Dayton Buckeye Trail Membership Drive

Andy Niekamp

The Buckeye Trail membership drive in Dayton on January 21, 2016 was an amazing success! We signed up 143 new members to the Buckeye Trail Association. It was a full house as almost every one attended the evening event at the Star City Brewing Company. Blue Blaze Ale and Grandma Gatewood cream ale were served along with pizza and snacks. Socializing, trail talk, five short presentations, and raffle prizes were also on the agenda. The Buckeye Trail store offered discounts on merchandise, maps and apparel. Lots of new friends were made and people were inspired to get out and hike on the Buckeye Trail.

The event was organized by Andy Niekamp, Brent Anslinger and Angie Sheldon. We received generous support from numerous community partners. A great big thank you goes out to everyone who helped make this event happen. Thank you to our community partners for offering discounts and donating items: Dayton Hikers, Outdoor Adventure Connection, Five Rivers MetroParks, Omega Survival Supply, Metro Dayton Hikers, Great Miami Outfitters, Miami Valley Outdoor Club, Ron's Pizza, Miami Rivers Chapter, C.W. Spencer and Andy Niekamp. Volunteers are needed to host membership drives in other cities. If you are interested contact Andrew Bashaw at director@buckeyetrail.org.
President's Message
Connie Pond

With the creation of the Blue Blaze Society, the BTA is taking a big step toward recognizing how important donors are to the continuation of our organization. Donors who give a yearly amount of $500 or more, donate a land easement, and/or bequeath a sum to the BTA upon death are recognized as being members of the society. Interestingly, the creation of the Blue Blaze Society came last year, the same year I received my "old lady" letter. This is the letter one receives upon attaining age 70+, when a person is now required to take distributions from his/her IRAs. Most of us put our earnings into IRA to save on taxes. But now, as we (just because we are old) take it out, the government wants their share of the money.

I must admit that my husband Bob had been receiving distributions for a few years, but I didn't take note on how to perhaps save on taxes if we donated directly to the BTA. Here's how it works:

If you direct that distribution be made directly to a charity, there may be no Income Tax payable on that amount. Importantly, the donation cannot come to you first; it must go the charity and the charity must cash the check before Dec 31. Also, and here is the real tricky part, Congress must pass a resolution each year to allow these donations to be tax free. In worst case, Congress doesn't give us the exemption and we have to pay the taxes.

Join me on Friday evening of the TrailFest in Zoar to raise a toast to those members who represent the very first inductees to the Blue Blaze Society. PS, you are welcome even if you are not "old!"

www.buckeyetrail.org
Over 100 hikers attended the Buckeye Trail Winter Hike & Potluck Dinner at Caesar Creek State Park in southwest Ohio on January 9, 2016. The event was sponsored by the Dayton Hikers group. Participants had six different hikes to choose from, ranging from three to twelve miles in length. All of the hikes used part of the Buckeye Trail and were led by experienced hike leaders. Hikers came from Dayton, Cincinnati, Columbus and all points in between. We had unseasonably warm weather but luckily the trails were not too muddy.

Afterwards, the hikers assembled at the Army Corps of Engineers visitor center for a potluck dinner, hot drinks and trail tales. People worked up a hearty appetite and there was plenty of food to go around. Photos were emailed in during the hikes. These photos were shown on a screen as a continuously looping slide show during the potluck dinner. Raffle items were donated by Outdoor Adventure Connection and Great Miami Outfitters. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend the largest winter hike on the Buckeye Trail in southwest Ohio on January 7, 2017. Photos from the winter hike can be viewed here: http://www.winterhike.com/2016/

Feedback from the hikers:

“What a terrific day! We exercised, ate well, and had a great time. Loved the creative table decor and the photos from our hikes on screen.” – Karen P.

“An all-around fun day of hiking, sharing, meeting great people and enjoying the Buckeye Trail. Let's do it again next year!” - Laura L.

“Thanks to all who hosted, organized, stirred chili, cleaned and otherwise worked so hard to make this a seamless and fun event. Great food and wonderful company.” - Todd C.

“Fun day hiking, meeting new/old friends with great food and conversation!” – Helen M.

“Awesome. Great day. Great weather. Fun group. Great discussions. Potluck was so fun. Thanks to all that made potluck happen. Much appreciated.” - Glenn S.
There is a lot for you as a Buckeye Trail Association member to be excited about this year. Thanks to end of the year support of members like you, our Live, Breath & Hike Ohio’s Buckeye Trail campaign got off to a successful start! Starting off the year on the right foot, Dayton area volunteers inspired 143 new BTA members to ‘Live’ the Buckeye Trail through membership during our first membership drive event. Welcome to the Buckeye Trail Family and thank you to the BTA volunteers who put in the great work to make this event happen. The Live, Breathe & Hike campaign continues with several more member drive events being planned in Athens and Columbus this spring to help grow the BTA and support our good work. We are also happy to welcome Sally Sugar as our new part-time employee devoted to serving our membership.

Interested in helping the BTA grow?? Purchase a gift membership for someone you know who needs to Live, Breathe & Hike Ohio’s Buckeye Trail. Join us at one of our membership drive events and help spread the news.

Since the very beginning in that 1958 article by Merrill Gilfillan, imagining a trail extending from the Ohio River to Lake Erie, there was a vision to "encompass much of the State’s Finest Scenery, such a ‘Buckeye Trail’ would penetrate some of the most rewarding and historic land in this section of America…” Thanks to your support and the tireless work of BTA volunteers and partners who ‘Breathe’ the Buckeye Trail, our trail experience continues to grow richer. This year we are glad to introduce to our experience over 4 miles of new trail through Hocking County’s Boch Hollow State Nature Preserve, over 10 miles through The Nature Conservancy’s Edge of Appalachia Nature Preserve, the history and scenery of Camp Crowell-Hilaka near Richfield, Glen Helen Nature Preserve, and progress with our partners at the Firelands Rails to Trails Inc. on a portion of the North Coast Inland Trail. It takes a lot of time and effort to build these great partnerships, let alone to develop the BT where trail does not already exist. We are proud to highlight our new partners and new trail experiences to Ohio’s hiking community, but especially to you because your support of the BTA makes this incredible work possible.

Interested in lending a hand?? There is still work to be done to develop, improve, and promote the use of the BT at these new sites. Please join the Buckeye Trail Crew and partner volunteer events to be a part of it all. If you can only share one day of your year with us, consider the BT Blitz on National Trails Day—find an event near you to chip in and give back to the Trail we love.

What would it all be for if we didn’t hike the trail that we are developing? If you like to hike on your own, grab a BT Section Map and hit the trail. But if you enjoy the camaraderie of others, new experiences and new places, come on out to these BTA events – Buckeye TrailFest May 12-15 in the historic Village of Zoar, the Emma Grandma Gatewood Solstice Hike on June 17-19 at Burr Oak State Park, the Run for Blue Blazes Trail Run - Marathon, Half Marathon, 10k and 5k on October 1 through the Village of Shawnee. Opportunities abound all year round all over the state with our Miami Rivers, Muskingum Lakes, and Little Cities of the Forest Chapter events as well as Jim Gilkey’s coordinated BT Circuit Hike!
Backpackability Update Along the BT

Richard Lutz

Thanks to Buckeye Trail Crew work at the end of August, a new shelter now stands along the Miami and Erie Canal towpath south of Delphos. It is a long term goal of the Buckeye Trail Association to have permanent campsite locations throughout the state. This new shelter helps us to achieve the long term goal. Additionally, with the past few days of this article being written, a new campsite is being developed by an Eagle Scout in Paulding County.

There are new opportunities for campsite development with some of our partners along the trail, including the Nature Conservancy, who has expressed interest in a specific location as we continue to develop new trail at the Edge of Appalachia Preserve System this year. Hopefully more details will follow with the next issue of the Trailblazer. Other partners have expressed interest; however the process is slow. Hopefully more locations will be approved in the near future.

Additionally, a few campsites sites have been added to the unpublished list that is maintained by Herb and Susie Hulls. Hikers who are planning to hike the trail and need information from this list can contact Herb and Susie for more information and their help and assistance.

Recently the Miami Rivers Chapter has taken more interest in helping out with campsites in their region. The group is beginning to focus on filling the gaps from the Loveland area along the Little Miami Trail between Fairborn and Yellow Springs, and to the north of Dayton, and recently had a meeting with section supervisors for these areas to engage and seek help from them as well. This is a very good example how volunteers can help in this process. Every effort helps here and in other areas around the state; if you would like to volunteer to help with the campground/shelter effort, contact us at the email address below.

Even with all the potential locations that are taking place along the trail, we still have areas where major gaps exist between campsites. Two such examples are in southwest Ohio in Brown and Adams County and on the Wilderness Loop in southeast Ohio. If you know of anyone that can help us in those locations or know of landowners who may be interested in helping in the project, please feel free to contact the Trail Preservation Committee at preservation@buckeyetrail.org.

Newly completed shelter at Lock 18 south of Delphos, now allowing hikers an additional place to camp along the trail.

2016 TrailFest Photo Contest

The 2014 Trail Fest photo contest was such a success that we would like to do it again. Please stay tuned for further details and save or take those BT pictures, especially those with the Blue Blazes.

2016 TrailFest Photo Contest

Students who are BTA members or whose parents or grandparents are BTA members are eligible to apply for a BTA scholarship for college. Two $500.00 scholarships are available each year. Details can be found on the Buckeye Trail website under the scholarship section at www.buckeyetrail.org/scholarship.php. The application must be received by April 1. The scholarships are awarded in May during Buckeye TrailFest.

Buckeye Trail Scholarships

Ruth Brown

Students who are BTA members or whose parents or grandparents are BTA members are eligible to apply for a BTA scholarship for college. Two $500.00 scholarships are available each year. Details can be found on the Buckeye Trail website under the scholarship section at www.buckeyetrail.org/scholarship.php. The application must be received by April 1. The scholarships are awarded in May during Buckeye TrailFest.
March 5
BTA Board Meeting
Location: TBD Columbus OH at 10:00AM.
Contact: President at president@buckeyetrail.org.

March 12-13
BT Circuit Hike Belle Valley Section
Saturday: Meet at parking lot at Old National Rd and Fairgrounds Rd, Point 10. Leave at 9:00AM to car pool to parking lot by bridge on R-55 in the Salt Fork Wildlife Area between Points 4 and 5. The hike is about 11.1 miles.
Sunday: Meet at the parking lot by the entrance to Marina Point Campgrounds, Point 15. Leave at 9:00AM to car pool to Point 10. The hike is about 10.8 miles.
Camping: Marina Point Campground
Contact: Jim Gilkey at 614-879-9912 ahead of time or on hike weekend at 740-277-8749.

March 13
Spring Forward Hike, St Marys Section
Registration and Start Time: 1-3 PM at the Noble Township Hall.
Description: This hike is the third event of the 2016 Cabin Fever Hike Series on the Miami and Erie Canal Towpath Trail. You can qualify for “Road to Fitness” points! For more information about “The Road to Fitness”, visit: https://www.grandlakehealth.org/about-us/outreach-programs/road-to-fitness.html.
Sponsors: The event is sponsored by: Heritage Park District.

April 1-3
Scioto Trail Section
Description: Work south of the US 35 tunnel to restore the trail after clear cutting logging operations.
Camping: TBD.
Meals: Bring your own food and water.
Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org.

April 10
April Showers Hike, St Marys Section
Registration and Start Time: 1-3 PM at the Noble Township Hall.
Description: This hike is the fourth event of the 2016 Cabin Fever Hike Series on the Miami and Erie Canal Towpath Trail. You can qualify for "Road to Fitness" points! For more information about "The Road to Fitness", visit: https://www.grandlakehealth.org/about-us/outreach-programs/road-to-fitness.html.
Sponsors: The event is sponsored by: Heritage Park District.

April 16-17
Caesar Creek Section
Description: Work to install water bars and landing steps. There are some badly eroded sections of the trail between the Visitor Center and SR-73 that could use some rehabilitation, to be determined by consulting with Caesar Creek State Park personnel.
Camping: TBD.
Meals: Bring your own food and water.
Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org.

April 16-20
Medina Section
Description: Trail building at the former Girl Scout camp, Crowell Hilaka.
Camping: On the property.
Meals: Bring your own food and water.
Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org.

BTA Barn Directions
Take I-77 south to US-250 east (just south of New Philadelphia). Follow US-250 past Tappan Dam almost to the end of the lake. There is a causeway with a sign that reads “Tappan Lake Park”. Turn right (this road also takes you to Deersville). Approximately 3.1 miles from the US-250 turnoff is Beall Rd. on the right. Follow this dead-end road 1.3 mi. It ends at the BTA Barn down a long gravel driveway.
Remember the house side of the driveway is absolutely and strictly off-limits.
It is a private residence so please respect their wishes and stay on our side of the driveway and please do not block any roads.

April 23-24
BT Circuit Hike Defiance Section
Saturday: Meet at entrance to paving company about 1.1 miles east of US-6 on US-24. Leave at 9:30AM to car pool to Point 10. The hike is about 11.9 miles.
Sunday: Meet at Providence Metropark parking lot, Point 16. Leave at 9:00AM to car pool to a paving company driveway about 1.1 miles east of US-6 on US-24. The hike is about 10.1 miles.
Camping: Mary Jane Thurston State Park Campground.
Contact: Jim Gilkey at 614-879-9912 ahead of time or on hike weekend at 740-277-8749.

April 30 - May 1
Old Man’s Cave Section Pretty Run Preserve
Description: Spring clean up of the trail and other work.
Camping: On the property.
Meals: Bring your own food and water.
Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org.

May 12-15
Buckeye TrailFest
Description: The BTA TrailFest will be held in the historic Village of Zoar, OH.

May 15
BTA Annual Business Meeting
Location: Zoar, OH during TrailFest, at 9:00AM.
Contact: President at president@buckeyetrail.org.

Chiefwagon Reservations
For meal reservations for the chuckwagon at work parties (where available), contact Chuck Wagon Master, Jay Holwick at: holwick@columbus.rr.com
740-743-3813
May 15
BTA Board Meeting
Location: Zoar, OH during TrailFest, at 10:00AM.
Contact: President at president@buckeyetrail.org.

May 21-25
West Union Section - Edge of Appalachia
*BTa Chuck Wagon Event*
Description: Continue building new trail from where we left off in 2015.
Camping: Near the maintenance building on Waggoner Riffle Rd.
Meals: This is a chuck wagon event. Meals will be provided free for the first 20 volunteers to sign up with Jay Holwick at holwick@columbus.rr.com by June 19, 2016.
Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org.

May 28-29
Shawnee Section - Ballinger Property
Description: Build benches or beds in the shelter. Remove downed trees and blaze trail in Shawnee State Forest Wilderness Area
Camping: TBD.
Meals: Bring your own food and water.
Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org.

JUNE

June 4-5
New Straitsville Section
Description: Wildcat Hollow trail maintenance.
Camping: Camping at the Group campground near boat dock 3.
Meals: Bring your own food and water.
Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org.

June 11
BTA Board Meeting
Location: ODNR, Morse Rd, Columbus OH at 10:00AM.
Contact: President at president@buckeyetrail.org.

June 25-28
Stockport Section - AEP
*BTa Chuck Wagon Event*
Description: AEP trail maintenance.
Camping: AEP site TBD.
Meals: This is a chuck wagon event. Meals will be provided free for the first 20 volunteers to sign up with Jay Holwick at holwick@columbus.rr.com by June 19, 2016.
Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org.

July 9-10
Troy Section- Eastwood MetroPark near Dayton
Description: Potential work includes clearing the view shed to the Mad River for approximately 1 mile along the bank. This will involve cutting honeysuckle and potentially treating the stumps, as well as possible tread improvements to the same area.
Camping: Eastwood MetroPark.
Meals: Bring your own food and water.
Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org.

July 16-17
Defiance Section - Providence/Farnsworth MetroParks
Description: Help cut back foliage along trail.
Camping: Farnsworth MetroPark.
Meals: Bring your own food and water.
Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org.

July 23-27
Road Fork and Whipple Sections
Description: Chainsaw and weed whack both off- road pieces.
Camping: Little Muskingum Watershed Association property.
Meals: Bring your own food and water.
Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org.

AUGUST

August 19-21
BTA Board Retreat Meeting
Location: At the BTA Barn near Deersville, OH.
Contact: President at president@buckeyetrail.org.

SEPTEMBER

September 17-21
Mogadore Section West Branch State Park
Description: Continue building trail around the lake.
Camping: At West Branch State Park at the back meadow of the horse camp area.
Meals: Bring your own food and water.
Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org.

October 1
BTA Marathon

October 15-19
Bowerston Section
Description: This is a work party to move 0.4 miles trail off of SR22 and onto the dirt near Piedmont Lake. Also work to build 0.6 miles of trail along Clendenning Lake to make a loop with existing trail.
Camping: At the BTA Barn on Tappan Lake.
Meals: TBD.
Contact: Trail Management Team stc@buckeyetrail.org.

OCTOBER

December 10
BTA Board Meeting
Location: ODNR, Morse Rd, Columbus OH at 10:00AM.
Contact: President at president@buckeyetrail.org.
Seeing and Feeling Ohio - The Buckeye Trail Way

Adrian Achtermann

Here I am, sitting by a blazing fire in the fireplace, looking out the big picture window at the great out-of-doors in our small patch of woodland. It is the deep of winter, the middle of January 2016, two to three inches of snow on the ground, the temperature hovering between five and twenty degrees. I am scanning through my Buckeye Trail maps looking at the Road Fork and Whipple Sections and the approximately thirty-one miles that I haven’t yet hiked to complete that loop.

We have completed the Buckeye Trail from the maps available from the 1990’s through 2010. We hesitated to turn in our completion during the spring of 2011 because we wanted to wait until we finished these two new routes added in about 2005. But, alas, time has caught up with us and we are not able to meet the challenge of the terrain, especially that found in the Road Fork Section.

Gordon Rice, Uniontown, and I (Adrian Achtermann), Silver Lake, Summit County, Ohio, met in an unusual way. It was as Senior Guest Students in a Backpacking Course taught by Dr. Candice Raines at Kent State University. This was in September 1987.

Gordon had retired from teaching/shop administration supervisor for the City of Akron Schools. He had accumulated close to 450 miles of solitary hiking on the Appalachian Trail starting at Springer Mountain in Georgia. He decided to take this course to see if there something to learn about backpacking that he hadn’t learned on his hiking.

I had retired in January 1987 from 32½ years of a wonderfully fulfilling career with the Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. I had taken a creative writing course as a Senior Guest Student at Kent State University during the summer session. I signed up for the backpacking course in the fall of 1987 because I had an interest in backpacking and I wanted to see what I had to learn to get started.

It was a strange feeling – the two of us mid-to-late 50-year-olds in a class with about fifteen college freshman. Eventually we migrated to sharing time together.

Nothing happened until December 1988. Gordon called and said that he and a several friends were going backpacking on the Appalachian Trail, starting at Damascus, Tennessee, and heading north between Christmas and New Year’ Day. He asked if I would be interested in going. I jumped at the opportunity that I had been waiting on for so long.

God brought us together, and that started a journey of over twenty-four years of hiking. Eventually, we hiked together for about 1,400 miles of the AT.

This is a long prelude to how we got started on the Buckeye Trail. We had a three day trip scheduled for the AT in early spring of 1994, but for some forgotten reason, we didn't get to go. I had been reading some information about the Buckeye Trail and found that it traversed an area around the Mogadore Reservoir area (Mogadore Section Map) within a mile of Gordon's home. I suggested that we could hike the Buckeye Trail. He was surprised to learn about the BT and that it was so close to his home – in fact, he had driven many times on road sections in his area. So, we spent a long pleasant day becoming acquainted with the BT.

So, for the next nineteen years, we mixed hiking the AT and the BT as well as several long hikes throughout the United States. We hiked the Buckeye Trail – one to three days at a time – in all kinds of weather. I have an interest in history, geography, and all parts of the environment. These days on the BT fascinated me with all the different aspects of natural, physical, historical features and transformation of land use and development of all parts of Ohio. I read the book, “The Ohio Frontier, 1720 – 1830”. This 400-page book really describes the life and development of Ohio during those years. It really brought to my imagination what Ohio was like as I hiked along some of the historic sites and the terrain all along the BT.

I have hundreds of pictures taken throughout the BT with zillions of memories and a greater fondness and love for our great state of Ohio.

We completed the original 1250 miles of the Buckeye Trail on a mild sunny mid-April 2011 afternoon, going from Mother's Mill, through Oregonia, past Ft. Ancient on the Loveland map, following the Little Miami River, south into my home town of Morrow. What a thrill!! As it turned out, we started the BT in Gordon's back yard and completed it as we entered my home town.
During that time, the Road Fork and the Whipple Sections had been added to the BT. We were not satisfied just with completing the original trail. We started hiking this loop from Belle Valley to Marietta and up to where it connects with the Trail in the Stockport Section. We completed thirty miles until age caught up with Gordon.

Re-routes on just about every section are taking advantage of more natural areas and adding new miles to the Trail. So, there is always more BT to hike – more of our beautiful Ohio to see and experience.

Since completing the original BT, I have completed an additional 43 miles on the Marietta loop, the re-routed approximately 24 miles on the Akron map, and 18 of the re-routed 26 miles on the Burton map.

Will I ever have all the re-routes hiked? Maybe – maybe not. But as long as there are new trails to hike and I have my health, capability and endurance, I will seek out the new areas to explore, learn and enjoy the peace and quiet that settles in all around me while I am communing with nature.

Gordon and I became brothers through these twenty-four years of hiking together. We get together once a month to keep in touch and enjoy some of the ventures that we shared – lots of beautiful vistas, several near death experiences, situations that took some thought to solve, some of our campfire conversations – ah, those campfires – as I close out this day along my old country road.
The Buckeye TrailFest offers a long weekend packed full of hikes, workshops, presentations, speakers and social opportunities.

May 12-15, 2016
Historic Zoar, Ohio
Zoar School House
254 E. 4th St., Zoar, Ohio 44697

WEB SITE CONTINUOUSLY UPDATED!

Historic Zoar Village is a must-see destination for anyone interested in history, art or architecture. But the greater Zoar area isn’t just for history buffs! It has a central location that is convenient to many restaurants, museums, gardens and wineries. There are also numerous hiking opportunities and the Muskingum Lakes are close by.

The Zoar United Church of Christ is one of many historic buildings in Zoar. Go to http://historiczoarvillage.com/ for more information

For more information visit: BuckeyeTrailFest.org

The Buckeye TrailFest is sponsored by The Buckeye Trail Association, www.BuckeyeTrail.org
Buckeye Trail Association
Awards and Recognition Nominations

I would like to nominate ________________________________ for the following award (check one):

AWARDS

____ BOB PATON AWARD (Meritorious Service)
Honors members who have contributed exceptionally meritorious services to the Association for at least fifteen (15) years. Such services may pertain to trail maintenance, trail utilization and/or administrative or management functions. Recipients must be living at the time of nomination.

____ PRESIDENT’S AWARD (Volunteer of the Year)
All active members of the Association are eligible for this award. The nominee shall have either shown exceptional commitment to an assignment(s), or have made some major contribution of special benefit to the Association during the past year. Nominees who would be eligible for a certificate of appreciation can be considered for the President’s award.

____ BILL MILLER AWARD (Conservation)
Honors any person or group responsible for actions that have notably preserved or restored the natural ecology or beauty of a locality by the Trail, or have brought under control a major threat to utility of the Trail in some locality.

____ SUPER STAR (Superior Service over Time)
Awarded to person(s) who have exhibited superior service in appointed or volunteer tasks.

RECOGNITIONS

____ TRUSTEE EMERITUS (Board Members Only)
This is the only recognition that is set aside for members of the Board of Trustees as they leave the service of the Board. The nominee should have accumulated at least (10) years as Board Member and must have demonstrated consistent commitment and continued service to the Board, the Association, and the Trail, through exceptional diligence at their assignments and at least one notable achievement to their credit.

____ BUCKEYE TRAIL THRU HIKER
For hiking the entire trail on foot and completing it in the year 2015 for this year’s award.

____ CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
This is presented to any individual, city, agency, business, or organization that has demonstrated exemplary cooperation and diligence to perpetuate and improve the Trail and Association, and must have helped in some significant way to aid the Association attain an important objective.

____ STAR PERFORMANCE (Leadership Excellence)
Presented to person(s) who have exhibited leadership in appointed or volunteer tasks.

____ TRAIL ADOPTER AWARD
Presented to person(s) who have exhibited superior service to their adopted segment of the Buckeye Trail. These individuals maintain their segment so that it is always ready and a pleasure to hike. They maintain their records and report hours, travel, and any problems to their supervisors or State Trail Coordinator when needed.

Please write a brief statement of your reason for nominating this person or group. Include name, address and phone numbers for both nominee and nominator. If either has an e-mail address, please include it also, in case we have any questions.

All nominations must be postmarked by April 4, 2016. This nomination form can also be found on the Buckeye Trailfest web site, buckeyetrailfest.org. Send nominations to Mary Hamilton, hamilton3310@roadrunner.com or 717 E. Third St., Dover, OH, 44622.
WHO The Buckeye Trail Association in cooperation with the North Country Trail Association, Wayne National Forest, Little Cities of the Forest Collaborative, Sunday Creek Watershed Group, and Burr Oak State Park

WHAT 4 hiking challenges consisting of 20, 40, 60, and 80 miles that need to be completed in 12, 24, 36, and 48 hours respectively

WHEN Thursday, June 16th at 12pm–Sunday, June 19th at 1pm

WHERE Burr Oak State Park and Wildcat Hollow Backpack Trail

WHY To honor a founding member of the BTA and the first female to thru-hike the Appalachian Trail, Emma “Grandma” Gatewood, an Ohio native and long time advocate of ultra-light backpacking

VOLUNTEERS We will be looking for volunteers to man trail checkpoints, assist with registration, and help with camping activities for any hikers bringing their family and little hikers to the event. Volunteers receive free meals from the BTA Chuckwagon and a free t-shirt.

COST Registration on-line: $50 for BTA Members, $60 for Non-Members (includes a 1-year discounted membership to the BTA). Scout groups $100. Walk-in registration on the day of the event: $60 for BTA Members and $70 for Non-Members (includes a 1-year discounted membership to the BTA). Registration includes a T-shirt and camping. Those hikers that complete their hike in 12, 24, 36, and 48 hours will also receive an EGGS Hike patch. Campers-only do not need to pre-register, just contribute $5/night/tent on-site to camp.

CONTACT For more information visit: www.buckeyetrail.org/eggs.php Like EGGS on Facebook: www.facebook.com/eggshike

PRE-REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE AND RECEIVE A FREE T-SHIRT AND GOODIE BAG!

5th Annual 2016 E.G.G.S. HIKE

PRE-REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE AND RECEIVE A FREE T-SHIRT AND GOODIE BAG!
Hueston Woods Winter Hike

John Rethman (Chief Cook and Bottle Washer)

Once again, a band of hearty hikers gathered for the traditional 11 mile winter hike around Acton Lake at Hueston Woods on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Part of this hike is on the American Discovery Trail. The tradition was started years ago by Paul Daniels, a Professor at nearby Miami University. The hike started and ended at the Lodge. Hikers interested in breakfast arrive at 8:00 am, the rest at 9:00am. The hike doesn’t start until after the traditional group picture.

The number of hikers was down this year to less than 20, probably due to cold weather. When I arrived the temperature was 2 degrees and the wind chill was way below zero. At the halfway point at the Nature Center, hikers could warm up and enjoy a hot meal of bean soup, corn bread, and chili, and hikers not wanting to hike the entire loop could take a shuttle back to the Lodge. Most years several hikers opt for the shuttle. This year more than half took the shuttle. The only good thing about the cold was that there was no mud to clean up. I would like to thank the three people that helped setup, tear down and cleanup: Chris McIntyre, Charles Fitzpatrick and Richard Fitzpatrick.

Columbus Membership Drive

Buckeye Trail staff and volunteers are planning several other membership meetings to follow the success of the January 21st meeting in the Dayton area. Stay tuned for details on Live, Breathe & Hike BT Member Drive Events coming to

  - Columbus - April 7th at the Old Bag of Nails (Westerville)
  - Athens - April 14th at Jackie O’s in Uptown Athens
  - Zoar - May 12th at TrailFest 2016 in Zoar, Ohio

Please check the BT member drive website (http://www.buckeyetrail.org/memberdrive/) for details as they are finalized.

Do You Love Silent Auctions?

Linda Paul

Here’s a great way for you to help the BTA and become involved in TrailFest.

Are you creative? Maybe you have some items you can donate to the Buckeye TrailFest Silent Auction. Canned fruit, vegetables or jelly would make great Auction items.

Are you a carpenter, quilt maker or beekeeper? Maybe you could donate a handcrafted item to the Silent Auction? Or maybe you or a friend owns a B&B or cabin and you can donate a relaxing weekend getaway.

These are just a few of the items that have been donated to TrailFest in past years.

Please take a few minutes to think about how you can get involved in supporting Ohio’s Buckeye Trail. What service or goods can you donate? Which friends can you pass this letter on to? Please contact me with any donations—all offers are greatly appreciated and will be considered.

Thank you and check out the TrailFest website for more information and registration.

Get Hiking, Get Dirty, Get Involved and Get Connected to the Buckeye Trail!

Buckeye TrailFest Silent Auction Coordinator
Linda Paul
Lpaul4601@yahoo.com
614-354-6367
**Join the BT Blitz**

**National Trails Day June 4!**

By now most of you know that we exceeded our 2015 10,000 hour goal logging 14,431.97 volunteer hours from October 1st, 2014 through October 1st, 2015. We are shooting for 20,000 hours this year! How can you help? Be sure you are registered in the BTA Volunteer Portal so you are notified of events. Remember that signing up in the software does not commit you to any activity, it just allows you to see the opportunities. If you are volunteering and signed up in the software, please be sure you are logging your hours. If you are not a “registered” BTA Volunteer yet, click the "Register as a Volunteer" link at the bottom of the buckeyetrail.org homepage.

I am very excited to announce the "2016 Buckeye Trail Blitz". June 4th is National Trails Day and we are attempting to maintain the BT in its entirety on that day. I know that many of you will be attending hikes and trail events all over on that day. If the event takes place on the BT you can still take part in the Blitz and your other event. If you just plan on hiking that day, take a trash bag with you, some pruners or paint and do some light maintenance as you walk. Keep your eyes open, as we put out more information through our Volunteer E-newsletter. If you have an idea for the Blitz, shoot me an email now so we can record your event and help however we can with promotion, training, tools or supplies.

Thanks!
Barry Unger
BTA Volunteer Coordinator
volunteer@buckeyetrail.org

**Sites Needed for Trail Signs**

**Jeff Yoest**

Money has been earmarked to fabricate more BT informational signs to be placed at strategic, high-traffic locations along the Buckeye Trail. This is an ongoing effort to educate the public about the trail. A surprising number of people have no idea of one of Ohio’s most wonderful outdoor resources. Increased awareness, trail use and membership are all goals of this project. Do you know a good spot where one of these markers could be placed with landowner approval? All suggestions and assistance in this signage project are welcomed. Please contact Jeff Yoest, jeffyoest@columbus.rr.com, 614-895-0808 with any potential locations.
Seeking BTA Trustees!
Jeff Yoest

Just as the BTA needs maintainers and work parties to keep our trail in the best possible condition, we also need trustees to serve on the BTA Board to guide our organization’s administration, financial, and business affairs. There are many challenges in the present as well as guiding the future in efforts to maintain and improve the BT, one of America’s most unique and longest loop trails.

Each year five of 15 Trustees terms expire. Nominees are sought to replace these board members. Do you have the desire, talents and background to advance the best interests of the Buckeye Trail? The nominating committee is actively seeking members who wish to serve the BTA in this capacity. Trustees must be members in good standing, be willing and able to attend pre-scheduled Board meetings (5 annually) and be appointed as a committee chairman by the President. Trustees serve a term of three years. Elections are held at the Trailfest Annual Meeting.

Please contact Jeff Yoest of the Nominating Committee if you have a desire to serve, questions or suggestions of someone who would be an asset to the Board.
jeffyoest@columbus.rr.com, 614-895-0808

BTA Trustee

Qualifications: Must be a member in good standing of the Buckeye Trail Association. Must have a deep interest in the Association and be willing to devote time to Board meetings, committee meetings, and other activities which promote the purposes of the Association, as set forth in Article III of the Articles of incorporation.

Function of the Board: The trustees shall determine administrative policies, manage property and business of the Association, provide sound fiscal and long-range planning and control, and direct the financial affairs of the Association.

Duties: Serve as officer, if elected: serve as a committee member or chairman, if appointed; attend all meetings called by the President.

Term of Office: Elected Trustees shall serve a term of three years. Trustees are limited to three consecutive terms. After a period of two years off the Board a former Trustee may be re-elected.

Meetings: The Board meets quarterly. The Executive Committee meets as called by the president.

Trail Crew Update for August Through November 2015
Richard Lutz

As always, the Buckeye Trail Crew is busy at work building and maintaining trail throughout the state. Here’s an update of what has taken place since the beginning of August!

Delphos Work Party:
For this work party, 22 volunteers helped build a new Shelter along the Miami and Erie Canal towpath at Lock 18 south of Delphos and worked on trail between Roads 146 and 156 in Paulding County, by moving the trail further into the woods. Overall, a ¼ mile of trail was relocated.

Whipple Section Work Party:
The trail crew consisted of a crew of 15 volunteers who reblazed the entire section and chain sawed their way through the entire off-road section in the Wayne National Forest-Marietta Unit. Weed-whacking was also accomplished in many areas of the section as well.

New Straitsville Work Weekend:
During this work weekend, 21 volunteers did trail maintenance for the late-October Run for the Blue Blazes Marathon Trail Run between Shawnee and Burr Oak State Park.

West Branch Work Party and Work Weekends:
On August 22-23, 9 volunteers added another 1397 feet of new trail heading north and east from the old state park office.

On September 12th, 4 volunteers helped clear 200 feet of new trail and an 11-foot culvert was cut in half and moved to other sites for later installation despite bad weather conditions.

For the October 17-21 work party, 11 volunteers built a bridge (funded by Lynn Jones in memory of her husband Andy), placed 36-inch culverts in two ravines, and built additional new trail on the north side of the lake at West Branch State Park.

Boch Hollow State Nature Preserve Work Party:
The crew with 30 volunteers worked on building an additional 2 miles of new trail in the State Nature Preserve. The trail is mostly complete (except for 20 yards), and the crew hopes to have a one-day work party in the near future to finish it.

The 2016 season will begin soon with various projects around the state. Interested in helping out? Be sure to check out the Events portion of our website at buckeyetrail.org and come join us as we improve the trail for all hikers to enjoy!
BTA Funds Report

Your contribution to any BTA fund is tax deductible. All contributions of $20 or more are acknowledged. We hope to include your name in the list of contributors in the Trailblazer.

11/1/2015 - 2/15/2016

BARN FUND
David & Christa Jo Abood
James Gilkey

SCHOLARSHIP FUND
David & Christa Jo Abood
Elmo & Wilma Layman

TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND
David & Christa Jo Abood
Richard Amstadt
Ellen Botnick
Krista Cabrera
Kathleen Fix
Bill Schultz & Leslie Floyd
Paul Wickline

LIVE, BREATHE & HIKE CAMPAIGN (FALL APPEAL)
Jay Abercrombie
Ron Aitken
Robert & Sylvia Bahr
Timothy & Deborah Barry
Donald Beattie
Douglas & Laura Bell
Ellen Botnick
Jeff & Valerie Briner
Bob & Ruth Brown
Martha & Curtis Brown
Loren & Stacey Brown
Barbara & William Burke
Robert & Shirley Burris
Donald Chubb
Daniel & Robin Clark
James & Marva Crabtree
Chester & Patricia Crone
Linda Cutter
Charles Daub
Matt & Kim Davis
Michael Deblasis
Liz & Tim DeBraal
Deininger & Skuly
Donald & Jacqueline Desch
Phyllis & Edward Devlin
Michael Doherty
Ruth & Daniel Dorrough
Robert Drew
Gerald & Linda Forrider
James Fisher
Gerard Hilferty & Jackie Fokes
E. M. Gabel
Earl & Dorothy Garn
William & Diane Gartoza
Thomas & Janis Gilbert
Jim Gilkey
Howard Grimm Jr. & Rebecca Lamp Grimm
M. B. Gursky
Mary Hamilton
Cates Harman
Pat & Mary Hayes
Byron & Sandy Henry
Holly Henry
Jonathan & Joanne Herrmann
Heidi Hetzel-Evans & Dennis Evans
Ruey Hodapp Jr.
Barbara Hoditschek
Dale Holwick, Jr.
Patience & Lansing Hoskins
Herb & Susie Hulls
Jeff & Denise Hutton
Dorothy Ipavec
Frances Jacobs
John Jameson
Kenneth Janosko
Melissa Johnson & Bob Kazar
Kenneth Katona
Robert & Karen Kieffer
Thomas & Carol Kientz
Joseph Konen
Joe & Cindy Krueger
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Bob Litt
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Joyce & Robert Maruna
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Paul McKibben
Bob Merkle
Robert Morrison, Jr.
Bernard & Sally Miner
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Lawrence & Sophia Morton
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Michael & Jo Ellen Rogoff
Thomas & Diane Rohr
Kathy Ross
James Rowe
Stephen & Harriett Sabo
Richard & Carol Saccardi
Lowell & Ellen Sartre
Eric Schaub & Karen Ratliff-Schaub
Sharon Schnell
Patricia & Michael Schuler
V. Skinner-Linnerberg & Daniel Linnenberg
Julia Smith
Jim Sprague
Earl Staddon
Bryan Staib
Moe Stutler
Amy & Joe Sugar
Clifford Thorniley
Darren Trebec
Richard & Claire Troha
Robert Ulrich
Rodney Vest
Karen & Steve Walker
Monte Wall
Earl Waltz
Thomas Webster, III & Susan Spear-Webster
Peter Weiner
Nancy White
Gene Wimmer
John & Cindy Winnenberg
Jeff & Sarah Yoest
Keith & Debra Zook

GENERAL FUND & SPECIAL EVENTS
David & Christa Jo Abood
Kenneth Bordwell
Robert & Shirley Burris
Philip & Maralyn Conaway
Mary Hayes (in memory of Jeanne Hartman and Robert Van Antwerp)
Patrick Flinn and Family
Scott & Mary Anne Kamph
Paul & Catherine Knoop
Bayard Liesch
Robert & Jean Lorenzetti
Matthew McLain
Steve Mershon & Candada Moore
Jean Schmelzer
Lucas Schwabel
Pamela Temple
Gene Wimmer
Carol Yegerlehner
At Sunday dart group I’d been talking about my BT adventures and although all were supportive, Danny, an avid runner and hiker himself, had expressed an interest. Being that I was a little hesitant to go through Akron alone, he volunteered to take the next leg of the journey with me! This fine spring morning we drove separately to Lake Nesmith Park and then took one car back to Memorial Park Trail Head where my last wintery journey had ended.

Turning the BT map over to Danny we started our approach to Lock 18 on the Ohio/Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Normally I’d be taking photos and contemplating hiking/life lessons. This time I did a lot of talking instead, explaining what I knew about the locks in between Danny reading map pointers. Danny proved to be an excellent hiking companion and despite my chatter remained observant. After a bit of walking he pointed to a large old tree and there in front of it was this very scruffy-looking woodchuck, standing upright on its hind legs, absolutely motionless. After the other trail oddities I’d seen I began to convince myself and Danny that it had been left there by someone for fun, so I ask Danny to walk up to it and as he did, it did this hilarious mechanical-like dip to its right and then went right back into its original motionless position. Finally I took one step forward for a close-up photo and it took off altogether amid our riotous laughter.

Heading ever uphill, we passed historic Glendale Cemetery, an old Krispy Kremes store (my father’s favorite), and the Akron City Zoo. I finally noticed the distinctive arrowhead signs indicating that we’d been on the Portage Path Trails as well as the BT. As we turned onto gently curving Trail Street, we felt the breadth and depth of spring when we caught the first glimpse of a row of beautiful flowering trees dotted along the banks of Summit Lake. The lake was so high that its water and the geese bobbing in it lapped up close to the trail. The trail turned away from the lake down onto a unique, abandoned-looking street, and after a few moments we ran into a barge parked on dry ground that looked more like someone’s backyard deck! But that was the end of the most scenic part; suddenly we were thrust out onto busy streets and into furious traffic, crossing bridges and getting sand blasted by the vehicles speeding through there. I was just utterly exhausted! I kept trying to find out how much longer we had left to go, but Danny wouldn’t let me look. I knew he thought he’d only be doing one trip with me, but I think I’m going to ask him to tag along again! Thank you, Danny Sweeney!
Welcome New Members!

Bev and Jerry Starcher

Christa Jo Abood and Family, Brecksville
Robin Adams, Centerville
John Allen, Dayton
Teresa Annarino, Vandalia
Ronald Anslinger, Miamisburg
David Baisden, Concord
Kate Baney, Lakewood
Cindy Bates, Akron
Allen Benton and Family, Dublin
Scott Bernard, Centerville
Vivian Bernau, Columbus
Carol Betts, Miamisburg
Rob Betts, Miamisburg
Glen Bland, Columbus
Megan Blosser and Family, Cuyahoga Falls
Dale Bockhorst, West Chester
Timothy Bork, Toledo
Charles Bradford, Dayton
Mona Breitbeil, West Chester
David Brown, Lancaster
Kara Browning, Strongsville
Megan Cameron, Nelsonville
Frank Campanell, Centerville
Natalie Carolus, Lebanon
Russell Carolus, Lebanon
Beth Caudill, Miamisburg
Sharon Combs, Somerville
Gail Condra, Bellbrook
Chad Conyers, Liberty Twp
Donna Copp-Armstrong, New Carlisle
Tim Cotton, Centerville
Rob Crawford, Miamisburg
Carol Crisp, Indianapolis, IN
Roger Dabe, Xenia
John DeBanto, Pasadena, CA
Jeremy Denington, Honolulu, HI
Michelle Devoe and Family, Reynoldsburg
Holly Doss, Urbana
Joel Doss, Urbana
Pete Doss, Urbana
Debbie Drake, Edgewood, KY
Frank Dressler, Dayton
David Alejandro Ehlers, Dayton
Kevin Elliot, Chillicothe
Don Ferguson, Kettering
Jan Ferguson, Kettering
Brian Flamm, Troy
Christopher Fornes, Windham
Olivia Fox, Centerville
Michael Frank, Mason
Rachel Frey, Greencastle, PA
David Freyer, Troy
Marianne Gabel, Delaware
Timothy Gaffney, Miamisburg
Eric Geiger, Dayton
Dale Gillette, Centerville
Nate Goodbury, Columbus
Gregg Gottshall, Sugarcreek
Mary Graham, Centerville
Scott Graham, Centerville
Norma Grell, Englewood
Renee Harden, Medina
Jordan Hart, Troy
Ralph Harvey, Athens
Amy Hathaway, Centerville
Sharon Hathaway, Centerville
Kathie Havemann, Dayton
Tom Helbig, Tipp City
Terry Herdemann, Cleves
Patrice Hickey, Centerville
Jane Hix, Cincinnati
Irving Horowitz, Cincinnati
Cindy Houser, Decatur, IN
Amanda Huden, Kettering
Greg Hull, Xenia
Ron Hundt, Kettering
Rick Iles, Cincinnati
Carol Inniskeep, Kettering
Sarah Isenhart, Dublin
Chris Jacobs and Family, Scio
Kurt Jacobsen, Westerville
Jay Jena, Germantown
Laura Jena, Germantown
Karen Ann Jennings, Orient
Andrea Jensen, Germantown
Chuck Jensen, Germantown
Ruth Jewell, Dayton
Angela Johnson, Cincinnati
Jonathan Johnson, Westerville
Debbie Juniewicz, Dayton
Ben Kendrick, Huber Hgts
Nick Kennedy and Family, North Canton
Nelson King, Xenia
Edda Koppen, Springboro
David Kossick, Peninsula
Ray Leard, Athens
John Lee, Dayton
Gordon Little, Kettering
Kathleen Little, Plain City
Ryan Long and Family, Delaware
Mark Lospaiah, Miamisburg
Katrina Lustofin, Marietta
Barry Mancz, Kettering
Debbie Mancz, Kettering
Josh Manson and Tiffany, Pickerington
Phil Manson and Cathy, Pickerington
Jon Martin, Mason
Ken McCall, Dayton
Matthew McGee, Chillicothe
Helen McLluff, Wyoming
John Meadows, Westerville
JB Metcalf, Kettering
Todd Meyer, Dayton
Laurie Miller, Centerville
Patricia Millhoff, Akron
Russell Mitchell, Dayton
Wyona Mitchell, Dayton
Jacob Moore, Gratz
Birgit Nazarian, Granville
Patricia Neff, Centerville
Mitchell Niese, West Chester
Carolyn North, Kettering
Ed Norwood, Hilliard
Kelly O’Keefe, Centerville
Aaron Parker, Germantown
Patty Parker, Germantown
Kimberly Patterson, Cincinnati
Matthew Patterson, Cincinnati
Robert “Bob” Peach, Dayton
Dennis Pinkerton and Family, Marengo
Tom Popa, Milford
Steven Presar, Dayton
Lisa Quinn, Fairborn
Connie Ramage, Kettering
Larry Ramey, Dayton
Randy Rapin, Dayton
Sara Rau and Family, Columbus
Robert Rice, Kettering
Justin Richardson, Dayton
Glenn Roberts, Centerville
Normajean Roselius, Centerville
Daniel Rosh and Family, Dublin
Cara Salley, Dayton
Linda Salyer, West Chester
Lucy Sanchez, Centerville
Virginia Sayre, Mogadore
David Schindler, Mogadore
Dan Schlegel, Dayton
Doug Schneider, Centerville
Kenneth Schug, Dayton

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Welcome New Members!

Continued from pg.18

Patricia Schug, Dayton
Larry Schulte, Beavercreek
Kathleen Shanahan, Dayton
Virginia Shaw, Kent
Kent Shininger, Hicksville
Alaina Shoemaker, Miamisburg
Larry Shoemaker, Middletown
Deanna Slusher, Cincinnati
Katy Smart, Dayton
Chad Smith, Middletown
Keaton Smith, Oxford
Tim Smith, Middletown
David Snell, Tippecanoe Valley
Terry Snodgrass, Dayton
Justin Sorrell
Ken Spears, Dayton
Bob Spinks, West Chester
Rick Stamps, Dayton
Lori Staugler, Spring Valley
Cynthia Strebig, Lakewood
Brandon Stump, Akron
Amy Sugar and Family, Columbus
Carol Tenney, Ashville
Amanda Tikkanen, Loveland
Melissa Todd, Dayton
Roy Tordiff, Lima
Michael Trimeloni, Dayton
Jessica Turner and Family, Chicago, IL
Vicky Valerian, Dayton
James Waller and Family, Clinton
Joel Walter and Leah, Columbus
Nancy Walther, Waynesville
Carol Jo Weatherby, Miamisburg
Dirk Webb, Medway
Mary Ann Wendelin, Kettering
Rebekka Wendelin-Ehlers, Dayton
David Whitley, Dayton
Joy Williams, Kettering
Ellie Williamson, Mansfield
Lace Williamson, Willowick
Ryan Williamson, Cincinnati
Nicholas Wilson, Beavercreek
Maria Wingard, Austintown
Jonathan Winkler, Dayton
Jennifer Wolf and Family, Lakewood
Judy Woodford, Liberty Twp
Denise Wright, Centerville
Carl Yunkes, Peninsula
Judy Zeinick, Troy
True Heights, Kettering
A141, Ada
Friends of Crowell Hilaka, Bedford
Yellow Springs Tees, Yellow Springs

MEMBERSHIP FORM (for new members only)

GIFT $20.00 □
ADULT $25.00 per year □
FAMILY $30.00 per year □
STUDENT (full-time) $10.00 per year □
ORGANIZATION $35.00 per year □
SUSTAINING $50.00 per year □
BUSINESS $50.00 per year □
LIFE- INDIVIDUAL $400.00 □

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 Newsletter:
☐ Friend: ________________ ☐ State Park: ________________
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MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO & MAIL TO:
Buckeye Trail Association
P.O. BOX 5, SHAWNEE, OHIO 43782

OR JOIN ONLINE AT:
www.buckeyetrail.org/membership.html

2016-01-NEWSLETTER
The label shows expiration date of your membership. Please renew before the date indicated.