and social opportunities. Come for the whole weekend or come for the day. There is something for everyone.

Contact: Steve Walker at president@buckeyetrail.org for additional information

August, 20, 2023

BTA Annual Meeting at 9:00am | Board Meeting at 10:00am

Contact: Steve Walker at president@buckeyetrail.org for additional information

August 26-30, 2023

BTA Work Party: Mogadore Section (CR Chapter)

If you like building things, this work party is for you. We have one bridge to remove and two bridges to install along the trail at West Branch State Park. We will also be performing routine trail maintenance and mowing.

Meals: The BTA Chuckwagon will be parked at camp. Breakfast and dinner will be provided, along with plenty of choices to pack yourself a trail lunch.

Camping: West Branch State Park Horseman's Camp

Sign Up: bit.ly/3DhJqVR

Contact: mogadore@buckeyetrail.org

SEPTEMBER

September 16-20, 2023

BTA Work Party: Shawnee Section (AF Chapter)

Shawnee State Forest is gorgeous this time of year, and the Appalachian Foothills Chapter will be performing some much needed trail maintenance. Join us as we re-bench and clear the section of the trail that passes through the Shawnee State Forest Wilderness Area west of the south backpacking loop

Meals: The BTA Chuckwagon will be parked at camp. Breakfast and dinner will be provided, along with plenty of choices to pack yourself a trail lunch.

Camping: Shawnee State Park Campground

Sign Up: bit.ly/3DhJqVR

Contact: shawnee@BuckeyeTrail.org

September 23, 2023

Croked River Chapter - Little Loop Challenge

The Little Loop Challenge is an annual event held on National Public Lands Day to hike the entire 250+ mile "Little Loop" of the Buckeye Trail in one day. We do this by breaking it up into 77 segments and having 70-100 hikers sign up to hike one or more segments on the same day. It's a collective effort.

Sign Up: Registration and participation details to follow.

Contact: littleloop@buckeyetrail.org

OCTOBER

October 21-22, 2023

BTA Work Party: Scioto Trail Section (AF Chapter)

Join the Appalachian Foothills Chapter at Point 12 in the Scioto Trail Section, where we will be rebenching the trail along 200-300 yards of fencerows near the tunnel under Rt 35.

Meals: This work weekend is NOT supported by the BTA Chuckwagon, so bring your own food for breakfast lunch and dinner. We will be eating lunch on the trail.

Camping: Scioto Trail State Park Park Campground

Sign Up: bit.ly/3DhJqVR

Contact: sciototrail@buckeyetrail.org

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..... **\$75.00** 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