

BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Trailblazer



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SUMMER 2024 VOLUME 57 NO. 2

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Editor's Note

The Buckeye Trail Association would like to make a correction on the last issue, Spring 2024 Trailblazer. The Trailblazer has an error at the bottom of each page labelling the Trailblazer as "Winter 2023." The text at the bottom should read "Spring 2024." We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.



Trailblazer

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May 1 for the Summer issue
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November 1 for the Winter issue

SUBMISSIONS

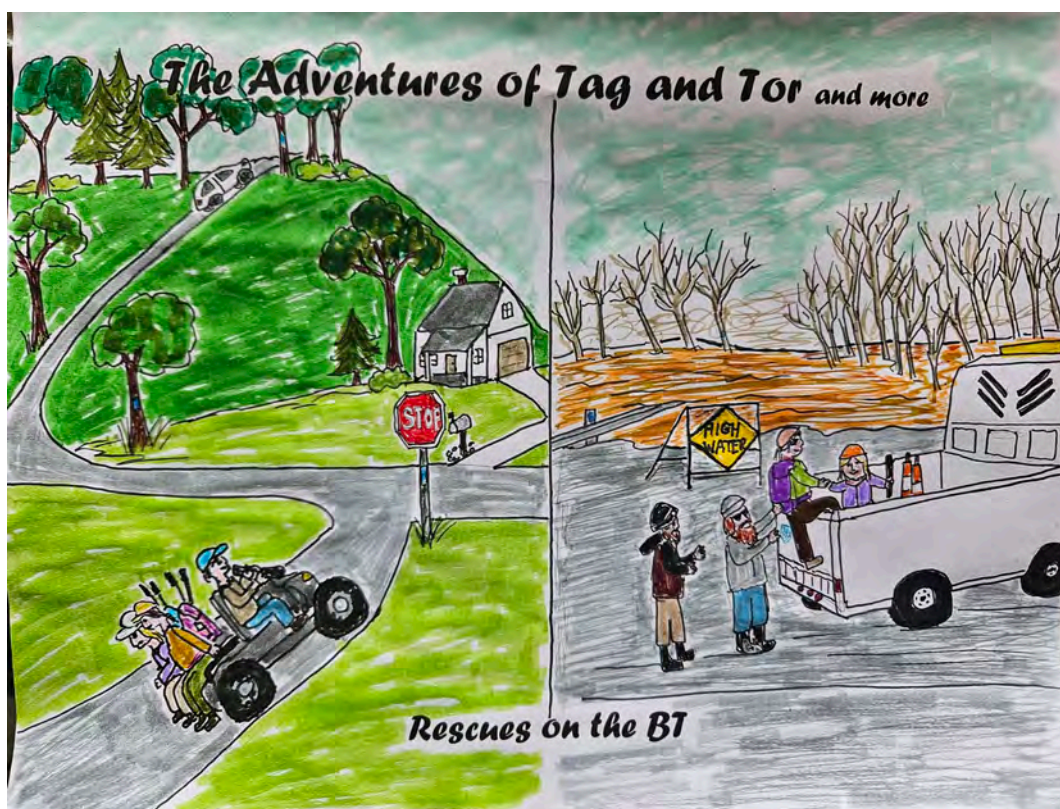
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Disclaimer: The articles and all information in this publication have been prepared with utmost care. However, neither the Buckeye Trail Association nor the Editor can guarantee accuracy or completeness of information. Opinions expressed in the articles,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

Cover photo: Female Merganser
in Flight
Photo credit: George Blankenhorn



Tag & Tor

Karen Power & Jeri Getts

Part of the fun of hiking the Buckeye Trail are the unexpected adventures that ensue. In this installment, Jeri Getts and Cindy Somers were "rescued" in the Belle Valley Section by kind strangers on two occasions. In the first rescue, a misplaced car key two miles in the opposite direction prompted a friendly four wheeler to give the hikers a lift to Cindy's car; the second rescue came when two kind-hearted utility employees drove the stranded hikers around a flooded part of the trail.

Remembering Bob Grove

Buckeye Trail Association

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Buckeye Trail Association would like to remember life-long supporter and member: Bob Grove. Bob Grove was a great guy and a friend. Amy and Bob were BT adopters for a good while (Stockport Section). Bob Grove passed away on May 1, 2024 at 75 years old.

Bob certainly enjoyed his time as a trail adopter. Two of our grandkids certainly enjoyed helping out with blue blazes and spent many hours hiking when they were under his care during the summer. We only had one other through hiker, Ladybug, who stayed the night with us. Learned a lot and sure enjoyed her company and stories.

~ Amy Grove

Bob Grove had been a long time trail adopter, in the Stockport section. Herb Hulls, past Stockport section supervisor remembers Bob as always happy and smiling. He recalled how when he and Earl Garns were backpacking through the area when they arrived at Bob and Amy Grove's ("just a couple of dirty bums") they were welcomed to stay. Herb still recalls how much that meant to them. Trail magic...

~ Ann Furstie

Wilderness First Aid Training Opportunities

Are you interested in learning Wilderness First Aid? The Wilderness First Aid course (BSA Based) provides an intensive 18+ hours of training covering injury assessment, rescuer safety, bleeding, shock, orthopedic injuries, long term patient care, and treatment with materials at hand during practice sessions. When you are participating in outdoor activities that take you more than 1 hour away from medical care, wilderness first aid provides a significant difference in survival and effects of injuries. Instruction is in a classroom setting with some sections held outdoors, so please plan accordingly and dress for the weather. Each student is required to bring their backpack packed for land based outdoor adventures. Please bring your own lunch, snacks, drinks. Be prepared to be outdoors no matter what the weather is.

Certification includes:

Wilderness First Aid - two year

CPR\AED - Adult\Child and Infant - two year

Participants MUST be 14 years of age or older in order to participate, at the time of the course! The course is limited to 20 participants (first come first served).

Registration:

The registration fee is \$100.00. You can register at:

<https://scoutingevent.com/441-wfatt2024>

Assorted Dates are available in 2024. The dates of trainings open to BTA members are as follows: August 24-25, September 21-22, and October 5-6.

The courses will be held at Camp Lazarus (4422 Columbus Pike, Delaware, OH 43015).

President's Message

Steve Walker

I hope that you're all having a great Spring. It's the middle of June as I write this from Madras, Oregon which is just east of the Cascade Mountains. Karen and I are on our annual traveling vacation and this time it's ambling through the Pacific Northwest. We stopped at Wallace, Idaho and visited the mining museum that claims to have Ed Pulaski's own Pulaski. Ed was an Ohioan before moving to the west and his birthplace is only about 2.5 miles away from where the Buckeye Trail crosses State Route 19 in Northern Ohio. If you've ever been at a Buckeye Trail Crew Work Party, you've gotten to know what a Pulaski is.

Since April of 2016, the Buckeye Trail Association has been leading the Ohio Trails Partnership (of which the Buckeye Trail Association is a founding Partner) in the ways of legislative interaction and helping to build a powerful coalition to advocate for Ohio's non-motorized trails. In February of 2017, the BTA was instrumental in the formation of the Ohio Legislative Trails Caucus, the first ever state based caucus of legislators supporting trails. It was founded by then State Senator Sean O'Brien and was based on the model of the U.S. House Trails Caucus. The success of the BTA's advocacy program was proven in 2022 when almost \$600,000 of funding was approved for Buckeye Trail projects.

For over a year, the Ohio Trails Partnership has been seeking funding for implementation of the 2019 Ohio Trails Vision. Beginning in December of last year, our OTP Partners have been steadily advocating for our specific proposal which included setting up a trail maintenance fund that agencies and trail organizations across Ohio can apply for to do trail maintenance projects. Our OTP statewide request also had the endorsement of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources who was the planned administrator of these funds.

Particularly in the months of March and April, BTA advocates, as well as members of the other OTP Partners, were in touch with their state legislators voicing their support for the OTP statewide request. At that point, we let the process take its course and left it up to the legislators as to whether our statewide request would receive some consideration in the upcoming state budget process.

During the latter part of

May, there appeared to be an opportunity for us to renew our advocacy efforts on behalf of our statewide request. Before I left on vacation, we had encouraged the two Co-Chairs of the Ohio Legislative Trails Caucus to call a Caucus meeting during the month of June. State Senator Steve Wilson, one of the inaugural Co-Chairs, and State Representative Phillip M. Robinson, Jr. were glad to do so knowing that we had something that we hoped the rest of the Ohio General Assembly would support for the upcoming Capital Budget. That meeting happened on the morning of June 12th in the Statehouse. While we were away on vacation, my colleagues from the Ohio Trails Partnership were busy. They participated in that Caucus meeting and made one final pitch to legislators to include the OTP statewide request in the upcoming State of Ohio Capital Budget.

Recently, we were pleased to hear that, with the help of State Representative James Hoops, an allocation for the OTP's statewide request was included in the next State of Ohio Capital Budget. Representative Hoops has a history with the Buckeye Trail Association having previously helped out at a Buckeye Trail Crew Work Party (probably using a Pulaski).

I hope that you all have a great summer and I also hope to see you on the Buckeye Trail or at a BTA event.

Steve Walker

president@buckeyetrail.org



Ed Pulaski's Pulaski. Photo Credit: Steve Walker

On the Trail...

Looking through founding member Bill Miller's papers again, I came across what could be the BTA's first official complaint, December 3, 1959. The passionate complaint was inspired by the BTA charging members of a youth group an exorbitant fee of \$2.50 for a medallion commemorating their completion of the first official segment of the BT through the Hocking Hills region. Apparently, he could create one for each of them in less than twenty-four hours for 11 cents each, which he did and presented to them for free.

At first, 65 years later, I felt a little defensive because of the harsh tone of the letter, but then I got to thinking... I'm really glad he volunteered his time and resources to commemorate a hopefully great hiking experience for those kids. Who knows what he may have inspired in that group? Approaching their 80's now, they, and their children, and grandchildren may have been inspired to enjoy the BT for generations as it continues to grow and improve. However, I will split hairs on the complaint of the BTA charging \$2.50.

In short, look at what we have leveraged today from those initial investments of \$2.50 paired with generations of volunteerism. So far this year we have had record registration at our volunteer training – Blue Blaze Academy – MorelFest, EGGS Hike, and trail crew work parties. We've successfully advocated for the creation of a \$5 million statewide trail maintenance fund with both the Ohio Trails Partnership and Ohio Legislative Trails Caucus that we helped to create. We'll be standing with ODNR at the Ohio State Fair again soon and bringing hikers, members, partners, and volunteers together at Buckeye TrailFest September 12-15 at Camp Mary Orton in Central Ohio. We've stood up 10 local BTA Chapters that offer hikes, outdoor adventures, and volunteer opportunities all around the State, for free.

The spirit of the complaint reminds me of the importance of local hiking clubs like the Cleveland Hiking Club, Dayton Hikers, Hilltop Hikers just to name a few. They are independently helping to achieve the vision of the BT by convincing generations of hikers to get out and enjoy Ohio's great outdoors often on the BT. In addition to promoting the enjoyment of Ohio's State Trail, another big part of our mission that sets the BTA apart is constructing, maintaining, and preserving a corridor for the trail experience that everyone can enjoy for free.

All that work has a cost, and the BTA has worked hard over the decades to earn your support through your membership dues and donations, grants for project costs, registration fees for special events generously organized by volunteers, the sale of maps, apps, and merchandise to commemorate the BT experience, and more. We have successfully raised funds, thanks to your help, primarily to support BTA volunteers with training, tools, materials, relationships, technical expertise, and maintaining our non-profit status in working through the challenges of achieving our vision.

It's a good thing that the BTA has great volunteers. For the moment the BTA is short-staffed down from 4 full-time positions to 2. Thankfully we have a support structure in our volunteer corps to lean on, keeping important projects moving forward, and soon we will be hiring to better support our continually growing and evolving volunteer base.

Raising funds, managing staff and volunteers, organizing, advocating, constructing, maintaining, promoting, and preserving, are often challenging for an idea as big as the BT and BTA. All these types of tasks can be very rewarding when we see that together we have accomplished what we set out to do in the first place ~ create an amazing Buckeye Trail experience for all to enjoy for free.

All that being said, looking back again... \$2.50 for a medallion in 1959 would be \$26.54 today... that actually does seem a bit steep...

Thank you for Hiking,
Andrew

CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS

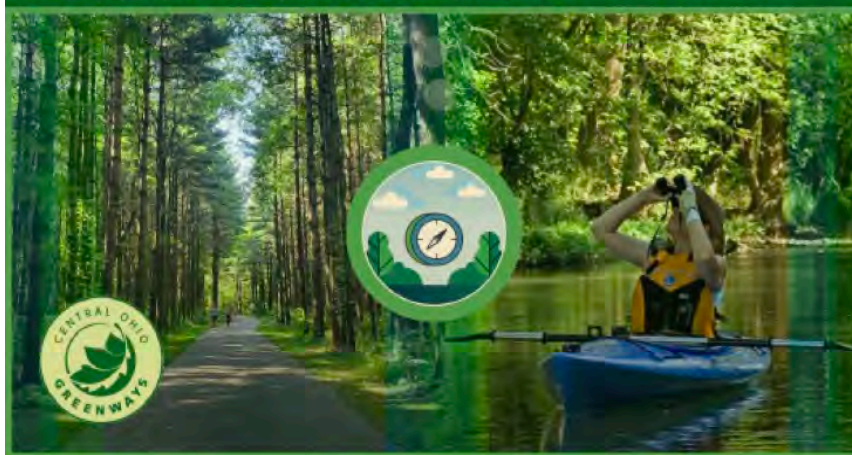
CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS

Central Ohio Greenways (COG) is a network of over 230 miles of trails that connects the Central Ohio region. COG trails offer a variety of opportunities for recreation and transportation, including biking, running, walking, scootering, and roller blading.

MORPC and COG have teamed with Experience Columbus on a great outdoor trails pass program. Check-in to locations along the COG Trails and get rewarded with a chance to win prizes.



OUTDOOR TRAILS PASS



MID OHIO REGIONAL
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MORPC.org
CentralOhioGreenways.org

BTA Funds Report

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

FEBRUARY 2, 2024 TO MAY 1, 2024

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OHIO RIVER CHAPTER

Patrick M. Long

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.

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youtube.com/user/BuckeyeTrailTV



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@hikethtb

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.

Ash Cave | Blendon Woods | Buckeye Trail | Cuyahoga Valley National Park | Hocking Hills | Lake Logan

Mohican State Park | Mt. Airy Forest | Olentangy | Old Man's Cave | Stroud's Run | Wayne National Forest

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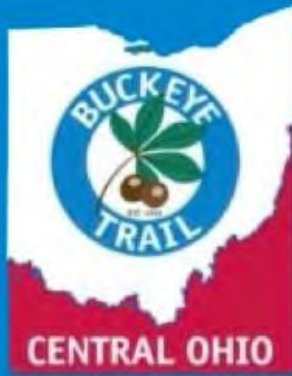
IOS



go
bus!

ANDROID





11th Annual Buckeye Trailfest

September 12-15, 2024
Camp Mary Orton
Columbus, Oh.



The Central Ohio Chapter is excited to host the 2024 Buckeye Trailfest at Camp Mary Orton on September 12-15, 2024! Camp Mary Orton is located on a 160-acre wooded site on the north side of Columbus. Highbanks Metro Park and Hutchinson State Nature Preserve are adjacent to the North. We will have access to the entire camp, so meetings, meals and camping are all in one convenient location. Our meetings and space for socializing will be in the conference center and/or the beautiful historic lodge. Tent and RV camping are available adjacent to the lodge and there are six newly renovated cabins for rent. Modern showers are available in the Indoor Recreation Center.

Together with our many local partners, 2024 Buckeye Trailfest will offer a long weekend packed full of presentations, workshops, speakers, and social opportunities. It's the 65th Birthday of the Buckeye Trail Association, and the theme of Trailfest is "History Of and Around the Buckeye Trail". Talks will cover topics of interest for hikers, trail maintainers, and history and nature lovers.

Another highlight will be Friday's Hiker Recognition Night for those who have completed the entire BT. If you have hiked the entire Buckeye Trail but have not yet completed the form to be recognized, please do so here: <https://forms.gle/QaPYbDBZ8FSSuZYM6>. Please complete this as soon as possible as it will be used in the process of your recognition.

And before you ask, NO, Columbus isn't on the Buckeye Trail. But a spoke of the wheel - the Ohio-to-Erie Trail - runs through Columbus, overlapping and connecting with the Buckeye Trail on the North and on the South ends of the BT loop. Therefore, instead of the traditional hike-in to TrailFest, we will be offering a bike-in from Cincinnati to Columbus on September 10th to 12th, 2024, led by our partner, Outdoor Pursuits (more details on the next page). And YES there will be hikes. Camp Mary Orton has about 2.5 miles of trails through beautiful woods to the Olentangy River ideal for nature programs. Day and half-day hikes will be at Alum Creek State Park, Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks, Stratford Ecological Center and restored urban prairies.

We are also planning a "N-E-W-S Hike-In to TrailFest" this year, where we suggest that BT chapters located on the trail offer a hike the weekend before TrailFest in their respective sections. Those who hike in the North-East-West-South and then come to TrailFest will have a chance to win a nominal prize.

Volunteer at TrailFest

If you want to volunteer at Buckeye TrailFest 2024, please go to buckeyetrail.org. You can find the link on our front page under "Save the Date for TrailFest 2024" to fill out the Volunteer Application Form. There are all kinds of opportunities for you to help out that will make the TrailFest experience a great one for those that attend. You'll be glad that you did. If you have any questions about these opportunities, please email us at TrailFest@buckeyetrail.org.

Interested in BikePacking to TrailFest?

The Bike-In will be available for up to twelve participants. The Bike-In will begin on Tuesday, September 10th in Cincinnati and will arrive in Columbus on Thursday, September 12th after cycling 119 miles (32 miles on Tuesday, 55 miles on Wednesday, and 32 miles on Thursday). Participants will camp at Camp Morgan (near Fort Ancient) and London, Ohio.

The estimated cost is \$50 for this three-day tour and includes camping fees, instruction on bike-packing by our partner leader from Outdoor Pursuits and insurance through Outdoor Pursuits. Food is on your own. There will be an extra cost for transportation back on Sunday September 15th. Cost TBD.

Registration for the Bike-In is done by our partner Outdoor Pursuits. We will email you the registration link once you have indicated that you are interested by emailing to TrailFest@buckeyetrail.org. Please email as soon as possible, as this will help us to work out details.

For more info or to register, go to: buckeyetrail.org/TrailFest



Camp Mary Orton Main Lodge



Camp Mary Orton Cabins

TrailFest Schedule of Events

Thursday Events

Registration Open: 4pm-8pm

Friday Events

Registration Open Hours:

7-7:30am | 8:15am-12:30pm | 1-6:15pm | 6:45-7:30pm

Breakfast: 7am-8:15am

Lunch: 11:30am-12:45pm

Supper: 5:30pm-6:45pm

BTA Trail Shop Open: 11:15am-1:15pm | 4-7pm

Social Hour: 4:15pm-5:30pm

Beer Garden: 4:15pm-7pm

Campfire: 9:15pm-11pm

Hikes

8:00am-9:30am - Bird Watching Hike at CMO

8:00am-2:00pm - Hike Alum Creek State Park (pack lunch)

8:15-11:30am - Hike Whetstone Prairie

(hike Downtown Columbus, before or after State House Fossil Tour)

1:00pm-3:00pm - Geology hike at CMO

1:00pm-4:00pm - Stratford Ecological Center

3:00pm-5:30pm - Highbanks Metro Park

Programs

7:30-7:45 am - Welcome to Camp Mary Orton & Information About the Godman Guild

8:30-9:15 am - HIKER TRACK: Nutrition, Hydration, and Other Hiking Hacks

8:30-9:15 am - HISTORY / BTA TRACK: History of Trail Towns

8:30-10:15 am - TRAIL MAINTAINER TRACK: Developing Trail Eyes: Trail Construction and Maintenance

9:15am-12:30pm - NATURE/GEOLOGY TRACK: Fossil Tour Excursion to the State House (OFFSITE)

9:30-10:15 am - HISTORY / BTA TRACK: What in the Blue Blazes? The History (and Future) of Ohio's Buckeye Trail

9:30-10:15 am - HIKER TRACK: The Buckeye Trail: Memories from a Bicentennial THRU-Hike

10:30-11:15 am - NATURE/GEOLOGY TRACK: Birds of Ohio Along the Buckeye Trail

10:30-11:15 am - HIKER TRACK: The FarOut App: How To Use It To Hike The BT

10:30-11:30 am - HISTORY TRACK: It's Friday the 13th! Cemeteries 101 & Cemeteries Along The Buckeye Trail

12:45-1:45pm - NATURE/GEOLOGY TRACK: Edible Plants/Wild Foraging

1:00-1:45pm - HISTORY TRACK: Historic Churches Along The Buckeye Trail

1:00-1:45pm - HIKER TRACK: Intro to Wilderness First Aid

2:00-2:45pm - NATURE/GEOLOGY TRACK: What to do about those darn ticks? An Update On Ticks In Ohio

2:00-2:45pm - HISTORY TRACK: Ohio: See the Signs! A virtual tour of historical markers around Ohio

2:00-2:45pm - HIKER TRACK: Cooking Stove Comparisons: Fuel Stove, Sterno Stove, Fuel Tablets

3:00-4:00pm - HISTORY TRACK: Documentary: Trail Magic: The Emma (Grandma) Gatewood Story

3:00-4:15pm - SPECIAL GROUP PROGRAM: HIKER & NATURE/ GEOLOGY TRACKS: Live Demonstration & Flying of Native Raptors (Owls, Falcons, & Hawks) You Might See Along the Buckeye Trail

7:00-8:00pm - Welcome and Evening Program: The BTA - A History

8:00-9:00pm - First Ever BT Hiker Recognition Night: History and Recognition of the Buckeye Trail Completionists

Saturday Events

Registration Open Hours:

7-7:30am | 8:15am-12:30pm | 1-6:15pm | 6:45-7:30pm

Breakfast: 7am-8:15am

Lunch: 11:30am-12:45pm

Supper: 5:30pm-6:45pm

BTA Trail Shop Open: 11:15am-1:15pm | 4-7pm

Social Hour: 4:15pm-5:30pm

Beer Garden: 4:15pm-7pm

Campfire: 9pm-11pm

Hikes

8:00am-10:00am - Tree Identification and CMO

8:00am-2:00pm - Battelle Darby Metro Park (pack lunch)

8:15-2:00pm - Bill Miller Trail (pack lunch)

8:30-11:30am - Quarry Trails Metro Park

1:00pm-4:00pm - OSU Campus

3:00pm-5:00pm - Aquatic Critters

Programs

8:30-9:15am - BTA TRACK: Chapter Secretary Gathering/ Roundtable Discussion

8:00-10:00am - TRAIL MAINTAINER TRACK: Water Problems/ Management on Trails

8:30-9:15am - HIKER TRACK (Beginner): BT Hiking 101

8:30-9:15am - SKILL ACQUISITION/HIKER TRACK (Advanced): Hands On Workshop: Tips on Working With Google Maps to Plan and Track Your Hikes

9:30-10:15am - HIKER TRACK (Beginner): "Experiencing" Ohio Via The Buckeye Trail: Personal Story of a Section Hiker

9:30-10:15am - BTA TRACK: Chapter Finances Workshop

9:30-10:30am - DOCUMENTARY: Trail Magic: The Emma (Grandma) Gatewood Story

9:30-11:15am - SKILL ACQUISITION / OTHER: Mindfulness Experience: Forest "Bathing"/Shinrin Yoku

10:15-11:45am - TRAIL MAINTAINER TRACK: Dealing with Invasive Plants along the Trail

10:30-11:15am - NATURE/GEOLOGY TRACK: Exploring the Changing Geology of Ohio Along the Buckeye Trail

10:30-11:30am - DOCUMENTARY: Safety on the Trail: "Safe and Found"

10:30-11:30am - HIKER TRACK: "This is Gonna Hurt" by Author Brandon Weis

1:00-1:45pm - HIKER TRACK: What Kind of Hiker Are You?

1:00-1:45pm - BTA TRACK: Partnering With HikerBabes

1:00-1:45pm - SKILL ACQUISITION / OTHER: All About Knots: Learn How To Tie Five Kinds of Knots for Outdoor Use

2:00-2:45pm - HIKER TRACK: Hiking the Trans Catalina Trail

2:00-2:45pm - BTA TRACK: Volunteering Beyond Trail Maintenance - How Can I Volunteer In Other Ways Beyond Trail Maintenance?

2:00-2:45pm - SKILL ACQUISITION / OTHER: All About Knots: Learn How To Tie Five Kinds of Knots for Outdoor Use

3:00-3:45pm - HIKER TRACK: SOLO Section Hike of the BT

3:00-3:45pm - SKILL ACQUISITION/OTHER: BikePacking 101: What's It All About?

7:00-8:00pm — Buckeye Trail Atlas Obscura: Curious and Wonderous History and Natural Resources of Ohio Along the Trail

8:00-8:15pm — Group Photo

8:15-8:45pm — Volunteer Recognition

8:45-9:00pm — Silent Auction Results

Sunday Events

Breakfast: 7-8:15am

Sunday Service: 8:15-9:00am

Annual Meeting: 9am

BTA Board of Trustees: 10:15am

Thank you to 2024 TrailFest Sponsors and Partners!

We are grateful for your partnership and help. We look forward to seeing you at Buckeye TrailFest 2024 in Columbus. We encourage our readers to check out these amazing organizations who deserve all of our attention as they, too, work to better our communities, parks, and trails. For any questions, please contact trailfest@buckeyetrail.org for more information.

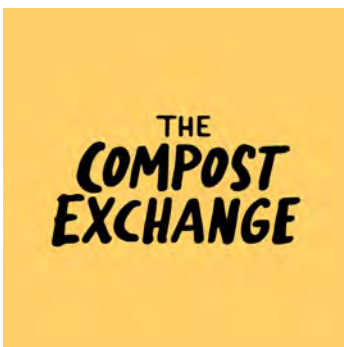
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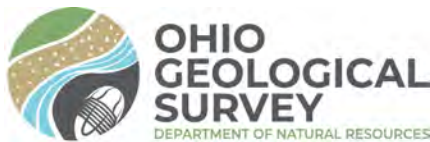


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Outdoor Pursuits



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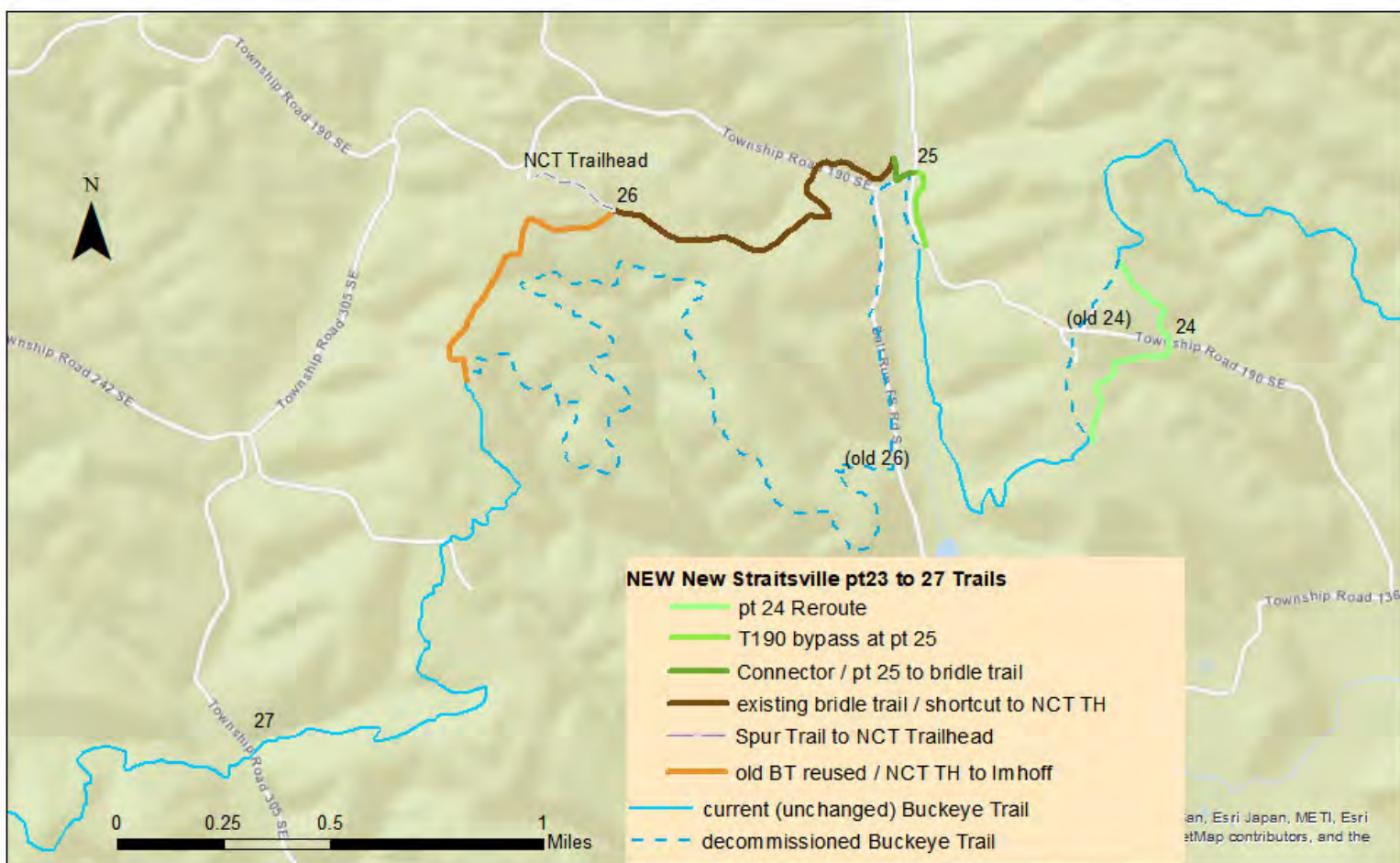
Mark Anstaett

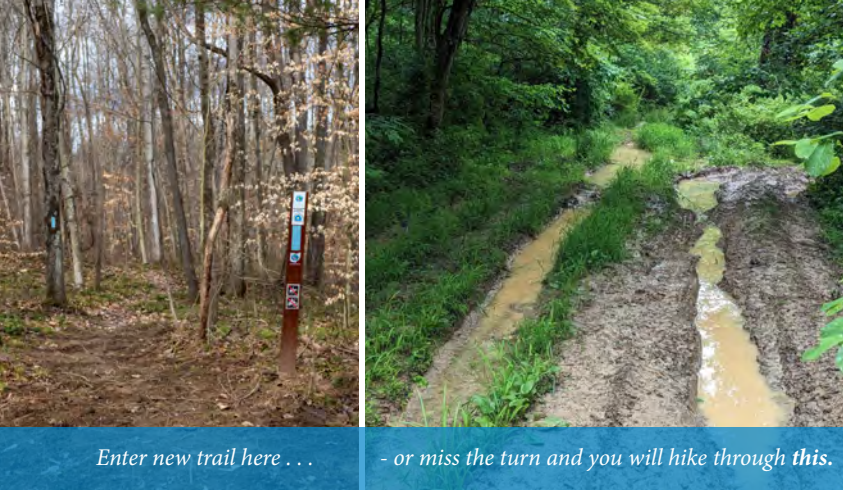
What is 'New' New Straitsville? Well there have been some trail changes recently completed in this section of the Buckeye Trail (BT), and more are planned for the coming months (AMLER grant and the '100 mile backpacking destination'). I am Mark Anstaett, Trail Adopter for the New Straitsville section since 2016. This writeup describes the map updates that lie between points 23 and 27. The changes are three main areas: pt 24 reroute which moves the trail from a very muddy service road to the woods, pt 25 where new off-road segments bypass the T190 road, and the shared bridle trail/shortcut to new pt 26 and reconnecting to the North Country National Scenic Trail trailhead/parking lot.

By far, the most work done for these trail changes was the pt 24 reroute. This is an over 0.5 mile of entirely new off-road trail. It has been in planning since 2006 when Andrew Bashaw (as North Country Trail Association Regional Trail Coordinator for Ohio & PA) designated places to move the BT off-road. This being in the Wayne National Forest (WNF), it required approval of the USFS, and for various reasons, work on it did not occur for several years. In 2016, the BTA's place in the decision process for the WNF was improved. The initial trail layout between any points A and B

involves placing it in attractive locations while keeping it walkable and trying to avoid future maintenance problems. By 2019, the reroute had been laid out and flagged by orange ribbons on trees. But given the vacant New Straitsville Section Supervisor position at the time and competition with other trail projects for the formal work parties, no further work was done on it until Richard Lutz told me about it.

With the desire to avoid the bad mud stretches of existing BT, I decided that I would work on it piecemeal during my Trail Adopter sweeps. In March 2021, Richard and I redid the flagging (Richard aiming the clinometer at me standing at proposed trail next-points, to keep the grade below 10%, then me attaching a new flag for the next trail landmark). My manual work involved many weekend hours, removing trail-tread obstructions and benching where needed, and the bulk of this was completed by August 2023. I used a Rogue 'The Beast' Pulaski tool which is heavier but has a wider hoe-head than standard Pulaskis. A pick-axe was used in a few places where I had to dig through hard shale layers. Before this reroute became official BT trail, parts of it were used in the October BT trail races.





Enter new trail here . . .

- or miss the turn and you will hike through this.

In summer 2023, New Straitsville Section Supervisor, Ann Furste, and Richard Lutz reviewed the new trail and we made a few modifications. Next was to notify the USFS (Wayne National Forest - Athens unit) that we had the trail ready for their review. They wanted a few improvements and supplied a trail crew to assist on those. For the steep crossing at T190 road, the BTA contracted to have sandstone steps added. This is a nice touch for hikers and also will act as a deterrent to horses and ATV travel on this hiker-only trail. By this time, we also had done work on the two other pieces of this pt 23:27 trail update (more on this in a bit). Then we had to plan the timetable to open this as new and close the existing trail that it replaces. I blazed internal trees but left 50 feet unblazed and unfinished at the junctions with existing trail, so that it was hidden from users.

Here there was a pause, awaiting USFS approval and installation of the stone steps. Fortunately, it overlapped hunting season when we did not want to be working on the trail. I ran the distance-measuring wheel over the pt 23 to 27 stretch so that we had the distances between trail points, then edited Map Notes details so that we had those ready to post online on the day of the trail opening. Then, in a single workday, we got a volunteer crew and finished and blazed the 50 feet to the reroute endpoints, added carsonite posts with "No Horses / No ATVs" stickers, dug post holes for three 4x4 posts with directional trail signs on them, and unblazed the old trail with Yuma Green paint. The Map Notes were submitted and the new trail opened on December 27, 2023. A few days later, Ann and I attached the trail signs and painted white blazes on the spur trail from pt 26 to the NCT trailhead, to complete the work.

Although there is still a lot of muddy service road between pts 23 and 24, overall these reroutes should make for a much nicer hiking experience. As you hike in clockwise BT direction toward pt 25, the trail remains the same from the end of the pt 24 reroute, descending on switchbacks to the Salt Run drainage. After hiking by Salt Run, you hit T190 again, but now instead of walking T190 north to the Salt Run bridge, there is a short woods stretch that parallels T190. This was constructed by a work party in 2018 but has just been opened in December 2023. It comes back down to T190 at the same pt 25 as in previous maps, then you walk a 170-foot stretch along T190 before turning into the woods onto a short connector to existing Stone Church Trail System bridle trail. This bridle trail takes a fairly direct route to new pt 26, which is a junction between the BT/bridle trail and a spur trail that leads to the North Country National Scenic Trail Trailhead/parking lot. We have rerouted back to the same trail here that was part of the BT when I started volunteering in 2016.

Some positive aspects of the new trail between pts 25 and 27 are that we have removed a heavily horse-travelled path that begins on the west side of Salt Run and 'meanders aimlessly through strip mined lands' as described in the NS printed map for pt 26. Also the trail is once again only 0.16 mile from the NCT parking lot which should improve access to it. From pt 26 it proceeds to the Imhoff Preserve trail, which is unchanged and gets you to pt 27 and then on to Howdysheell Road (T241).

Many thanks to all who assisted in these reroutes - the WNF-Athens USFS staff who helped a lot on a work day to improve the trail tread in places, then BT volunteers: Ann Furste (NS Section Supervisor), Dan Campbell, Jon Flinn, Phil Freeland, Kurt Hoellrich, and Steve Anderson, and former Director of Trail Development, Richard Lutz. You can find detailed descriptions of New New Straitsville trail changes on buckeyetrail.org (click Interesting Links, Trail Alerts/Map Updates, New Straitsville section Map Updates), and the updated trail lines are current in the Avenza and FarOut maps now.



Stone steps installed on the trail



Benching required



Final trail sign! Pictured: Mark Anstaett

A “Hello” from the West Coast!

New Book Showcases 75 Hikes across the Rocky Mountains

Kathy Doran

Hello BTA! I wanted to reach out to you today to let you know about a new trail guide my husband just published. As hiking enthusiasts, I thought you might enjoy this! The *Ultimate Hiking Guide to the Rocky Mountains* trail guide offers hikers a diversity of hikes that explore the national parks, forests and wilderness areas of the American Rockies.

From Montana to New Mexico, the American Rockies stretch for more than a thousand miles. Within this spectacular mountain range are thousands of miles of trails. With such an overwhelming number of options, how do hikers find and choose the most scenic and rewarding hikes? Veteran hiker, Jeff Doran, takes all the guesswork out by focusing on the most amazing hikes across this range in his new book, *Ultimate Hiking Guide to the Rocky Mountains*. The trail guide provides hikers with a handpicked list of hikes that will allow them to make the most of their trips to the Rockies.

Included in this guide are detailed descriptions for 75 day hikes that lead to tranquil backcountry lakes, roaring waterfalls, deep canyons, alpine meadows and placid glaciers. Many ascend to high mountain passes and summits. All of them lead to extraordinary places that offer breathtaking scenery. Doran added, “Ultimate Hiking Guide to the Rocky Mountains aims to provide hikers with an opportunity to discover the broader expanse of the Rockies, and all they have to offer.” The hikes in this book range from easy strolls to all-day adventures. Many include notes on shorter options, side trips to other nearby destinations, as well as locations of backcountry campsites for those wishing to create a backpacking trip.

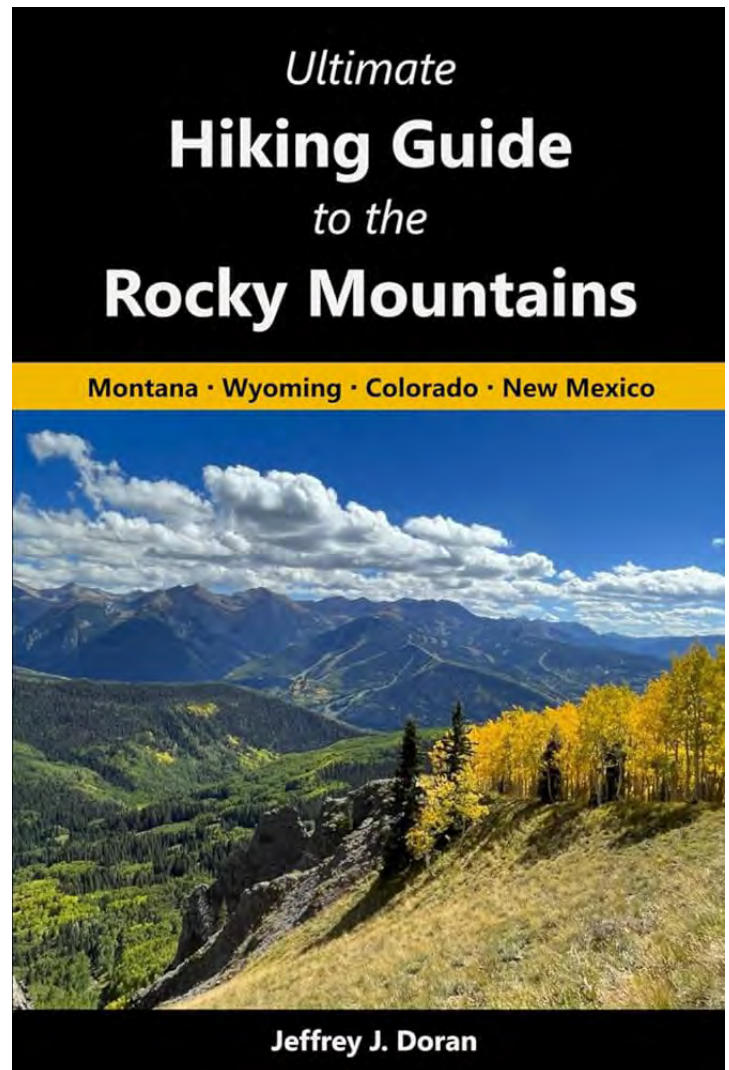
The book is now available on Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0D3HSTZ8M>

Contact:

Jeff Doran

info@rockymountainhikingtrails.com



About the Author:

Jeff Doran grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, and now resides in East Tennessee. A graduate of Xavier University, Jeff worked in marketing before starting his own online trail guide business. After several decades of hiking in America's national parks, Doran founded HikinginGlacier.com, RockyMountainHikingTrails.com and TetonHikingTrails.com, each of which provide

detailed trail information for those respective parks. In 2023, Doran published *Ramble On: How Hiking Became One of the Most Popular Outdoor Activities in the World*, the first book to cover the broad history of hiking. In addition to being a longtime hiker and history buff, Jeff is also an avid cyclist.

Lost & Found: Finding My Way Back Home

Tammy Craig

When I first started hiking the trail back in August 2023 it really was out of desperation! I have always considered myself a pretty positive and uplifting person, but my daughter's injury had put me in a downward spiral, and suddenly I found myself in the dark abyss. My 16-year-old, soccer-lovin' daughter had just broken her leg in a scrimmage right before her junior year of high school was to start. It was devastating and traumatic for the whole family, and I wondered how we would ever recover. My heart was broken. I sought out hiking as a way to recenter, refocus, and recover as I know movement in body is movement in life. I had to find a way to pull up my boots straps **FOR HER!** When I first discovered the Buckeye Trail I had initially headed down a familiar path that I hiked many times before, but on this day my curiosity asked me to seek a new way. I soon realized that the trail that branched off to the left of my familiar path was not coming back around... at least not in this park. ;)

I found the trail to be so beautiful traversing along ridge lines of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park... so quiet, so peaceful, just me and the trees... never saw a single soul on my four plus miles of exploration! As soon as I got off the trail, I had to know: **what is the Buckeye Trail?** My research had me hooked and fascinated that I could venture around *my* entire state on a trail that was considered the longest circumnavigating trail in the country. WHOA!

And just like that I saw a glimmer of light aside from the doom and gloom I had been feeling since my daughter's injury. I had an escape from the whines and whimpers at home! I had **HOPE!** My curiosity soon turned into fun and excitement every time I stepped out on a new section of the trail. It was like I was always going on vacation with something new to see and experience, and for the time being right in my own back yard and somewhat literally. When I hiked the Mogadore Section of the trail I was floored to realize that as I approached pt 24 on the map I would be passing the house that my grandma lived in for the 21 years I knew her, and where my mom grew up! A lot has changed there since her passing



Day of my daughter's injury.



Me with my daughter's before their first high school soccer game of the season.

more than 20 years ago, but so many memories came flooding back. I used to push mow that yard as a kid, ride my tricycle down that walkway, play kickball in the open pasture, and pluck blackberries from the bushes to put on our vanilla ice cream for after dinner. As I walked along Swartz Rd I remembered the various neighbors who lived along the way: the Petits, the Hershbergers, and the bull getting out at that neighbor's farm as my older siblings walked home from the bus stop. My mom and us seven kids used to make that same walk along Swartz often as we lived just a short half mile or so down the road in a brick ranch that sits way back off the road by itself. I once lived right on the Buckeye Trail and never even knew. **SUPER COOL** discovery! There were lots of tears that day, and I have found this trail to be so healing not only from daughter's injury but even from my childhood! I often joke "Did I find this trail or did this trail find me?" The day I first started hiking the trail I never saw single soul, but all along this trail has been helping me see mine.



My grandma's house by pt 24 of Mogadore Section of the Buckeye Trail.



My childhood house on Swartz Rd. - right on the Buckeye Trail.

2024 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

JULY

July 13, 2024

Forest Frolic Trail Race and Hike

The Lake Plains Chapter is looking for volunteers to run the water table during the event. Join us in supporting our amazing partners, Friends of Findley, and help raise funds for the Findley State Park and support the Buckeye Trail! Funds raised will go towards park improvements, educational programs, and conservation and preservation within the park. Whether you want to race, hike, or volunteer, there's a way for everyone to get involved.

Location: Findley State Park 25381 OH-58, Wellington, OH 44090

Registration:

runsignup.com/Race/OH/Wellington/ForestFrolicTrailRaceHike

Contact: Valerie at lakeplains@buckeyetrail.org for more details.

July 12, 13, 14, 2024

Circuit Hikes — Burton and Akron Sections

Friday: This is a make-up hike. Meet at 8:30 am: at Chardon Square parking lots near Point 16. (41.582847, -81.202934). We will carpool to point 10, Skok Meadows overflow parking lot 41.655331, -81.192955 Hike distance is about 12 miles.

Location: Chardon Square lot, 111 East Park Street, Chardon, OH

Saturday: 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM EDT. Meet at the Boston Store in Peninsula OH. We will meet and be ready to leave at 8:30 from the Boston Mills Visitor center lot at 41.2627860, -81.5586188 near Boston Mills Road. We will carpool to one of the lots near Deer Lick Cave, the 3 way Buckeye Trail junction at 41.3051066, -81.6091621 Parking is limited, and we may have to choose an alternative nearby. Trail is rugged with a mixture of surfaces with some steep grades. Akron point 5 to point 11, The hike is about 11.2 miles.

Location: Boston Store, 1550 Boston Mills Rd · Peninsula, OH

Sunday: 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM EDT. Meet and be prepared to leave by 8:30 am from the lot in O'Neil Woods Metro Park at 41.1705553, -81.5908181. We will carpool to the Boston Mills Visitor Center lot at 41.2627860 -81.5586188. The trail will be a mixture of surfaces. Peninsula offers restaurant opportunities. This hike is from Akron Point 5 to Point 11, 11.5 miles.

Location: O'Neil Woods Metro Park, 2550 Martin Rd, Akron, OH

Contact: Valerie at lakeplains@buckeyetrail.org for more details.

July 13-17, 2024

Wilderness Chapter - Road Fork & Whipple Sections

Come get dirty and join the Buckeye Trail Crew and the Wilderness Chapter in reestablishing a forgotten portion of the Buckeye Trail that used to lead to the Knowlton Covered Bridge. The Crew will also be moving a severely degraded portion of trail slightly upslope to stabilize the trail tread. And don't forget about the trusty DR Mower. There'll be plenty of brush maintenance available so be sure to bring your weed eaters. This will also be a great opportunity for our corp of volunteer USFS certified sawyers to get their bars dirty by clearing downfalls. The Trail Crew departs from the campsite at 8:00am to head out on trail, see you all there!

Meals: This is a BTA Chuckwagon event. Breakfast and Dinner will

be provided, along with plenty of choices to pack yourself a trail lunch.

Camping: Little Muskingum Watershed Assoc., OH 26, New Matamoras, Ohio

Registration: link to registration can be found on our events page.

Contact: whipple@buckeyetrail.org

July 15, 2024 at 6:30PM

Appalachian Trail Hike Planning Workshop + Other Long Trails

Is there a long distance hike on the Appalachian Trail, Buckeye Trail or other long trail in your future but you're not sure where to start? This program will give you the knowledge and confidence to plan a long distance hike. You'll learn trip planning skills about gear, clothing, food planning, resupply methods, shuttles, long-term parking, trail safety, hostels, smartphone apps, guidebooks, maps, trail magic and more. Learn some basic resources and tips to start planning your hike, whether it is a week-long or months-long hike. Duration" 90 minutes.

Presenter: The presenter is Andy "Captain Blue" Niekamp who has over 20,000 miles of backpacking experience including five end-to-end hikes on the Appalachian Trail, a continuous footpath from Georgia to Maine that travels throughout 14 different states. He has also hiked the Buckeye Trail, Florida Trail, Arizona Trail, Colorado Trail, John Muir Trail, Sheltowee Trace, Long Trail, Ozark Highlands Trail, Superior Hiking Trail, Ohio To Erie Trail, and other trails.

Location: Bexley Public Library, 2411 E. Main St. Bexley, OH

Contact: For additional information contact Andy Niekamp at andyniekamp@gmail.com or call the library at 614-231-2793

July 24 — August 4, 2024

Buckeye Trail Booth at the Ohio State Fair

Join us at the Natural Resources Park during the Ohio State Fair to explore the Buckeye Trail Booth alongside our friends from ODNR. Kids can fish for free, try kayaking, and test their skills in archery. Wander through the butterfly house and experience the beauty of Ohio's eight-acre park, carefully managed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Discover native wildlife, stroll along a geological walkway, and immerse yourself in a camping village and tall grass prairie. Enjoy daily performances and events at the outdoor amphitheater, including the thrilling lumberjack show.

Time: The Natural Resources Park is open from 10am to 7pm. The State Fair admission gates are open 10am to 9pm Monday through Friday, and 9am to 9pm Saturday and Sunday.

Volunteering: We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to staff the Buckeye Trail booth at the Ohio State Fair. You can choose from three daily shifts: 10am-1pm, 1pm-4pm, and 4pm-7pm. Whether you're a first-time volunteer or a seasoned trail crew veteran, your help is crucial in educating fairgoers about our mission and promoting the Buckeye Trail. Sign up to volunteer here.

Location: Ohio Expo Center & State Fair; 717 East 17th Avenue;

Hikes & Events (continued)

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

Columbus, Ohio 43211

Contact: CentralOhio@BuckeyeTrail.org

July 27-28, 2024

Ohio River Chapter - Williamsburg Section

Bring your favorite digging implement; working between points 9 and 11 north of Twin Bridges Rd. Our primary focus is correcting drainage issues along the trail. Even if it is dry, you will get muddy. Secondary tasks include correcting blazing and clearing the East Fork State Park trail corridor.

What to Bring: Wear closed-toe shoes and work gloves, and bring a shovel and/or line trimmer. Power tools must be operated with safety equipment (face shields, hearing protection, etc.). Pack a lunch and water. Dress for the weather.

Meals: Bring your own food and water for the event.

Camping: TBD

Contact: williamsburg@buckeyetrail.org

July 27-31, 2024

Crooked River Chapter - Burton Section

We plan to finish minor pruning work along the farm fields on the east side of Rapids Rd to SR 422. Then we progress to the West side of Rapids Rd to cut, prune and grub the trail so that the trail can be open to hikers this fall to SR 422.

What to Bring: bring your own tools if you are inclined to do so.

Wear sturdy footwear and bring heavy work gloves if you plan to do any grubbing (Pulling Flora Rosa) on the trail. Don't forget bug spray.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner will be supplied by the BTA Chuck wagon. Please bring your own lunch, snacks and water as needed. Extra water will be available.

Meet at: Eldon Russell Park - 16315 Rapids Rd., Burton, Ohio 44021 @ 8:00 am each day

Camping: Punderson State Park - 11755 Kinsman Rd. 44065 in Newbury Twp.

Registration: link to registration can be found on our events page.

Contact: burton@buckeyetrail.org

AUGUST

August 2, 2024

Paddlefest Outdoors for All Expo

The Ohio River Chapter of the Buckeye Trail Association will host a table at the 2024 Ohio River Paddlefest Friday Evening Expo, on the eve of Paddlefest, one of the nation's largest paddling events! Come enjoy this free event, and stop by our table to find out more about the trail and local Buckeye Trail events and volunteer opportunities! See more information about the Expo, and find out more about Paddlefest, at their website, ohioriverpaddlefest.org.

Location: Schmidt Boat Ramp and Ballfields, 250 St Peters St, Cincinnati, OH

Time: 4:00PM to 9:00PM

Contact: Are you available to help staff our table for an hour or two? Let us know by emailing loveland@buckeyetrail.org

August 3-4, 2024

BTA Trustee Board and Staff Retreat

www.buckeyetrail.org

Saturday and Sunday at the BTA Barn

Contact: Steve Walker at president@buckeyetrail.org

August 9, 10, 11, 2024

Circuit Hikes Burton and Akron Sections

Friday: This is a make-up hike. Meet at 8:30 at Burton Square 41.471823 -81.145811 to carpool to a public lot on RT 44 near Chardon Square 41.580441, -81.203203. Hike distance is about 13.6 miles. Hiking distance is determined by parking opportunities which are frequently scarce. Safety and security of vehicles is always considered. This is a repeat hike from last year. Burton 3/2018 map.

Location: Burton Square, West Park Street, Burton, OH

Saturday: 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM EDT. Meet and be prepared to leave by 8:30 am from the Lock 1 lot in Akron at 41.0762569, -81.5239996. We will carpool to O'Neil Woods Metro Park at 41.1705553, -81.5908181. The hike will be on a mixture of surfaces with off road and paved bike trails and a walk through downtown Akron. There are lots of points of interest along the way. The hike is from Akron Point 11 to past Point 18, a hike of 10.6 miles.

Location: Lock 1 parking lot, Akron, OH

Sunday: 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM EDT. Meet and be prepared to leave by 8:30 am at the Vanderhoof trail head lot 2445 Vanderhoof Rd, New Franklin, OH 44203. 40.9783574, -81.6055461 We will carpool back to the Lock 1 lot at 41.0762569 -81.5239996. The surface is primarily bike trail. The hike is from the Akron section near Point 18 to near Point 25, a hike of 11.4 miles.

Location: Vanderhoof Road Trailhead, New Franklin, OH

Contact: Valerie at lakeplains@buckeyetrail.org for more details.

August 10-14, 2024

Little Cities of the Forest Chapter - New Straitsville Section

If you like to build trails or want to learn how there will be lots of great mentors to learn from as you help build a 0.8 mile trail by Tom Jenkins Dam. Tools provided. This is a joint project with the Wayne National Forest as part of the Amler grant project and a Forest Service grant. Additional trail building opportunities will be on a newly acquired easement from Buckingham Coal to move the BT off of Antle Orchard Road. The Trail Crew leaves camp at 8:00am to head out on the trail.

What to Bring: Long sleeved shirts, pants, tools if you have them, gloves

Meals: This is a BTA chuckwagon event.

Camping: Burr Oak Cove Campground.

Registration: link to registration can be found on our events page.

Contact: newstraitsville@buckeyetrail.org

August 17-21, 2024

Crooked River Chapter - Akron Section

Blue Blaze Project

The project starts with an on-the-trail scout and planning event for five to ten volunteers. We will focus on two areas of the CVNP, about eight miles of trail, "The Flat Land segment" and the "Boston Mills segment". We must build three bridges and a raised

Interested in Chapter-specific events/hikes?

Go to [buckeyetrail.org/chapters](https://www.buckeyetrail.org/chapters) to find your local chapter. You may find Chapter-led events and hikes posted on Chapter social media (Facebook, Meetup, or Instagram) or shared via Chapter newsletters.

boardwalk in a bottle-neck area. This will provide better drainage for the environment and a fantastic overlook. In the Boston Mills segment, there is a three-year NEPA backlog in the CVNP, so we will harden the trail in the very muddy areas, complete a tread update, and rehab a 16ft bridge.

What to Bring: Wear sturdy boots and work gloves—your favorite trail tools. Do not bring Gas Powered equipment. Dress for the weather. The project is rain or shine. Training and equipment will be provided.

Meals: We will provide two dinners: one BBQ and one Pizza. The days are TBD. The rest of your meals are on your own. Lunch will be on the trail, so please be prepared to pack a lunch. We will provide water, Gatorade, and snacks for the event.

Camping: We will be staying at BSA Camp Manatoc - Eagle

Lodge: amenities include Showers, bunks, a full kitchen, air conditioning, ample parking, a fire pit, and outdoor grills. Co-ed if need be. You may tent camp if desired. No Pets allowed. When you register, please indicate whether you will be camping.

Registration: link to registration can be found on our events page.

Contact: akron@buckeyetrail.org

August 18, 2024

Williamsburg Hike

Description: Join the Ohio River Chapter on a hike from Williamsburg Pt19 Visitor Center to Williamsburg Pt16.5 Lake Trail Trailhead. We will meet at the East Fork Visitor center Point 19 at 9am and then shuttle with as few cars as possible to the Lake Trail Trailhead between Points 17 and 16, so I called it pt16.5. This is a short hike of 6.5 miles or perhaps a bit more. We plan a relaxed pace with about 50-50 on road, off road trail mix.

Find out more information, comment, or sign up at:

<https://www.meetup.com/buckeye-trail-ohio-river-chapter/events/301973436/>

Location: Meet at East Fork/Harsha Visitor Center, 2185 Slade Rd, Batavia, OH

Time: 9:00AM

August 24, 2024

Tour de CROWN — Buckeye Trail table at Fifty West

Description: The Ohio River Chapter will host a table at Fifty West for The Tour de Crown event! This event supports our friends at Tri-State Trails, who are working to connect the vast network of trails in the tri-state. Actual time of the event is listed as 8am-2pm and be prepared to arrive early and find parking since it is semi limited and the event is very popular.

You can come bike one of their coordinated rides, or arrive later in the morning and enjoy exhibits, vendors, and the food and beverages at Fifty West.

Find out more information - including bike ride registration - here: <https://tristatetrails.org/event/tour-de-crown-2024/>

Location: Fifty West Brewing Company — Burger Bar, 7605 Wooster Pike · Cincinnati, OH

Time: 7:00AM to 2:00PM

Contact: Find out more information, comment, or sign up at:

<https://www.meetup.com/buckeye-trail-ohio-river-chapter/events/301947443/>

S E P T E M B E R

September 6, 7, 8, 2024

Circuit Hikes — Burton, Akron, and Massillon Sections

Friday: This is a make-up hike. Meet at 8:30 am: at Rein Hadsel park on Bancroft Street. 41.311232,-81.148344, about 0.4 mi from the trail. We will carpool to Burton Square 41.471823 -81.145811. Hike distance is about 12.5 miles. Dress appropriately, considerable roadwalk along busy roadways. Hiking distance is determined by parking opportunities which are frequently scarce. Safety and security of vehicles is always considered.

Location: Rein Hadsel Park on Bancroft Street in Hiram, OH, 41.311232,-81.148344

Saturday: 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM EDT. Meet and be prepared to carpool by 8:30 from the Crystal Springs Trailhead lot at 40.8461747, -81.5375799. We will carpool back to the Vanderhoof Trailhead lot at 2445 Vanderhoof Rd, New Franklin, OH. 40.9783574, -81.6055461. The hike is from Akron Point 25 to Point 31, a distance of 13 miles. We will finish the Akron map at the Massillon junction, where we finished earlier this year. **Location:** Towpath trail, Crystal Springs Trailhead lot at 40.8461747, -81.5375799.

Sunday: 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM EDT. Meet at the Canal Towpath lot at 6639 Dolphin St SW, Bolivar, OH 44612 and be prepared to leave by 8:30 am to carpool to Oak Knoll Park in Massillon 40.7891930, -81.5258855. We will pass through Navarre with restaurant opportunities. The surface is primarily paved bike trail or town sidewalks. This hike will mark the end of urban and easy walking as we head into the hills and woods southward on this side of the state. This hike is on the Massillon map, from near Point 15 to Point 20, a hike of 11.9 miles. We return to finish Troy in October-December.

Location: Canal Towpath lot at 6639 Dolphin St SW, Bolivar, OH

Contact: Valerie at lakeplains@buckeyetrail.org for more details.

September 12-15, 2024

TrailFest 2024

The Central Ohio Chapter is proud to announce that the 11th Annual Buckeye TrailFest will take place on September 12th-15th 2024 in Columbus, Ohio at Camp Mary Orton.

We would like to know what sort of topics that you, the hikers and volunteers who love the Buckeye Trail, are interested in. If you would like to take some time to complete an interest survey for TrailFest, you can find the link on the front page of BuckeyeTrail.org under the "TrailFest" segment.

September 15, 2024

BTA Trustee Board Meeting at TrailFest

Sunday at about 10:30 A.M. after BTA Annual Meeting

Contact: president@buckeyetrail.org

September 20 -22, 2024

Fall Mushroom Camp 2024, BTA Barn at Tappan Lake

The BTA's Fall Mushroom Camp will be held at the BTA Beall Farmstead on the shore of Tappan Lake near Deersville OH. Join us for a weekend of hiking, music, food, camping and of course, Mushrooms! Our Hike leaders may take small groups to areas away from the Beall Farmstead to other Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District Lakes and carpooling is recommended. Our goal is to introduce the Buckeye Trail to our guests as well as hunt mushrooms while we are hiking the trail.

Meals: Bring your own food and a dish to share at the Saturday night potluck at 6:15pm. Refrigerators and electricity for crock pots are available. BRING your own water for the weekend. Deersville General Store will have food available for order throughout the weekend and delivery may be available for larger orders.

Camping: Sites for camping are in the area outside the BTA Barn. There are approximately 50 tent sites and 10 RV/Camper sites available for the weekend. Pets are permitted but must be leashed at all times. Be sure to bring bug spray.

Mushroom Hiking: Meet at the Barn at 8:00am on Saturday to divide into groups.

Activities: Besides learning and looking for mushrooms, kayaking will be done on Friday and Saturday nights. Bring your own kayak with a night light.

Registration: On buckeyetrail.org. Registration is required for this event and will open soon. BTA members get a reduced rate. Children under the age of 18 are free and must be accompanied by a parent.

Contact: muskingumlakes@buckeyetrail.org

September 21-25, 2024

Crooked River Chapter - Burton Section

Finish any work that needs to be completed on the West side of Rapids Rd. to open the trail in the Fall. The work may include painting blazes on the West side of Rapids Rd. Putting up Carsonite markers, and small bridges on the East & West sides of the trail on Rapids Rd. If this work gets completed, we will advance to the South side of SR 422 and continue the trail work that parallels Tilden Rd.

What to Bring: PLEASE bring your own tools if you are inclined to do so. Some tools will be available. Wear sturdy footwear and bring heavy work gloves if you plan to do any grubbing (Pulling Flora Rosa) on the trail. Please DON'T Forget your BUG SPRAY!
Meals: Breakfast and Dinner will be supplied by the BTA Chuck wagon. Please bring your own lunch, snacks and water as needed. Extra water will be available.

Meeting Location: Eldon Russell Park - 16315 Rapids Rd., Burton, Ohio 44021 @ 8:00 am each day

Camping: Punderson State Park - 11755 Kinsman Rd. 44065 in Newbury Twp.

Registration: link to registration can be found on our events

page.

Contact: burton@buckeyetrail.org

OCTOBER

October 12, 2024

Blue Blaze Festival, Shawnee OH

Join us for the 2024 Buckeye Trail (BT) Blue Blaze Festival and explore the diversity and beauty of the outdoors in the Wayne National Forest. This year we will be joining forces with Destination Shawnee, the Ohio Environmental Council and outdoor recreational organizations to bring together runners, hikers and outdoor enthusiasts to the Village of Shawnee.

There will be five options for a distance and trail experience right for you: Half Marathon, 10K, 5K run/walk, 8 Mile Hike, and an overnight Backpacking trek. All events are on the Buckeye Trail in the Wayne National Forest.

Information: buckeyetrail.org/blueblazefest.php

Registration: runsignup.com/race/oh/shawnee/runforblueblazes

October 12, 2024

Circuit Hike - Troy Section

Description: Meet by 8:30 am at French Park on West Water Street in Piqua. 40.1470074, -84.2526028. We leave promptly to carpool back to a small lot along Ohio 41 in Troy at 40.0297491, -84.1852149. The hike is from past Troy Point 13 to past Point 17, covering about 11.3 miles

Meet Location: French Park on West Water Street in Piqua. 40.1470074, -84.2526028

Contact: Valerie at lakeplains@buckeyetrail.org for more details.

October 26, 2024

BTA Trustee Board Meeting

Saturday at 9:00 A.M. - Virtual

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

[More online at buckeyetrail.org/events.php](http://buckeyetrail.org/events.php)

Buckeye Trail Association

P.O. Box 5
Shawnee, Ohio 43782

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