

May 1, 2015

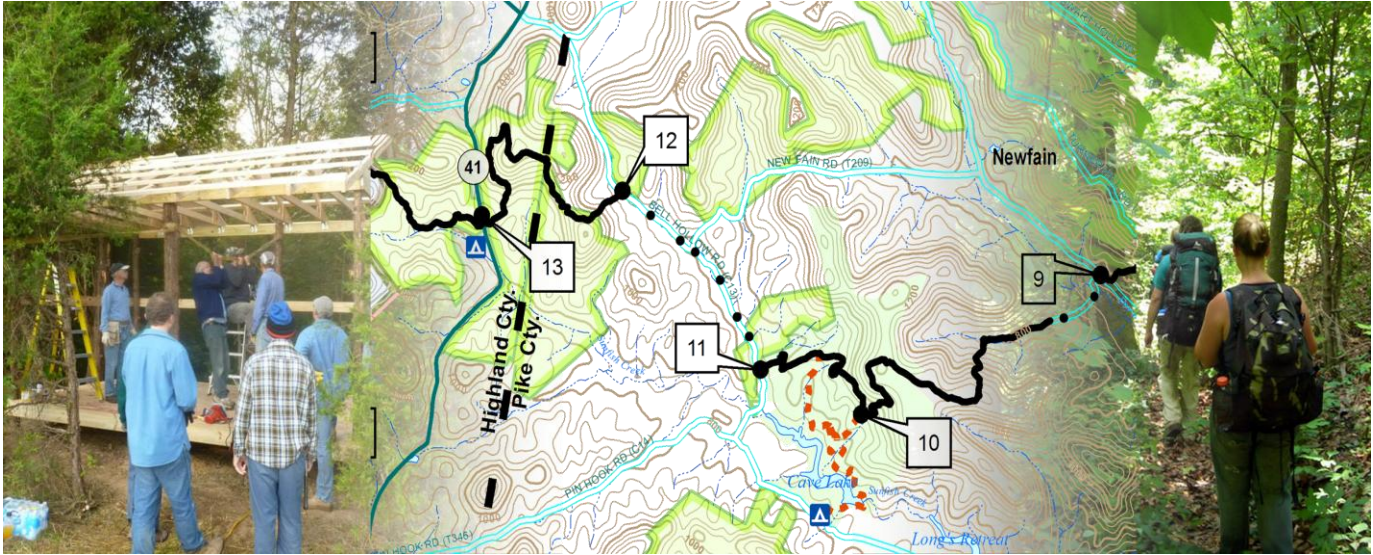
Hello Buckeye Trail Supporter,

Is the Buckeye Trail “backpackable”? - A common question concerning camping asked by aspiring BT thru-hikers, section hikers, weekend backpackers and scout troops looking for a 50 miler. The answer depends on how courageous they are to reach out to Trail Angels along their adventure. With your help we can answer the demand for campsites all along the BT. We have made great progress over the years but we would like to focus our trail preservation effort to answer Buckeye Trail hikers call for camping every 10 miles on average. With more boots and tents on the trail awareness and support of the BT will grow.

Just since 2010 we have seen the 230 acres of the BTA Pretty Run Preserve acquired, two campsites developed on the historic Miami & Erie Canal Towpath, a campsite donated on the headwaters of the Mahoning River now called Shaw Woods, and thanks to a generous pledge **two shelters** constructed by your Buckeye Trail Crew near AEP ReCreation Lands and Serpent Mound State Memorial. A few more are in the works with our partners, but we need your support to pick up the pace and develop permanent campsites with private landowners.

The BTA has committed to the staffing needed to identify and negotiate new camping locations on private lands. Two generous BTA members have pledged to purchase the materials needed for **25 8’x12’ Adirondack-style shelters**, approximately \$800 each, **if** we can negotiate places for our Buckeye Trail Crew to construct them.

Help fund our time intensive effort to work with our land managing partners, negotiate with landowners, and acquire land when necessary to secure sites for the Buckeye Trail Crew to construct the remaining 23 shelters pledged. Overnight hikers will be grateful to you after long days of lugging their packs around the state to arrive “home” for a night on the BT. We are so thankful for the continued support of the BTA membership, and with your contribution we can secure key camping locations around the BT.



Our goal is to raise \$5,000 by the Summer Solstice, June 21 as we camp out under the stars during the Emma 'Grandma' Gatewood Solstice (EGGS) Hike. Will you help us take "lack of camping" off our list, and answer hikers: **YES, the BT is 'backpackable'?**

THANK YOU FOR HAPPILY HELPING HIKERS ALONG OHIO'S BUCKEYE TRAIL!



Constance Pond, President



Andrew Bashaw, Executive Director

"There is need for such a public facility where Ohio youth may have an opportunity to find inspiring recreation... a marked trail with right-of-way access through many private lands, as much as possible where shelters and other permanent structures could be located."

Perry Cole, aka Merrill Gilfillan "A Buckeye Trail, So Far Just an Idea" Columbus Dispatch, 1958



Since 1959, the BTA and our partners have developed nearly 100 campsites along the BT! We estimate a need for about 60 more to ensure a campsite every 10 miles.

Help us find potential campsites. Maybe you know someone near one of these red dots? Reach out to us at preservation@buckeyetrail.org

Visit us at Buckeye TrailFest or another BTA event to discuss our trail preservation efforts.

Share a picture of you camping on the BT! Post to FB or Twitter #BuckeyeTrail

"As a memorial to my Mother, I am proposing... that a fund be created in Grandma Gatewood's name for the purpose of buying land or easements along the Buckeye Trail. Small camping areas or rest stops would be of great assist to the overnight hikers."

Lucy Gatewood Seeds,

pledging the first contribution to the Trail Preservation Fund in 1973