



Wow! Our 10th annual Buckeye TrailFest was an amazing celebration of all things Buckeye Trail, and the greater Shawnee State Park and Forest region, thanks in part to each of our registrants, volunteers, presenters, state and regional partners. Thank you all (130 participants + more than 30 presenters!) for coming together to celebrate our work, our volunteers, our partners, our trail, and the region it traverses.

A few of us *Hiked-In* to TrailFest through some of Ohio's most beautiful, rugged, hot, and chigger filled hills. The rest of us waited to brave the sunny 70-degree weather to hit the trails in Shawnee State Park, State Forest, Edge of Appalachia Preserve, Arc of Appalachia Preserves, and more. We learned about the culture and history of the area up on Buckhorn Ridge, the Portsmouth Murals, and the prehistory of the expansive network of earthworks in the region. When the sun set, we headed back out for a moonlight paddle on Turkey Creek Lake, stargazing, and evening campfires with old friends and new.

We learned about how to hike with kids and joined them on nature hikes to see the forest through their eyes again. We learned about the positive impact of our trail on our mental health, and different ways to challenge ourselves or comfort ourselves while hiking the Buckeye Trail. We learned how to capture our trail experiences through nature journaling, landscape photography, and even through video of a BT fastest known time (FKT) and a love story in the documentary Meandering Thru.

We learned about heroes like Grandma Gatewood, Lucy Braun, and Peace Pilgrim, heard from Teddy Roosevelt himself, and were inspired by fellow volunteers and the work of Buckeye Trail partners. We were inspired by the legacy of our heroes in our partners at the Arc of Appalachia Preserve, and The Nature Conservancy, and the positive perseverance of endurance runners Harvey Lewis and Kelly ODell.

We learned about the landscape that we are a part of stewarding, the Central Appalachian Hardwood Forest, and the birds, butterflies, rattlesnakes, Bigfoot (Bigfeet?), and many other plants and animals that call this place home. We learned what we can eat, and not eat, from our forest, how to cook on an open fire, and that Shawnee Lodge knows how to serve a lot of good food to a bunch of hungry hikers.

We learned about how the Buckeye Trail Association is making progress through our staff, volunteers, and our 10 BTA Chapters. We refreshed ourselves on wilderness first aid basics and honed our trail design, construction, and maintenance skills. We stocked up on BT gear from the Buckeye Trail Shop, put orders into the Buckeye Trail sign shop, and learned how to help grow our Buckeye Trail Town program. We met for our Annual Meeting and elected our representative Trustees, welcome to the BTA Board of Trustees Sunny Sunyak and Tim Murphy!

We did all this in a few short days in a very special part of Ohio, and we passed the Buckeye TrailFest hiking stick from the Appalachian Foothills Chapter on to the Central Ohio Chapter to gather us all back together in about a year in Central Ohio. Thank you all for coming together to create such a positive moment for each of us. If success can be measured in smiles then I believe we succeeded!

Thank you! Buckeye TrailFest Partners, Sponsors, and Volunteers!



Adams County Travel & Visitors Bureau • Cincinnati Hikes: Kid's Collaborative • Eden Valley Enterprises
Niles Township Fire Department • North Country Trail Association
Scioto County Convention & Visitors Bureau • Southern Ohio Museum and Cultural Center
Southern Ohio Photography • Sunshine Catering • The Arc of Appalachia

Please, please, please [visit our Buckeye Trail Facebook Group](#) to view and **add to** our growing set of beautiful photos from the weekend.

I hope to see you soon... at our Fall Mushroom Camp at the BTA Beall Farmstead at Tappan Lake, The Little Loop Challenge in northeast Ohio, the Blue Blaze Festival in the Village of Shawnee, or many other BTA Chapter or partner events and trail work parties remaining for the year!

[Please visit our events calendar for more details, more events, and registration information.](#)

Thank you for hiking! See you on the Trail!



Ohio's Buckeye Trail The Buckeye Trail was established in 1959, today it is a 1,400+ mile hiking trail linking the four corners of Ohio marked by 2" x 6" blue blazes. The BT follows wooded footpaths, abandoned railroad corridors, historic canal towpaths, rivers, lake shores, and country roads, within both rural and urban settings. The Trail provides public access to Ohio's scenic and historic diversity. The BT is open to all, made possible through the permission and cooperation of federal, state and local agencies, private landowners and the tireless work of volunteers.

Our Mission The Buckeye Trail Association builds, maintains, preserves, and promotes the use of the 1,400+ mile Buckeye Trail, Ohio's longest hiking trail, for our citizens, communities and partners. Since 1959, we have provided outdoor recreation, volunteer opportunities, education, economic benefits, and access to the natural and cultural resources of Ohio.

BuckeyeTrail.org

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