

# Welcome To 2011 NCTA Conference!



## Tuesday, August 9

- 1 10:00am Two Night Backpacking Trip:** The 29 mile Twin Valley Trail (TVT) (as seen in the May 2011 Issue of Backpacker Magazine) provides an experience reminiscent of legendary wilderness trails with hills, babbling brooks, abundant wildlife, history and small town charm located only 20 minutes from Dayton in Germantown MetroPark, designated an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society. Day one will be an 8.6 mile hike into Cedar Ridge Campsite. Day two is a 4.6 mile hike to Oak Ridge Campsite with Day 3 a quick 2 mile hike out. Your own food & gear.

Meet at 10:00am Tuesday at 6206 Boomershine Rd., Germantown; return by 11:00am Thursday.

## On Your Way to Ohio

“On Your Way” events are planned for your convenience to get a little more out of your trip on the way to or from Dayton. We’ve packaged three separate authentic experiences located at the confluences of trails in small historic towns. Local volunteers will meet you and serve as your guide. All arrangements for food and lodging during these events are your responsibility, but please register so we know to expect you.

## **In Beautiful Dayton, Ohio, The Largest Trail Town On The NCT**

Quickly becoming known as the Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest, Dayton offers nature at its best, along with historical sites found nowhere else. Our conference site at Wright State University offers a college campus located directly on the NCT, with great amenities.

## **PreConference Activities**

**Look for these codes preceding event titles:**

**F** = family friendly

**\$** = fees (add these on your registration form)

## Wednesday, August 10

- 2 1:00pm On Your Way: Zoar Village and the Ohio & Erie Canal**

Join the Buckeye Trail and the NCTA Great Trail-Sandy Beaver Canal Chapter in another historic canal town in northeast Ohio. Zoar Village and the Ohio & Erie Canal are where the BT, NCNST, Tuscarawas River, and Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail all come together. We’ll begin by meeting at Fort Laurens State Memorial, in Bolivar, Ohio’s only Revolutionary War era fort. A tour of the fort and museum precedes a hike along the old canal, passing remnants of locks along the way to Zoar Village, where we will tour the historic community originally founded by German Zoarites. We’ll eat at the Firehouse Grille and Pub before shuttling back to Fort Laurens.

From I-77, exit at Bolivar and follow signs to Fort Laurens.

**Lodging:** Primitive camping at the NTR Canoe Livery in Bolivar, Ohio

Salt Fork State Park; Lodge, Cabins, Camping. off I-77 near Cambridge, on the way to Dayton

B&B’s: Zoar School Inn, Zoar Breakfast House & Inn, The Cider Mill of Zoar, The Keeping Room Inn.

SleepInn at Bolivar, 330-874-3433

### **Other Area Attractions:**

Canoeing on the Tuscarawas River from the NTR Canoe Livery in Bolivar, OH

Warthers Museum, hand carvings by Earnest “Mooney” Warther, the world’s “Master Carver” Dover, OH.

Reeves Victorian Home, a mansion containing 17 rooms of original furniture and antiques

Dennison Railroad Depot, a restored 1873 Pennsylvania railroad depot.

**Wednesday, August 10 continued**

**3 12:00pm On Your Way, Grand Rapids, Ohio, and the Miami & Erie Canal**

Join the Renegade Chapter of the Buckeye Trail Association in the historic canal town of Grand Rapids at the junction of the Buckeye and the North Country Trails in northwest Ohio. Canal history is preserved in Grand Rapids and Providence Metropark on the banks of the scenic Maumee River. Meet us at 12:00pm at Providence Metropark to take a canal boat ride on the Volunteer, then we'll take an easy hike along the towpath with a local guide to a pleasant meal at LaRoe's overlooking the Maumee River. Visit [www.metroparkstoledo.com](http://www.metroparkstoledo.com) to fuel your excitement!

**Canal Boat Tickets:**

\$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, and \$4 for children ages 3 to 12.

**Lodging:** Camping at Mary Jane Thurston State Park, The Mill House B&B, The Housley House B&B, Hotels in Bowling Green, OH.

**Dinner:** LaRoe's Restaurant

**4 On Your Way: Milford Trail Junction**

Stop by Milford, home of "The Junction," just across the river from downtown where over 22,000 miles of long distance hiking, biking, and paddling trails converge at a single point. Stop by Roads, Rivers, and Trails Outfitter for an orientation to the area trails and an "On Your Way" Welcome Packet. Rent a bike from Bishop's Bicycles for a ride on the bikeway which is also the NCT in this area. For more info on Milford visit [www.downtownmilford.com](http://www.downtownmilford.com). Enjoy your trip to Dayton by planning a stop in Milford and southwest Ohio. Self Guided (Store Hours 11am-8pm). Give yourself at least five hours of daylight here.

**Lodging:** Camping is available at Caesar Creek State Park near Waynesville "The Antiques Capital of the Midwest"

Lodging and dining options are plentiful in the area.

**Other Area Highlights:** Fort Ancient, an American Indian hilltop enclosure built over 2000 years ago. The site includes hiking trails and a museum; for more info go to [www.fortancient.org](http://www.fortancient.org). For a high flying memory visit Ozone Zipline Adventures; reservations made in advance are recommended for this 3 hour tour, call (513) 932-3756 x1520 or visit [www.ozonezips.org](http://www.ozonezips.org). Self Guided

**5 One Night Backpacking Trip: Twin Valley Trail**

Same area as trip #1.

Day one will be a 6.8 mile hike into Cedar Ridge Campsite. Day two is a 8.6 mile hike out. Meet at 10am Wednesday at 6206 Boomershine Rd., Germantown, return by 11am Thursday

**4:00-9:00pm Early Arrival Information And Hospitality Suite**

Arriving in Dayton early? Need to know where to go, what to do, where to eat? Stop at our early arrival hospitality suite located on the first floor at the Holiday Inn, across the street from the WSU campus, for just such information. Let us welcome you with a bit of Buckeye hospitality.

**6 \$ 9:00am-6:00pm Wilderness First Aid Certification session one** (two-part workshop)

This Wilderness First Aid (WFA) course is 16 hours long (two days), the perfect course for the outdoor enthusiast or trip leader who wants a basic level of first aid training. This course will be provided by Solo, the oldest school of wilderness medicine in the world.

Wilderness First Aid is a 2 year certification. \$160.00.

**7 F 4:00-7:00pm Try Kayaking**

Try a kayak to see if it is something you would like to learn more about in the future. An introduction to the boat and proper safety gear will be offered and you will have the opportunity to try different styles of kayaks on a lake. It's a great way to learn about the sport in a controlled environment. For more information call (937) 277-4374. Walk in's welcome. Eastwood MetroPark, 1385 Harshman Rd., Dayton (Lake Entrance)



Five Rivers Metroparks

## Thursday, August 11

**8:00am Registration, Trail Shop, Information Tables Open** in Wright State University Skylight Lobby

- 6a 8:00am-3:00pm Wilderness First Aid Certification session two** (two-part workshop)
- 8 \$ 9:00am-3:00pm All Day Driving Tour: Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park**  
This tour of historic buildings and museums will take you to the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center where you'll visit the printing and bicycle shops of airplane inventors Orville and Wilbur Wright and the Paul Laurence Dunbar House, home of the nationally-known African-American poet. The tour continues at the Wright Aviation Center at Carillon Historical Park, which houses the 1905 Wright Flyer where participants will get lunch and tour the park on their own. The last stop on the tour is the Huffman Prairie Flying Field where the Wright brothers perfected their flying machine and established their school. \$15.00/person.  
Call the NPS at 937-225-7705 for details.
- 9 9:00am-3:00pm Trail Dogs: Strategic Trail Initiative and Mechanized Trail Building Demonstration**  
Five Rivers MetroParks recognized that their trail system was "catastrophically failing" in many areas due to improper design and lack of focus. In response, the Strategic Trail Initiative was launched in 2009 to address this issue. Spend the morning learning about the process MetroParks went through to identify issues, train staff, and implement a complete overhaul of Taylorsville MetroPark trails. The afternoon will include a discussion on the pros and cons of mechanized equipment, overview of types of equipment being used in the field, and an observation of equipment actively building trail. Participants will spend a majority of the day on the trail casually hiking a total of 2-4 miles.
- 10 11:00am-3:00pm Hike: Taylorsville MetroPark & Historic Tadmor Village**  
This casual 3.5 mile level hike will follow the NCT north to the site of Tadmor after passing the foundation of a canal aqueduct. In the 1800's, this small village was a busy crossroad, while today remnants of this once bustling community have been identified as a significant site along the original route of the National Road (now US 40).
- 11 9:00am-3:00pm Hike: Clifton Mill to Yellow Springs**  
This 10-mile moderate hike is one of the most scenic in western Ohio with a combination of natural wonders and history, highlighted by a remarkable limestone gorge cut

by the Little Miami River. Tour historic Clifton Mill, one of the largest water powered grist mills still in existence. The 1,000 acre Glen Helen Nature Preserve is at the heart of the Yellow Springs community. On even a short walk, visitors can view spectacular wildflowers, 400 year-old trees, limestone cliffs with waterfalls and overhangs, and the beautiful yellow spring for which the town is named.

- 12 \$ 9:00am-3:00pm Paddle: Canoe the Mad River Water Trail**  
Experience the most paddled stretch of water in the Dayton region. You'll see why as you explore this Class I-II river that takes you through scenic parkland into downtown Dayton at the confluence with the Great Miami River. \$20.00/person, max. 40 people/20 canoes.
- 13 F 11:00am-2:00pm Family Hike: Englewood Metropark Nature Play Area**  
This 1900 acre park located on the Stillwater River will take the family to the new Nature Play Area where kids can play in a creek, climb Max Mountain and slide to the bottom, play on logs, and build forts in the woods. A 0.5 mile accessible trail adjoins the Nature Play Area so you can enjoy a casual stroll. Englewood MetroPark is also home to an 18 hole disc golf course.
- 14 Thursday Grand Opening 4:30-5:30pm North Country National Scenic Trail National Park Service Volunteers In Parks Awards Program**
- \$ 5:30-6:45pm Dinner**  
A taste of southwestern Ohio; you can't visit here without trying a little Skyline Chili. \$10.00, casual.
- 7:00-7:15pm Welcome to Dayton, the Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest**  
Learn how this old industrial town is reinventing itself by leveraging its natural resources for recreation, from the largest bikeways network in the country and a Bicycle Friendly Community designation to paddling access on three State-designated water trails, hundreds of miles of hiking trails, mountain biking, and backpacking.





**Thursday, August 11 continued**



Andrew Skurka

**\$ 7:15-8:30pm Andrew Skurka: 4,700 miles Around Alaska and the Yukon**

Andrew is most well known for his solo long-distance trips, the most recent his 4,700-mile 6-month Alaska-Yukon Expedition. In total, he has backpacked, skied, and packrafted 30,000+ miles through many of the world's most prized backcountry and wilderness areas. Skurka's first ultra-long-distance backpacking trip, the 7,775-mile Sea-to-Sea Route, included our NCNST.

During the most remote stretch across the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), he went 650 miles without crossing a road and 24 days without seeing another human. His program will reflect on the broader significance of this experience, with particular attention to setting goals, seizing opportunities, stepping outside comfort zones, and finding humility and happiness in life. \$5.00/person.

**F 9:00-10:30pm Family Glen Helen Full Moon Hike**

No Registration required. If you'd rather get away from Painting the Town Blue for a quieter evening under the stars, the 1,000 acre Glen Helen Nature Preserve at the heart of Yellow Springs is hosting a Full Moon Hike. Depart from the Yellow Springs Parking Lot off of St. Rt. 343. This event is on your own.

For more information contact the Glen Helen Nature Preserve.

**Friday, August 12**

**7:30-8:20pm Trail Talk Round Tables.**

Each morning we will provide space for all those topics of interest that didn't make it into the tight conference schedule. Space will be provided for folks to meet and discuss over breakfast or coffee. Please send your suggestions to us in advance or when you arrive at the registration table at Wright State University.

**15 9:00am-4:00pm Trail Dogs Work Day: Rock Work at Taylorsville MetroPark**

In Taylorsville MetroPark the stone work of the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps continues to provide access for the public to beautiful natural surroundings. The Corps created extensive stone staircases along the trails in the park that now need to be restored. This workshop will highlight the work of the CCC and provide training in the use of a hand powered high-line griphoist system to move large stones, resetting stones and crib walls.

**16 \$ 9:00am-4:00pm Town & Country Tour: The Finer Things of Greater Dayton**

Let's celebrate what a larger town has to offer. Join us for a day experiencing the finer things such as the Dayton Art Institute, a local winery, boutique shops, a fine lunch (on your own) and a little environmental and historical interpretation for good measure. \$15.00/person.

**17 8:30-9:20am NCTA Chapter Leadership Workshop**

Join the leadership of NCTA chapters, partners and affiliates from across the trail for a crackerbarrel-style dialog with NCTA Executive Director Bruce Matthews. Share ideas and see how others address thorny problems.

**18 8:30-9:20am Buckeye/North Country Trail Town Project**

The Buckeye and North Country Trails meander through not only forests and wild lands but through towns and communities. A Trail Town Program is a way to provide hikers with information on where to eat, shop and stay overnight as well as bring recognition to the Trail, build support from local businesses, and engage the local community in a way that builds pride around the trails. Learn what NCTA/BTA are doing to transform the communities along the length of the trail into Trail Towns and how you can make these ideas a reality back home.

**Friday, August 12 continued**

**19 8:30-9:20am Trail Protection: Engaging Your Local Land Trust**

The connection of primitive hiking trail development and protection efforts by land trusts can be an important partnership. Hear the local land trust point of view on how the North Country Trail Association can best partner and engage with land protection efforts to protect the trail corridor. Stick around and apply what you've learned at the Trail Protection Panel discussion that follows (event 25).

**20 8:30-9:20am The Miami & Erie Canal and Towpath Trail**

The Miami & Erie Canal was built starting in 1825 to provide a 250-mile waterway connecting the Ohio River and Lake Erie. Portions of the M&E Canal towpath are currently part of the Buckeye and North Country Trails. State and local municipalities are currently rejuvenating the canal and enhancing sections for economic, educational and recreational purposes. The historic Canal is coming alive again! Learn about the history and future of the Canal from the Miami & Erie Canal Corridor Association (MECCA).

**21 8:30-9:20am Partnering with Land Managers**

Positive working relationships with our land managers is key in managing the North Country Trail. But with more than 150 federal, state and local land units, it is no easy task to make sure we are communicating effectively, treating each other with respect, and building partnerships that will help everyone meet their goals. In this workshop, volunteers, staff and land managers will examine the characteristics of these relationships and formulate some best practices for successful partnerships.



The Belle of St. Mary's is located in the Miami and Erie canal in uptown St. Marys.

**22 F 8:30-9:20am Family Leave No Trace Awareness**

This workshop will be geared towards introducing young children to the idea of backcountry ethics and will touch on the 7 principles of Leave No Trace. It will be hands on and fast paced to accommodate short attention spans.

**23 9:30-10:20am Engaging Your Community on the Trail**

How you communicate and interact with your surrounding community can help you reach out to potential members and volunteers. NCTA has teamed up with the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) to bring you ways to reach out to new people in your backyard. We will discuss tools to help you reach out and what to do with new people once you find them!



Five Rivers Metroparks

**24 9:30-10:20am Creating a Backpacking Destination**

In recent years Dayton has seen all the pieces of a backpacking culture emerge. The addition of the Twin Valley Backpacking Trail, backpacking classes and trips teaching skills, trailbuilding volunteer days, a new specialty backpacking retailer, and a new hiking club have all added up to a lively backpacking scene. Learn from Dayton's recent successes to take home ideas for creating a backpacking destination and culture throughout your region.

**25 9:30-10:20am Trail Protection Panel**

Follow up what you've learned from workshop 19 with a panel discussion with local land trust leaders. Three land trusts with working experience with the NCTA and Buckeye Trail Association will share their experiences and take your questions.

MECCA/Ohio Department of Natural Resources

**Friday, August 12 continued**

**26 9:30-10:20am Hiking Ohio's Buckeye Trail**

Ohio's Buckeye Trail was founded in 1959, recently celebrating 50 years of building, maintaining, protecting and promoting the use of the 1,444 mile BT. Nearly 800 miles of the BT are also used by the North Country Trail. Join us for a brief history and presentation on hiking the BT, the nation's longest loop trail.

**27 9:30-10:20am Celebrating Women on the North Country Trail**

From BTA founder and first female Appalachian Trail Thru-hiker Grandma Gatewood to our young daughters, women are very important to the North Country Trail Association. Join us for a conversation celebrating women hiking, volunteering, and managing the North Country Trail. Help us inspire the next generation of young women to fill the boots.

**28 F 9:30-10:20am Nature On The Go**

Kids join the naturalist from Greene County Parks for some outdoor nature fun. Visit with some of Ohio's native wildlife, snakes, turtles and more; see some of their cool adaptations and learn more about the habitats they live in. Everyone will have the chance to make a take home craft.

**29 10:30-11:20am Hiking Across America on the 7,800-mile Sea-to-Sea Route, Using the NCNST**

The Sea-to-Sea Route (C2C) is a 7,800-mile network of existing long-distance hiking trails that spans almost continuously between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, with the exception of an 800-mile gap in North Dakota and Montana along the Missouri River and a less formidable 30-mile gap in Vermont. The appeal of the C2C is rooted in its potential to (1) offer hikers an incredibly diverse and rewarding lifetime experience and to (2) unify our National Trails System for the benefit of current and future generations of outdoor enthusiasts. Andrew Skurka returns to present the C2C Route and his motivations.

**30 F 10:30-11:20am Family Leave No Trace Geocaching**

Geocaching continues to grow in popularity, and is another way to engage families and children in discovering the natural world. Some ways to geocache are better than others, so learn how Leave No Trace principles and geocaching come together. Bring your GPS unit for some fun during this workshop that will continue throughout the conference.

**31 \$ 12:45-4:00pm Kayaking for Dummies**

This beginner kayaking class will introduce you to the sport of kayaking and the equipment involved in getting started. Participants will learn the basics of kayaking strokes. You will also practice self rescue and assisted rescue techniques. Come dressed to get wet and prepared to have fun. Cost includes equipment, instruction and transportation. \$10.00/person.

**32 12:45-4:00pm Hike: Clifton Gorge and the Historic Clifton Mill**

3 miles easy. Historic Clifton Mill is one of the largest water powered grist mills still in existence and open for tours. Outside at Clifton Mill you can walk across a 90 foot covered bridge across the Little Miami River and enjoy the spectacular views of the Mill, Gorge, and the Little Miami River and its waterfalls.

From the Mill the hike leads into Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve, which protects one of the most spectacular dolomite and limestone gorges in the state. At one point, the river funnels through a deep, narrow channel. The shaded, north-facing slopes provide a cool, moist environment for northern species including hemlock, red baneberry, Canada yew, arbor vitae and mountain maple.

**33 F 12:45-4:00pm Tour: The National Museum of the United States Air Force**

The museum, right on the NCNST, is laid out in chronological order, beginning with Dayton's own Wright brothers through today's Stealth fighters, making it easy for visitors to tour the facility by themselves. You could spend all day in this museum, so several opportunities are planned for the conference.

**34 12:45-4:00pm Bike: Eastwood MP to Downtown to Wegerzyn Gardens**

Experience the North Country Trail by bike as you follow the trail from Eastwood MetroPark along the Mad River and into downtown Dayton. You'll tour the new Bike Hub located at RiverScape MetroPark which is only the third Bike Hub east of the Mississippi, designed to encourage bike commuting by giving people a place to store their bike, shower, and change for work or school. After grabbing some ice cream at RiverScape it is on to Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark for formal gardens and outdoor sculpture before returning to Eastwood MetroPark for this 12 mile ride. You'll also experience new NCT wayside exhibits funded by the NPS Connect Trails to Parks Program. Bring your own bike; transportation not provided to trailhead.



## Friday, August 12 continued

### **35 12:45-4:00pm Fish: Try Fly Fishing**

Join us to see if you can entice a fish to bite and catch a fish on fly. No fishing license required. Instructor will teach basic techniques, and share knowledge related to your specific questions in a controlled and safe environment. Equipment is provided.

### **36 F 12:45-4:00pm Family Hike: Down on the Farm at Carriage Hill MetroPark**

Visitor Center exhibits start the journey back in time to an 1880's farm while demonstrations, reconstructed and historical buildings, and even period farm animals paint the picture. The farm has been maintained to re-create the experiences one might have had on a typical day at the farm.

### **37 12:45-4:00pm Clinic: Lightweight Backpacking Gear and Skills**

Lightweight backpacking is safer, more comfortable, less expensive, and more fun than conventional/heavy backpacking. This clinic will be given by distinguished long-distance backpacker Andrew Skurka, a lightweight pioneer. Attendees will be given the skills to go on a 3-day 3-season backpacking trip with no more than 20 pounds of gear and food before water.

## **38 Friday Evening Program**

Gather for Friday dinner and socialize at beautiful Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark, where our Annual Membership Meeting and NCTA Annual Awards Presentation will be held.

**5:00-6:00pm Social Hour**

**\$ 6:00-7:00pm Buffet Dinner**

### **7:00-7:30pm NCTA Annual Membership Meeting**

NCTA members gather to hear brief reports on the State of the Trail from Executive Director Bruce Matthews and a report from NCTA's Board of Directors. Annual Meeting provides the legal forum to ratify board actions of the previous year and to confirm the election of new members of the Board.

**7:30-9:00pm NCTA Annual Awards Presentation**

## Saturday, August 13

**7:00am-7:50am Trail Talk Roundtables**

### **39 8:00am-4:00pm Hike: Clifton Mill to Yellow Springs** Repeat of Hike 11..

### **40 8:00am-4:00pm Hike: Caesar Creek State Park** Join us for an all day hike in the State Park with vistas of Caesar Creek Lake from the wooded rim of the valley. The Park features clear blue waters, scattered woodlands, meadows, steep ravines, and fossils from an ancient sea bed. Within the Park the location of an important Indian trail exists that later was used by the Underground Railroad. 11 miles, moderate.

### **41 8:00am-4:00pm Bike: Springfield to Xenia, Lunch in Yellow Springs**

Join Greene County Parks' Trail Sentinels as they lead a leisurely bike ride on the Little Miami Scenic Trail, starting out from Xenia Station then heading north through Yellow Springs and into Springfield. On the return ride stop for lunch at one of the many eateries for an approximate 40 mile round trip. The Little Miami Scenic Trail is flat and shaded. Bring your own bike, or rent one in Xenia: K&G Bikes (937) 372-2555 Rentals are limited and must be made in advance.

### **42 \$ 8:00am-4:00pm Paddle: Little Miami National Scenic River Canoe Trip**

This 3.5 mile section of the river takes 1.5 to 3 hours to complete. Paddlers will put in at Spring Valley and enjoy the sights and sounds found along the North Country Trail from a different perspective as we float down river back to RiversEdge Outfitters. Rentals include canoes, paddles, life jackets, and transportation. This is the most remote and scenic section of the Little Miami River. \$12.00/person.



Five Rivers Metroparks

**Saturday, August 13** continued

**43 \$ 8:00am-4:00pm Tour: Canal Hike, Lockington Locks**

This day long trip up the Miami & Erie Canal Corridor includes a hike of a few miles along the M&E Canal. We'll take in 2,000 years of Ohio history from the Adena Moundbuilders, the War of 1812, and Ohio settlement to the creation of the Canal System. We'll even get our chance to ride the canal boat, the General Harrison of Piqua, along the restored canal. A visit to Lockington Locks reveals an engineering marvel at the high point of the canal, a rise of 67 feet with 6 stair step locks within a short distance. \$15/person.

**44 8:00-11:30am Hike: Clifton Gorge & the Historic Clifton Mill** Repeat of Hike 32.

**45 8:00-11:30am Hike: Outdoor Photography Workshop with Bart Smith**

Join "That Trail Guy" Bart Smith for an outdoor photography workshop on the trail, based on his experience photographing eleven National Scenic Trails. "I will bring a digital SLR, my favorite lenses, and a tripod to demonstrate some of the techniques I employ to create compelling images. I urge folks to bring their own camera equipment. I will be working with a Nikon D300 but all cameras are welcome, yes, even cell phones."



Vincent Nobel, Glen Helen Preserve

Within Glen Helen Preserve is *the* yellow spring, which is, of course, orange. The rocks that the water moves through before coming above ground are filled with iron. When the water hits the air, the iron that has been traveling in the water rusts (turns into iron oxide) and is deposited on the rock face. The Shawnee had no word for orange; the closest word they had translated to yellow. The name Yellow Spring stuck.

**46 F 8:00-11:30am Tour: The National Museum of the United States Air Force** Repeat of Tour 33.

**47 F 8:00-11:30am Family Hike: Glen Helen Nature Preserve**

Explore the wonders of Glen Helen on a family friendly hike under towering maples and majestic oaks. Play in the Yellow Spring while you search for critters big and small. On even a short walk, visitors can view 400 year-old trees, limestone cliffs with waterfalls and overhangs, and the beautiful yellow spring. Trails are easy to moderate, appropriate for families and avid hikers alike. Visit Trailside Museum for an up close encounter with native reptiles while watching for songbirds at the feeders.

**48 8:00-11:30am The NCSST and the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Park**

Learn about the North Country National Scenic Trail and the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park from our National Park Service partners. Both will be presented at Wright Memorial. Our partners will also present the NPS Volunteers In Parks Program. Time will allow for touring the visitor center and grounds of the Wright Memorial.

**49 F 8:00am-11:30am Bike: Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park and Wright Patterson Air Force Base Tour**

12 miles. Family-friendly bicycle tour of historic aviation sites: the first stop is the Huffman Prairie Flying Field where you can walk in the footsteps of Orville and Wilbur Wright. The next stop on the tour is the historic Bldg 286 on Wright-Patterson AFB where WWII Prisoners of War were housed. The tour then returns to the Wright Memorial. Participants supply their own bicycles and must register prior to trip. Call the NPS at (937) 225-7705 for details.

**50 12:30-4:00pm Hike: John Bryan State Park to Yellow Springs.**

8 miles, moderate. The park contains a remarkable limestone gorge cut by the Little Miami River, now a registered National Natural Landmark with cool protected stretches that feature plants more typical to Canada. The hike meanders Glen Helen Nature Preserve with its famous yellow spring along with historic remnants of early constructions.

**51 F 12:30-4:00pm Tour: The National Museum of the United States Air Force** Repeat of Tour 33.



**Saturday, August 13 continued**

**52 F 12:30-4:00pm Family Hike: Oakes Quarry Park**  
Where can you find world-class fossil beds, old-growth forest, a native-grass prairie, and miles of hiking trails? Oakes Quarry Park, formerly a rock quarry, features one of the world's largest and most diverse collections of marine organism fossils from the Silurian age, a time more than 425 million years ago when the area was covered with warm, shallow seas. Spoil piles are available for families to uncover and keep their own ancient fossil finds, and they can take in fascinating aquatic life at the park's four ponds.

**53 12:30-4:00pm Bike: Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park**  
Huffman Prairie Flying Field Bicycle Tour 12:30-4:00pm  
This 9 mile ride will leave from Wright State and follow the NCT on the Wright Brothers Bikeway to Huffman Prairie Flying Field, where the Wrights developed the world's first practical airplane as well as replicas of their 1905 hangar and launching catapult. This ride is led by a volunteer. Bring your own bike.



Five Rivers Metroparks

**54 12:30-4:00pm Leave No Trace Awareness Workshop**  
This Leave No Trace Awareness Workshop will cover the principles, ethics, and mission of Leave No Trace. This presentation will be active and include audience participation. The goal of the workshop is to build awareness and promote interest in low-impact hiking, biking, paddling and camping. It will also provide an opportunity for individuals to reflect on their own backcountry and frontcountry ethics.

**55 Saturday Evening Grand Finale**  
**5:00-6:00pm Social Hour and Old Time Music**  
Wet your whistle and swap stories of your last two days with your new found friends as the grand finale of the conference gets in gear.

**5:00-6:00pm President's Reception By Invitation**

**6:30-7:30pm NCTA Community Benefit Dinner**  
NCTA throws open the conference doors, inviting the entire community to join in celebrating and supporting the North Country National Scenic Trail.

**7:20pm Invitation to 2012 Annual Conference:**  
Chair Dave Cornell and his team invite you to Augusta, Michigan, for NCTA's next conference held August 2-5, 2012.

**7:30-8:30pm Live Auction**  
Join in a rollicking good time for the benefit of the North Country Trail as NCTA auctions trail gear, memorabilia, artwork, and regional goodies from the trail community.



Mick Hawkins

**8:30-9:30pm Bart Smith: Walking Down A Dream: A Photographic Journey Along America's National Scenic Trails**  
Bart Smith's dream was to hike and photograph all eleven of the nation's National Scenic Trails, and he was the first to do so, for over 18,000 miles. Bart is bringing his love of the trails and photography with a spectacular array of imagery from America's landscapes. In 1991 he decided to hike and photograph the Pacific Crest Trail with the goal of having a photo coffee table book published. It took about 5 years to hone his skills because Bart is color-blind, but he published his first book *Along the Pacific Crest Trail*. Based on that success, Bart decided to hike and photograph the Appalachian Trail. Then on a whim, he was able to convince Earl Shaffer (the legendary long distance hiker, who in 1948 was the first person to complete the Appalachian Trail in one year) to join forces for his second book, *The Appalachian Trail: Calling Me Back to the Hills*. It covered Earl's historic 50th Anniversary Hike of 1998, which he completed weeks shy of turning 80.

## Sunday, August 14

Directions to additional area attractions will be available on site, and don't forget the "On Your Way" packages described at the beginning of the schedule. For today...

### **56 12:00pm Hocking Hills**

On Your Way home join BTA and NCT volunteers at the crown jewel of southeast Ohio, Hocking Hills State Park. From the Old Man's Cave Visitor Center you will be led on a 6-mile hike from Upper Falls through Old Man's Cave, Cedar Falls, and Ash Cave. The hike highlights spectacular sandstone rock formations, cliffs, waterfalls and some of the largest recess caves in the midwest. Meet at the Old Man's Cave Visitor Center at 12:00pm.

### **1:00-3:00pm Glen Helen Nature Preserve Wildflower Walk, No Registration Required**

Join volunteer Daniel Pearson on a hike through the Glen to catch a glimpse of wildflowers. This hike lasts approximately two hours and is of moderate intensity. Departs from Trailside, 1:00pm.

## Conference Accommodations

### **Breakfast is on your own for all attendees!**

Many breakfast opportunities are available on campus or nearby; map at registration.

### **Dorm Lodging**

All rooms are air-conditioned and share a suite-style bathroom with at least one other room. Rates are per bed, per night. A discount is offered for three or more nights' stay. Sorry, no pets.

### **Hotel**

#### **Holiday Inn (937) 426-7800**

- [www.holidayinn.com](http://www.holidayinn.com) (Dayton/Fairborn)
- King leisure or King sofa or Double/Double
- \$105 per night plus tax
- reservation block: *North Country Trail* till July 20.

### **Other Hotel Options**

#### **Homewood Suites**

(937) 429-0600

#### **Red Roof Inn**

Fairborn/Nutter Center (866)-925-4160

#### **Hampton Inn**

Dayton-Fairborn (866) 279-5332

#### **Ramada Limited Fairborn**

(866) 296-5798

#### **Studio Plus Extended Stay**

Dayton-Fairborn (866) 286-0843

### **Camping Location**

#### **North Country Trail Village**

at Eastwood Metro Park

- \$10 per day: per tent
- on the North Country Trail
- water, regular restrooms, no showers, no hookups
- showers available at WSU \$5.00 guest fee

### **Other Camping Options**

#### **John Bryan State Park**

- reservations at [www.ohiostateparks.org](http://www.ohiostateparks.org)
- located in Yellow Springs, Ohio  
(approximate 15 minute drive)

#### **Buck Creek State Park**

- reservations at [www.ohiostateparks.org](http://www.ohiostateparks.org)
- located in Springfield, Ohio  
(approximate 30 minute drive)
- camping and cottages