



HIKE. JOIN. VOLUNTEER! +GIVE



Dear Friends,

Ohio's Buckeye Trail. Two by six inch blue blazes serve as simple beacons leading us for over 1,400 miles from Lake Erie to the Ohio River all around Ohio and back again. These thousands of blazes have been the starting point for millions of people's adventures of hiking, joining, and volunteering on the Buckeye Trail. The Buckeye Trail is many things to many people.

HIKE.

For some the Buckeye Trail is their very first outdoor adventure in a new parent's sling or backpack carrier on a nature trail at Taylorsville Metropark. It is the outdoor classroom on a field trip, looking for minnows at Penitentiary Glen and wondering what it would be like to be a Naturalist when they grow up. It's the first real overnight backpacking trip with their scout troop over the challenging ridges of Shawnee State Forest. It is also a grandparent's wish come true that a thoughtful grandchild gives up one Saturday to pick them up and spend a moment strolling down the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath after quarantining from the pandemic. It's the needed time and space for a combat veteran to walk off the war by completing a three-month thru-hike.

JOIN.

For some, the Buckeye Trail is all about the people. It's the people whom we meet when we step out of our comfort zone to attend a Miami & Erie Canal Chapter hike and find a group of people just like us who are looking for the comfort of others to explore their own backyard. It is the hikers we connect with on social media, or an organized Circuit Hike, that share advice at the end of the days hike over a drink at a local restaurant in Loveland on how best to complete the entire BT someday. Near Chesterhill, it's a landowners' pleasure to see hikers coming out of their woods as they had hoped for, and looking forward to chatting on their back porch.

VOLUNTEER.

For others the Buckeye Trail is the act of giving back and feeling good about it. It can be found during those chance moments when a Buckeye Trail Crew volunteer takes a moment from digging new trail out of the side of a hill at Burr Oak State Park to allow a group of backpacking college kids to pass by and continue their weekend

adventure. Inspired by what the BT means to them, a volunteer educates local community members in the Village of Wakeman about working towards Buckeye Trail Town designation, to in turn inspire another generation of Buckeye Trail hikers and outdoor recreation development in town. The Buckeye Trail is also when a Buckeye Trail hiker, reflecting on their personal accomplishment or passion, works to share the same with the rest of the world by creating a BT event like Buckeye TrailFest, The Biggest Day Hike, MorelFest, EGGS Hike, Little Loop Challenge, and more.

The Buckeye Trail is many things to many people.

What does the Buckeye Trail mean to you?

Is it a place to find new friends and reunite with family, or a place to get away when we need to lose ourselves in the miles of trail along a Muskingum Lake?

Is it the gateway to get a sought after experience; a physical challenge at Archers Fork, an awe inspiring moment at Ash Cave, or knowledge about our shared history at Serpent Mound or just getting to know yourself better?

Is it also a place to step onto, to give back – a volunteer act filled with hope that others will have an equal or better life changing experience than you?

Or, is it simply about being part of something much bigger than you, a trail and a community growing in recognition and investment from partners, peers, and decision makers due to our good work and continual success?

Whatever the Buckeye Trail is for you, it often starts with hiking and enjoying the unique and varied BT experiences united by those thousands of beacons of painted blue blazes.

And then, some people like you decided to join the community of Buckeye Trail Association members to support our important work to develop and improve on that experience including in 2022 creating new regional backpacking destinations in places like West Branch State Park and the Wayne National Forest.

Then there are still others who are inspired and able to give of their time and skills to be a critical part of our great volunteer base, putting your support into action all around the BT.

GIVE TODAY.

There is a lot of great news for the BT just around the bend thanks to you, but we need your additional support today to help us do this important work, for you, and for all Buckeyes. If you can, please take that next step and donate today to support our challenging work ahead.

Above All, Thank You for Hiking!



Andrew Bashaw
Executive Director, Buckeye Trail Association



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TRAIL
TREAT YOURSELF TO THE EDGE