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Club News ...

In Memoriam



Dr. John A. Lott, age 80, a native of Achern, Germany, and a long-time COHC member, died Jan. 9, 2017, at his home in Columbus. He is survived by his wife of 52 years and fellow COHC hiker, Gerlinde;

his son, Christopher; and many other family members.

Ruth Elizabeth Kessel Forsha, age 87, born on a farm in Vigo County, Ind., and a long-time COHC hiker, died Oct. 1, 2016. Her husband of 65 years and a fellow COHC hiker, H.



Thomas Forsha, and a large family survive her.

Hiking Milestones

Harry Jones and Don Shaw 500 miles

Top Ten Hikers for 2016

John Troutman	168	miles
Jamie Abel	156	miles
Carol Beal	128	miles
Gisela French	116	miles
Dick Barbee	115	miles
Jeanne Barbee	110	miles
Connie Sheridan	108	miles
Heide Sloan	105	miles
George Mead	94	miles
Jim Dearnell	91	miles

2016: Another 12 Months on the Trail

We enjoyed a lot of great hikes in 2016, and we have lots more planned for 2017. Make sure you get out in the fresh air and join us. Here are a few stats from last year:

- Our club completed 37 hikes (29 regular and 8 senior).
- The typical regular hike was five miles long with 19 members attending.
- Senior hikes were three miles long with 15 members attending.
- Two-thirds of our members attended at least one hike.
- The club led hikes across eight miles of the Buckeye Trail.



The Peace of Wild Things

When despair for the world grows in me and I wake in the night at the least sound in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be, I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds. I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief. I come into the presence of still water. And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light. For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Poem by Wendell Berry

Hikers to Bikers

The weather report for Sept. 17, 2016, was not at all encouraging, with a 60 percent chance of thunderstorms and rain. But seven undaunted hikers still took a chance and hauled their bikes to Morrow—unfortunately the bikepath was closed at Fort Ancient, where we had planned to start—for a ride on the beautiful trail along the Little Miami River to Loveland. It turned out to be a near-perfect day for biking, and Connie, Jeanne, Violet, Linda, Gisela and Harry thank Don Shaw for arranging this outing and leading us safely to lunch in Loveland and back to Morrow for the "sweet reward" at Miranda's Ice Cream Shop. Really amazing was that Don managed to schedule the only rain we saw exactly during our lunch break! We would like to let all of you hikers know that there is still plenty of room for more bikers in the picture and on the bike-paths; and there is almost always an option for a shorter ride if you just want to give it a first-time try. Don, thank you again for an enjoyable day!



2017 Dues

The club collects annual dues at the beginning of each year. Dues are \$18 for singles and \$30 for couples. Make your check out to COHC and mail to:

Gerlinde Lott, 2936 Wellesley Dr., Columbus OH 43221

Club Officers

President	John Troutman
VP/Trail Master	
Secretary	Linda Coe
Treasurer	Gerlinde Lott
Membership	Kate Graham
Special Events	
Historian	Betty Bradley
Social Events	Carol Beal
Webmaster	John Troutman
Co-Hiker Editor	Jamie Abel

Hike Reports ...



Wildlights at the Columbus Zoo

Dec. 17, 2016

Dick Barbee, leader; Jeanne Barbee, sweep

This just happened to be an icy, rainy day that started at 3:30 p.m. in the zoo entry way; likely one of the times when it would have been good to call off a hike! Even though the weather was sooo bad, John and Whaja Troutman and Jamie Abel showed up for the event. Valiantly, Dick lead off towards the gorilla area to see them before they were to go to bed. We were lucky to see Colo, the world's oldest captive gorilla, who sadly is now deceased. This very first area is where Jeanne slid down in a puddle but rose up to slog on for more adventures. The animals all seem to be vegetarians, with lots of lettuce being eaten, though the gorillas much preferred the chunked cucumbers. The aquarium was warm, toasty and dry so visitors can enjoy the beautiful fish. The manatees eat loads of lettuce and have to work at catching it as it floats. Snakes also were dry and warm with some beautiful colors and all safely in glass cages. We didn't spend a lot of time there, but went on to see monkeys. Before going to the front section of the zoo, we ate dinner in the Congo River restaurant. As we walked through the underpass, colored lights played a rainbow of patterns all over us. Then, the light show began around the lake to music, but the ice and rain must have shorted out some of the wires and many of the elements did not light. We gamely hiked on to see the elephants, rhinos and hippotamus. Many families were also viewing these animals with us by now and still enjoying them too. We managed five miles before calling it quits, but all three—Jamie, John and Whaja deserve a medal for coming out and hiking with us in this miserable weather. Luckily, more didn't come and perhaps fall or have other problems getting here. Sometimes these things happen!



Great Seal State Park

Nov. 19, 2016 John Troutman, leader; Whaja Troutman, sweep

It was a frigid day, but right off the bat there was a steep climb to warm up the eight hikers. At the end of the first climb, we could have either continued up the steep climb to the top of St. Ives or (like we usually do) go around St. Ives. Since we last did this hike, a switch-back route for bikers to the top was added, so we decided to give the new trail a shot. At the top, we had great views and a brisk wind. We continued around cairn-strewn Bunker Hill to complete an invigorating five-mile winter hike.

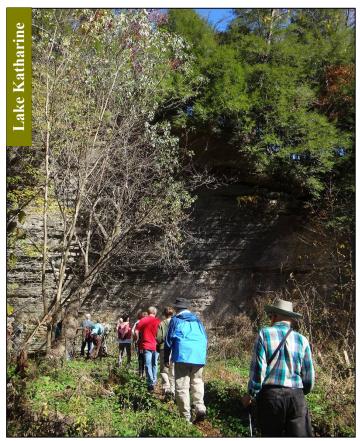


Sr. Hike: Galena Brick Trail & Mud Flats

Nov. 12, 2016

Connie Sheridan, leader; John Troutman, sweep

Eighteen smiling hikers arrived in Galena to discover the newest section of the Ohio to Erie Bike Trail. We circled up in Miller Park and then walked an unpaved section past the former Galena Brick Company. We continued around Miller Park, where families were enjoying the playground equipment amid small tricycles and scooters. We crossed over to the newly paved section of the trail, which features a bridge across the Little Walnut Creek and its deep ravine with views of the distant mud flats. We detoured into a section of the Hoover Nature Sanctuary to get a better view of the mud flats (dry where we were). Then, we moseyed along a country road and across Route Old 3-C to get to the mud flats and boardwalk. How quiet it was on this day! There were very few birds; even the gulls were absent. The water was extremely low and the mud flats extended out ever farther. We were able to view the osprey towers, but no one was home. Even though birds are still migrating, we saw none of them. Back into the village after our four-mile hike, we rambled on to our restaurant, aptly named Mudflats Bar & Grille. The food was great, and the service and payment process were amazingly fast! We were back at our cars before darkness descended on this beautiful, warm, blue-sky day.



Lake Katharine State Nature Preserve

Nov. 5, 2016

John Troutman, leader; Jamie Abel, sweep

A group of 25 hikers set out on a six-mile trek from the parking lot at Lake Katharine State Nature Preserve,

following the Salt Creek Trail down to its namesake stream, where we found abundant fungus growth on the trees. We followed the trail up past—and in some cases, underneath — 100-foot high pebble-encrusted sandstone cliffs. At the junction with other trails, including the one that would return a hiker to the parking lot, we set out on Pine Ridge Trail, which returns to Little Salt Creek and crosses Rock Run Creek. After climbing to the surrounding bluff, the trail took us back over Rock Run Creek where it emerges from the rock walls of the lake's spillway and cascades down a stairstep waterfall. The trail then emerges from the woods to cross the Lake Katharine earthen dam, where we stopped to gaze at the water. The trail then headed back toward the parking lot, but most of us turned off early to take Calico Bush Trail, so named because of the mountain laurel found along its path. Calico Bush, a pioneer name for mountain laurel, took us around the steep side of the ridge to return to the junction we'd passed earlier, which we took to return to the parking lot. We packed up and headed into Jackson to dine and chat at Ponderosa Steakhouse.



A.W. Marion State Park

Oct. 29, 2016 Don Shaw, leader; Harry Jones, sweep

It was a warm, sunny, colorful day when 27 hikers gathered to walk the trail around Hargus Lake. Don and Harry had already decided we would walk "backwards" (clockwise) around the lake to avoid some uphill slopes and turn them into a more manageable downhill trail. The lake water had been drawn down to allow for repairs to the boat ramp. It looked odd to have so much lake bottom showing. Because of this, there were only one or two challenging stream crossings. We noticed evidence of a new trail under construction and upon checking learned there is a mountain bike trail being developed. It will be

available for hikers, too. We completed the five-mile walk around the lake in record time and many of us went on to Goodwin's Family Restaurant in Circleville, where we enjoyed the buffet.

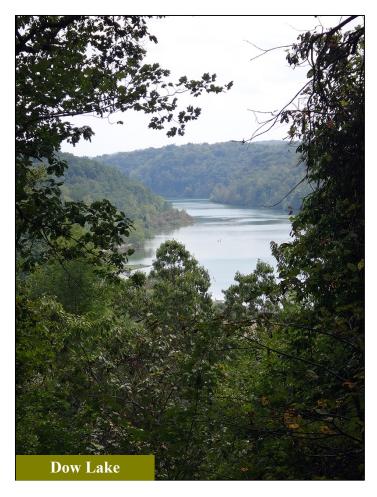


Fall Camp: Mohican State Park

Oct. 14-16, 2016

Jamie Abel, leader; John Troutman, sweep

For the Saturday hike at Fall Camp, 24 hikers tackled the northern sections of the bridle/snowmobile/mountain bike trail. The nine-mile hike started at the covered bridge spanning the Clear Fork Gorge of the Mohican River and almost immediately headed up a one-mile rise to the top of the river bluff. The trail then headed into the back forty, turning into a single-track trail through a large pine forest, where we stopped for lunch. The trail then headed back to the bluff-tops overlooking the river, where we passed the gnome in the tree seen above! The path then headed back away from the river, and we skirted a number of ravines before heading down the one that led to the campground and, eventually our ultimate destination, the camp store's ice cream counter.





Strouds Run State Park

Oct. 1, 2016

John Troutman, leader; Sandy Garey, sweep

It was a humid day with rain predicted as we started our hike, but there was a nice breeze and it actually felt pleasant. Nine hikers started at the dam and hiked up the Hickory Trail, where we found nice views of the lake. As we reached the north end of the lake, we could hear Ohio University students enjoying themselves on the beach. We

visited a pioneer cemetery and then climbed the steep hill to Vista Point, where we had a picture-postcard view of the lake. We hiked down to my car in the parking lot and shuttled everyone back to the dam. I reached into my pocket to get my keys and the pockets were empty. I checked my backpack. Nothing. My heart sank. We were four miles from the dam, and I was two hours from home, where my spare set of keys sat. Sandy Garey saved the day by flagging down a young couple to give her and Don Shaw a ride to the dam to get their cars. Then, with another stroke of good fortune, Don found my keys on the floor mat of Sandy's car, where they had fallen out as she shuttled me to the dam. So, after a day in the great outdoors and a small dose of drama, we proceeded to Shade's Restaurant to celebrate our seven-mile hike.



Scioto Grove Metro Park

Sept. 10, 2016

Kathleen Hall, leader; Lynn Huston, sweep

The unexpected warm temperatures made 25 COHC members and guests appreciate the occasional breeze as we hiked parts of the Arrowhead, Overlook and Mingo Trails at Scioto Grove Metro Park. Because of the heat, we agreed to end the hike at 3.7 miles. In spite of the heat, we enjoyed hiking past the playground, backpacking and camping sites, and the future site of a multi-purpose building for the newest metro park. You would have to ask each hiker whether crossing the stream on a Hall/Huston constructed bridge of rock and branches was enjoyed (Someone did get wet!). Spotted throughout the mostly prairie parts of the park were a monarch butterfly, prairie dock and sneezeweed. Hopefully, someone will lead a future hike on the REI River Trail that goes through the woods by the Scioto River. After our hike, a meal at Golden Corral on Stringtown Road was enjoyed by the hungry and hot hikers.

Social Reports ...





Christmas Party

Dec. 3, 2016 Carol Beal, coordinator

New friends, old friends and friends—20 in all—from afar met at Blacklick Metro Park for our annual ChristmasParty. We have a common interest or two, as most friends do. The day was filled with music and laughter tale after tale and hiking four miles along the trail. Goodies galore filled the seven-foot tables, we feasted upon them 'til we could eat no more. The party ended much too soon, the Christmas spirit that filled the room entered our hearts 'ere we drove out of sight. 'Til we meet again!

Fall Camp: Camp McPherson

Oct. 14-16, 2016

Jeanne Barbee, coordinator

Two dozen people signed up for Fall Camp weekend at Camp McPherson, and they were rewarded with good weather for all three days. Friday began with Kathleen, Tami and Marge Roberts, plus Heidi and others, gathering small sticks to get the fire going early. It was lit at just the right time, as a limping Jim Dearnell and Carol Beal and all arrived with their additions to the table. Serious weiner roasting ensued, which produced satisfied campers, and was topped off with marshmallows and s'mores. Next, we put away leftovers and 16 of us went out for a full-moon, three-mile hike. This year we had the excitement of a large neighbor dog giving us a good scare! Luckily, its owner got it under control quickly. The rest of the evening was calmer with puzzles started on two tables and snacks continuing on as some scanned through old hiking pictures. Amazing how young some of us were earlier!

Saturday breakfast was good, and the cooks provided us with great supplies to choose from to pack for the long and short hikes we had planned. Jamie Abel came up to lead the long nine-mile hike. John led the other four-mile hike, and we met back at the campground after the first part to eat these packed lunches. Then the longer nine-mile hike continued along the beautiful ridge trail which ended up back at the camp store to enjoy the ice cream and Halloween costume parade! Then all rushed back to camp where more food was enjoyed. Jamie and Harry and Margaret Sanger joined us for this time together.

We decided to have our Camp Vespers service by the fire for a change, with Jim Dearnell playing on the guitar for us. Different members read poems or devotionals as we tried to sing-a-long. It got dark quickly and flashlights were passed around for the readers. We may need more practice before trying this again, but our thoughts were good! We voted to return again to Camp McPherson next year, as it has a great space for us to sleep and meet, with the campfire space all provided and good hikes available nearby as well. So, the evening continued with some serious work done on with the jigsaw puzzles.

The next day after breakfast, 20 hikers headed out to do the special four-mile hike to Lyons Falls, led by Dick Barbee with Jeanne Barbee sweeping up the rear. This is more leisurely paced with stops for picture taking. Unfortunately, Dick's pictures can't be shown as they were lost in the drain tank on the combine, and the water ruined them. Anyone wishing to share their photos from camp, please post them on the club's Facebook page or send them to Jamie Abel (jaabel@yahoo.com).







Barbee Ranch Outing

Sept. 24, 2016 Dick & Jeanne Barbee, hosts

This year, we organized our virgin hike on the Barbee Ranch, so called as this is where the young dairy cattle stayed during the summer in years past. Since it is no longer used for cattle, trees and invasive honeysuckle have turned parts into a stand of woods. Dick led 24 hikers through the maple tree areas, the buckeye tree growth and the cotton wood area. The front hay pastures were mowed into alleyways through pretty meadow flowers and red stem grasses. Though pretty flat, the uneven pasture and hot day added a few degrees of difficulty to the five-mile hike. To make this hike educational, we walked down to see the bridge being built on Borror Road. It's tilted to one side so rain will run off. We also walked the rows of pine trees that had been planted as Christmas trees by the Barbee family about 35 years ago. Dick also led the hikers on a path around the daylily, peony and hosta beds (a few were still blooming). He then led them to the pawpaw trees near the fence and past a big owl nest high in one pine tree. Roberta Core had come early to help Dick load bales of hay on the wagons for the hayride. Hikers climbed aboard for a trip around the hayfield and the other hiking areas and back up to the backyard, where the smell of hot dogs and hamburgers lured them off the wagons. Grandson Josh was the grill chef for the afternoon. People unpacked their specialties, and the serious business of fixing dinner got underway. Several of our injured hikers—Jim Dearnell, Margaret and Harry Sanger, David and Wanda Pack, Mike Bankiewicz and Clara Coyle—were keeping the hospitality going inside the air conditioning while the hikers were away. Finally, all 37 came together to party hearty! A good first-time hike at the ranch!

Trekking Tidbits ...

Thru-Hiking: It isn't simply for the views

Over the last decade, I have hiked more than 20,000 miles on some of the most iconic trails in the U.S. But I have never seen a sunrise in the San Juan Mountains, never watched the ponies in Virginia's Grayson Highlands or witnessed the breathtaking snow-packed peaks in the Sierras. I can't see the forest, the blazes that guide my way or even the trails that I hike.



To navigate, I trace the letters of trail signs with my fingers, feel the path through the soles of my shoes and calculate mileage by keeping track of my cadence and time. I often hike alone with my guide dog, Tennille, as my only companion. And although I'm totally blind, I can't imagine ever stopping or doing anything else.

■ Why do I do it?

Most people want to know why I would want to thru-hike solo, since I'm not able to enjoy the views. But in my opinion, I don't think any thru-hiker would go through months of physical, mental and emotional hardship simply for the views. We each embark on a thru-hike to discover something about ourselves. Through deprivation and hardship comes clarity, understanding and growth. Essentially, a thru-hike is a quest, and like most, I do it to step outside my comfort zone and push the barriers of what is considered possible for a blind person to achieve.

I'm sure that hiking, and life in general, would be a lot easier if I could see. But every mountain I climb is a victory and every time I successfully find my camp it's an accomplishment. And when I sit safely in my tent at the end of each day, I savor these moments, knowing that I have to do more planning, work harder and exert more energy and effort to get the same results as someone with sight. It is this added struggle that makes me appreciate even the small victories and accomplishments that others might take for granted.

■ Don't you wish ...

Sure, there are times when I wonder what the view is like

from the summit. But, honestly, I wouldn't change anything. Society perceives the world mostly through visual images, leaving it with a one dimensional memory of an event. But since I am unable to see, I rely on all of my remaining senses. I concentrate on how things sound, how they feel, and how things smell to develop my own picture of where I have been and where I am going.

■ Would you still?

After many years on the trail, I believe I have finally learned how to hear and sense what others see. And although my memories are not pictures in the normal sense of the word, they are multidimensional and very robust.

John Muir once wrote, "We hike to see, and to see what it is that we see." So the next time you are standing on a summit, or watching a storm develop on the horizon, take a moment to close

your eyes, listen to the sounds, take in the smells, and feel your environment. Then ask yourself ... Would you still hike if you were unable to see?

This article was written by Trevor Thomas, the world's only blind professional long distance hiker. In 2008, he became the first blind person in history to successfully complete a solo, unassisted thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail. He's since completed the Pacific Crest Trail and become the first blind person to summit Mt. Whitney to name a few feats. The article has been edited here for space and fair use, but the full, most-interesting article can be found online at Thermarestblog.com: http://thermarestblog.com/thru-hiking-isnt-simply-views/?utm_source=TAR+-+Oct+2016+-

⁺Thru+Hiking+Isn%E2%80%99t+Simply+for+the+Views+-+Test+A&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=36262026&utm_t erm=1819959405&utm_content=Monday%2C+October+17%2C+ 2016.

Hiking first aid kit:

An essential checklist for the trail

I have a running joke that I've fallen off my bike in the most beautiful places in the world, from Bora Bora to the Galápagos Islands. The worst fall happened when cycling through the quiet country lanes of our tiny French village.

Thankfully, I've managed to avoid similar incidents while hiking but it's likely a matter of time given that we at Atlas & Boots enjoy things like climbing Nevis Peak unguided and trekking active volcanoes. As such, I've put aside my complacency and put together a hiking first aid kit, perfect for those who wander outdoors.

■ Hiking first aid kit: apps

First Aid by Red Cross

Platforms: iOS, Android, Windows | Price: Free

The official Red Cross First Aid app is available worldwide and is tailored to the user's location (i.e. American, British, Australian Red Cross organisations). The app provides pre-loaded content with instant access to all safety information at any time including expert advice for everyday emergencies. There are videos, diagrams, interactive quizzes and simple step-by-step advice to help users deal with and prepare for emergencies – an intrinsic addition to your hiking first aid kit.

SnakeBite911

Platforms: iOS | Price: Free

SnakeBite911 provides emergency information on how to treat a snake bite and includes a photo library to help snake identification. It provides a list of dos and don'ts and dispels treatment myths that actually put the victim at greater risk of infection or loss of limb (e.g. don't apply suction to the bite site!). One key aim is to prevent snake bites in the first place. The app does this through the Snake Sightings Map which allows users to view and enter snake sightings, and get advice on how to best navigate snake-inhabited terrain. Should the worst happen, users can find the nearest hospital equipped to deal with snake bites using the Hospital Locator feature.

TripWhistle

Platforms: iOS | Price: Free

TripWhistle stores a comprehensive list of emergency numbers across the world. It allows you to make a call from within the app and displays your location while on the phone so you can tell first responders exactly where you are. You can also share your location coordinates via email, SMS or social apps: simply tap the share button next to the coordinates, choose who to send it to and they will receive the coordinates along with your position on Google Maps.

Cairn

Platforms: iOS | Price: Free

<u>Cairn</u> allows you to pinpoint cell coverage using crowdsourced data. Using its simple interface, you can find spots in which other users were able to secure a signal. Hikers can contribute data by allowing the app to log their movements. It will automatically track where it sees coverage and use the data to expand and enrich the information available for everyone. While it doesn't administer hiking first aid itself, it may prove invaluable in an emergency situation that requires cellphone coverage.

■ Hiking first aid kit: gear

For our physical hiking first aid kit, consider the following:

General

Primary care leaflet Tweezers Scissors Safety pins Disposable gloves* Thermometer* Thermal blanket*[†]



Medication

Painkillers*

Bandages

Open woven bandage Crepe bandage Triangular bandages*

Preparation and tapes

Antiseptic cream[†] Gauze swabs Tape Hygienic cleansing wipes

Dressings

Assorted plasters Low adherent dressing

* Not included in Lifesystems Pocket † Not included in Lifesystems Explorer

This article was written by Kia Abdullah, author, travel writer and born-and-bred Londoner. It has been edited here for space and fair use, but the full article can be found online at Atlas & Boots: http://www.atlasandboots.com/hiking-first-aid-kit/

In 2017, there will be 10 days when you can enjoy a fee-free vacation to a national park:

- Jan. 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Feb. 20: Presidents Day
- April 15-16 and April 22-23: National Park Week Weekends
- Aug. 25: National Park Service Birthday
- Sept. 30: National Public Lands Day
- Nov. 11-12: Veterans Day Weekend

Logic Problem: Hiking in Yellowstone

Shelly Hazard created this puzzle, which tells a story of five friends making their first trip to hike at Yellowstone Park. They were overwhelmed at first by the sheer quantity of blazed trails, but finally chose a sampling of trails to try out. The last trail they picked was a longer trail so they camped overnight on the trail for their last night.

Determine the full name of each hiker, the name of the trail each one picked (they each picked one), the type of animal each saw for the first time, the special treat each packed for their campout, and the new piece of equipment each added to their gear for the overnight hike. Some clues:

- The five trails were selected by Mr. West, the person who saw a bison, the friend who saw a mule deer, the one who brought a flashlight and Kevin, who brought freeze-dried ice cream.
- Rescue Creek Trail was chosen by Harry, who didn't bring the chocolate. Jacob, whose last name wasn't Smith or West, brought the stove but didn't pick the Heart Lake Trail.
- Aaron, whose last name wasn't Eastwood, saw his first mountain goat, but didn't bring a new backpack. Dana, who didn't bring brownies, didn't see the mule deer.
- The five friends are: the one who saw the gray wolf, Dana, the one who picked the Lewis Channel Trail, Mr. Parker, and the one who brought both the apples and utensils.
- The one who picked the Fawn Pass Trail, which wasn't Mr.
 West or Aaron, also brought marshmallows. The Lava Creek

Trail was chosen by the friend who brought the tent.

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• Mr. West, who wasn't Dana, saw a lynx but didn't bring brownies. The one who picked the Lewis Channel Trail also brought the flashlight. Kevin Racklin did not pick the Heart Lake Trail or bring a backpack.

(Play it online at Puzzlers Paradise: http://www.puzzlersparadise.com/LP/index.html#hiking-in-yellowstone)

