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See inside for details.

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- Attractions
- Events
- Maps
- Lake Area Businesses
- More!



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Welcome to the Buckeye Lake Region *We Have it All*

On behalf of the Buckeye Lake Region Chamber of Commerce, we're glad that you have taken the opportunity to visit our Region. Thank you for picking up a copy of this year's Tour Book, which is the essential guide for the Buckeye Lake Region.

We love it here and we are sure you will too. There are many businesses to visit and places to tour while you're here. Please look at the map in the center of the Tour Book to locate many of the businesses, restaurants, parks,

pubs, and fine dining establishments that the Region has to offer.

Stop and have a cappuccino or a glass of wine while dining and watching the sunset or sunrise. Or catch a guided tour ride on the Queen of the Lake while getting a history lesson. You might even want to buy a new home or condo, so be sure and stop at one of the local Real Estate offices. Don't forget to stop at one of our marinas and inquire about a new boat or a boat rental so you can enjoy the view and our amenities from the water.

As you travel around, please note that many of our businesses are open all year round and there is always something to do no matter the season. For instance, the last Saturday in January is WINTERFEST! This is the morning that Benny, our resident bass, will be doing his annual spring prognostication, so you will want to be here along with 20,000 of Benny fanatics when the event kicks off at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday January 27, 2024!

We at the Chamber are very proud of our business leaders, local politicians, Realtors and Buckeye Lake Region Chamber of Commerce board members who work tirelessly for our community. A sign of this is depicted on the front cover and throughout this publication: the unprecedented building of new homes and growth of new businesses throughout our Buckeye Lake Region.

I want to thank all our advertisers, the businesses around the lake, the villages and townships, and the Buckeye Lake Chamber of Commerce board for working hard and making our Region a great and special place. A special thank you to our chamber administrator, Dianne Ryan, who makes all of us greater and Andrea Blower without whom this Tour Book wouldn't come to fruition each year!

We all work together to make the Region and Buckeye Lake a great place to live, work and relax. We truly have it all in The Buckeye Lake Region.

We Love it here and we know you will too.

Timothy L. Ryan
President

Buckeye Lake Region Chamber of Commerce



President
Tim Ryan

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Brody Kuhns



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Roxanne Bailey



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(through 2024)



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(through 2023)



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(through 2024)

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About the Chamber

The Buckeye Lake Region has seen a metamorphosis and enthusiasm in development and entrepreneurship in the area. The Chamber's goal is to promote a business environment benefitting the Buckeye Lake region. This happens through membership and networking.

The Buckeye Lake Region Chamber of Commerce is committed to the improvement of the communities it serves through volunteering time, efforts, and sponsorship to local causes. We offer many opportunities to be involved in the region, and to make your business more visible. We invite anyone interested in the betterment of the Buckeye Lake region to join the Chamber. You can do this online by visiting www.buckeyelakecc.com and clicking the "Join Us Today!" button at the top of the page, or by filling out the application found on page 8 and mailing, along with your check, to:

Buckeye Lake Region Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 5
Buckeye Lake, OH 43008-0005

MEMBER BENEFITS:

- Expanded discounts and opportunities through the Southern Ohio Chamber Alliance
- Your business listed in The Greater Buckeye Lake Region Tour Book.
- A listing on our website www.buckeyelakecc.com and link to your website.
- Opportunity to advertise in The Greater Buckeye Lake Region tour book distributed throughout the area.
- Meetings providing opportunities to educate members about your business and distribute business materials.
- Networking at Business After Hours events.
- Many reduced-cost benefits through alliances with other chambers.
- Opportunity to offer Business-to-Business discounts to increase awareness and expand your customer base.
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- Opportunity to officially participate in Winterfest.



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The 2023-2024 Tour Book is a publication of the Buckeye Lake Region Chamber of Commerce (BLRCC). The BLRCC cannot be held responsible for errors or changes that occur after printing.

For more information about the Chamber, membership, or any other inquiries, visit our website at www.buckeyelakecc.com.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐ Yes, I would like to join the Buckeye Lake Region Chamber of Commerce

Enclose your check and mail to:

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Business Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

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City/State/ZIP: _____

Business Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

☐ Business or Professional Member \$100

☐ Associate Member \$100

☐ Outside Area Business or Professional Member* \$225

*Outside Area is deemed as being outside of Fairfield, Licking, and Perry Counties. Business Members shall be those persons engaged in any business or professional activity. Associate Members shall be those persons interested in the betterment of the Buckeye Lake area, but who are not directly engaged in any business or professional activity.


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WHAT IS THE BUCKEYE LAKE AREA CIVIC ASSOCIATION?

BLACA is an organization of residents in and around Buckeye Lake that love the lake and its surrounding areas.

JOIN US



BLACA organizes events like the Tour of Homes, Reverse Raffle and the Antique Lure & Vintage Tackle Show to raise money for:

- ✓ Scholarships to selected local high school Seniors
- ✓ Local Charities
- ✓ Christmas gifts to local needy children
- ✓ Park Beautification
- ✓ The general welfare of the Buckeye Lake Region
- ✓ The support of Tri-County Food Pantries

WE WELCOME YOU TO

JOIN US: The annual membership is only **\$20** for a family and **\$50** for a Business. Have Fun and help Buckeye Lake!

BLACA EVENTS

Spring Dinner- April 19th, 2023

Reverse Raffle- May 18th, 2023 Boat Parade- July 4th, 2023

Tour of Homes - August 13th, 2023

Fall Dinner Meeting - September 20th, 2023

Visit our Website: www.buckeyelakecivicassociation.org

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The Creation of Buckeye Lake & Cranberry Bog



An Ice Age relict

As the last glacier crossed Ohio, northern plants were forced south. The glacier moved so slowly that a wide belt of Canadian forest was able to move along well in advance of the ice. By the time this massive ice sheet caught up to, pushed over and buried the mature seed-producing plants, their offspring farther south of the glacier were producing seedlings on their own.

By the time of European settlement, most of the Canadian vegetation had long since vanished from America. In a few isolated sites however, environmental conditions allowed individual species and bogs to survive.

The Canal

Early settlers called the 4,000-acre swampy marsh in Licking County the “Big Swamp” and native Americans and settlers alike collected cranberries there. By the early 1800s, the open waters of the original glacier lake were 5 miles long, yet only 400-500 feet wide because of vegetation which closed in the shoreline.

With the advent of the Ohio and Erie Canal, the construction of a large reservoir was needed to lift canal passenger boats and barges.

In 1830, a dike was completed and the reservoir filled, and two years later it was enlarged by 500 acres. The resulting lake covered about 4,300 acres and the Licking- Summit Reservoir was born. Barges first used the route in 1831, six years after ground breaking. Port towns

such as Thornport and Millersport sprung up along the canal system during its construction. Horses and mules pulled the barges from the “tow paths” built along the sides of the canal. In fact, the sidewalk of the North Bank of Buckeye Lake follows the original tow path and is often referred to as the “Old Tow Path”. Even today, canals exert great influence on transportation because eventually highways and railways were often constructed along the abandoned canal routes.

The “Deep Cut” canal is the most discernible part of the Ohio and Erie Canal in Fairfield County, running from Bickel Church Road to Buckeye Lake, approximately 4 miles in length. The Deep Cut is a very deep canal made specifically to get the canal water in the Lake to flow toward Baltimore, Canal Winchester, and on to Circleville. This canal goes right through downtown Millersport.



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The Creation of Buckeye Lake & Cranberry Bog



Buckeye Lake

In May 1894 the Ohio General Assembly officially abandoned the reservoir as a canal feeder and proclaimed it a public park. By 1900, the Ohio and Erie Canal was finished as a commercial waterway. Its name was changed to Buckeye Lake and recreational use of the lake grew as transportation to the area improved. By the early 1900s, Buckeye Lake had become a popular resort spot.

In 1949 Buckeye Lake was officially dedicated as Buckeye Lake State Park. In 1968, it was dedicated as one of Ohio's first Natural Landmarks. In May 1973 Cranberry Island was dedicated as a state nature preserve.

The Birth of Cranberry Bog

It was the impoundment of the Big Swamp which made Cranberry Bog unique. As water backed up behind the dike the swamp was destroyed, except for the youngest, most buoyant segment of the bog mat. A 50-acre upper segment of the bog mat along the north shore expanded like a giant sponge and rose 8 feet with the new water level.

No longer did the floating bog mat surround the glacial lake, as is typically the case with such bogs. Now the lake surrounded the bog, making Cranberry Bog the only known occurrence of its kind in the world.



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Buckeye Lake!



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Cranberry Bog

A critical feature of a bog ecosystem is a simple plant called sphagnum moss. As it grows, sphagnum, upon which the entire bog community is based, releases a staggering quantity of acid into the water. This environment is too acidic for most plants, other than those adapted to the bog



Unique plants populate Cranberry Bog

community.

Sphagnum moss has an unusual cell structure, enabling it to hold many times its own weight in water. On hot days it acts as a sponge, evaporating large quantities of water, cooling the surface of the bog while maintaining a high humidity, absolutely critical for many bog species. This thick, spongy covering of sphagnum moss also acts like a huge insulator, keeping root temperatures well below air temperatures. This dramatically

reduces the length of the growing season in the bog, as compared to surrounding environments.

Cranberry Bog's Future

When the island surfaced, it was about 50 acres in size. By 1910, 45 acres remained. By 1955, it was down to 23 acres. In 1963, the island was less than 20 acres.

Today the island has dwindled to less than 11 acres. In all probability, Cranberry Bog will continue to shrink.

Man, not nature, created the island. Now man and nature are slowly destroying it. This little island is at the mercy of wake and ice action coming off a very large, shallow lake.

Trees and marsh vegetation have invaded the edges of the island where bog acid has been sufficiently diluted and oxygen is readily available. When trees are blown over, large clumps of peat clinging to

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the trees' root system are torn away from the island Just how much time the island has before it disappears is unknown. Cranberry Bog State Nature Preserve remains today as one of the most unique and fascinating natural areas in the nation.

Fairfield Beach

For a century after the "Big Swamp" was discovered by European settlers the South Side of what became Buckeye Lake was little more than oil wells and farmland. After the demise of the canals the first steps of development of the lake as a resort rather than a canal feeder began. Fishing cabins, social clubs, and the Shell House Hotel constituted the development of the South Side until the mid-1920's, when attention turned in a serious way to what would become Fairfield Beach.

Arthur Smadbeck, a developer from New York City, set things in motion. Known for developing rural tracts bordering lakes at vacation areas and seeing a similar opportunity at Buckeye Lake Smadbeck purchased the land that would become Fairfield Beach from the Zollinger family. He subdivided it, creating the roads and lots we know today, and then sold it to the Columbus Dispatch. 20' x 100' lots were offered to subscribers of six months or more starting on August 5, 1926 for

\$69.50, with \$9.50 down and the balance in \$3 installments.

In November of 1926 the Fairfield Beach Property Owners Association (FBPOA) was established as a civic organization for residents of the Beach and at times boasted 216 members. The FBPOA has gone through many phases, holding dances, community clean ups, hosting speakers, and giving the members of the community a voice. Fairfield Beach has grown from a seasonal retreat to a vibrant, diverse, year-round community. Fairfield Beach has the largest area of natural shoreline public access on Buckeye Lake, with a sand swimming beach, picnic area, boat ramp and abundant public parking.

There's more to the story of the Beach and the FBPOA to be written. The addition of a new convenience store by Andy Wolfe has brought fuel, groceries and a laundromat to the most populous unincorporated neighborhood in the Region. Add the energy brought by the Buckeye Lake Winery, Beach House Pub, updates and improvements to Buckeye Beach Park and the State Park and the Beach's future is bright. Be sure to visit when you come to the Lake!

– Submitted by Alex Fant, FBPOA President



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Cranberry Bog State Nature Preserve

Queen III Sternwheeler: buckeyelakehistory.org

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Winterfest in January

KOA Campground

Ryan-Braden Park – Recreation Center – Pavilion

Community Events

The Harbor Community Center

Restaurants – Pubs – Brewery – Shops – Library

*Council Members: President Linda Goodman, Paula Brunton, Don Cable,
Deb Julian, John Lemmon, Sue Wadley, Tom Wolfe.*

History of the Famous Queen of The Lake



The arrival of a sternwheeler tour boat on Buckeye Lake came in 1950 when area native Fred Taylor and his sons of Millersport believed that Buckeye Lake needed a passenger boat. He built the boat right on the water in a Buckeye Lake Channel.

The last sternwheeler was retired in 1973 a few years after the Amusement Park closed. For many years thereafter visitors to the lake would stand on the shoreline and wish they could take a tour of Buckeye Lake. In 2007, the Buckeye Lake Historical Society focused on bringing a tour boat back to the lake. Through their efforts the "Queen of the Lake II" was born, a 48' pontoon boat donated to the Museum that became a

community investment as many groups came together to get her in the water.

Now history is repeating itself. An 88ft true sternwheeler built on the Muskingham River was recently renovated and christened the "Queen of the Lake III". This boat gives public tours, dinner cruises, and is available for special outings.

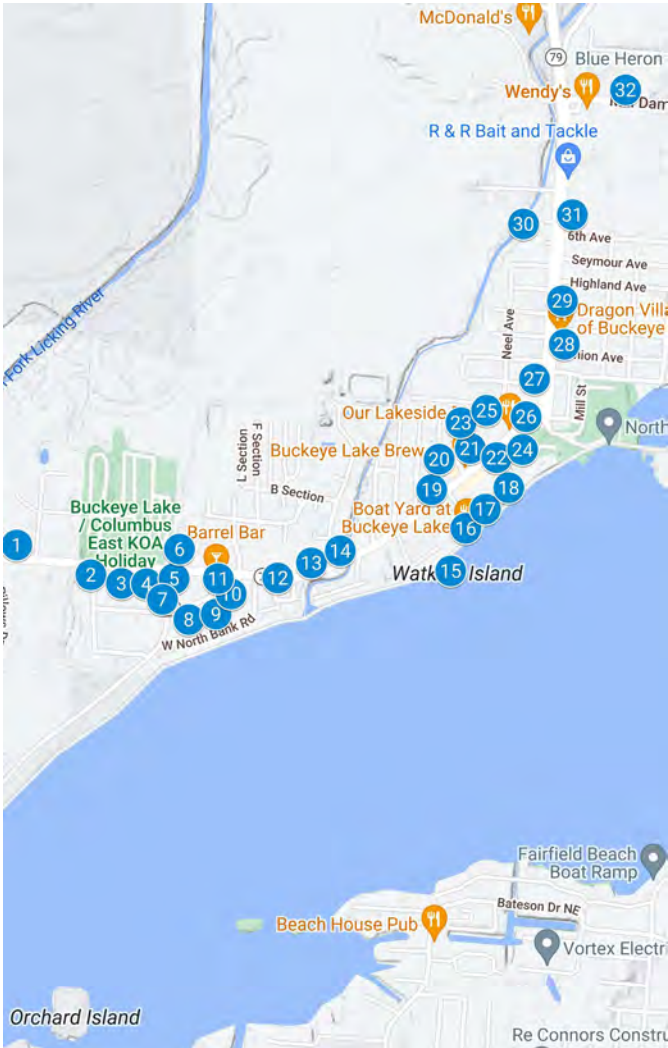
It is a most beautiful addition to Buckeye Lake.

"QLIII" was restored and renovated by a dedicated group of talented volunteers and has become the latest craft to share with visitors and guests the beauty and history of Buckeye Lake, Ohio's oldest State Park. For more information go to www.buckeyelakehistory.org

Buckeye Lake Village

Tour Book 2022 - 2023

- 1 Petplex Animal Hospital
- 2 Buckeye Lake Library
- 3 Jim Ward, Edward Jones
- 4 Lindsey's SmokeHouse BBQ
- 5 Howard Hanna Real Estate
- 6 Pizza Cottage
- 7 Whit's Frozen Custard
- 8 Buckeye Lake Margaritas
- 9 Coffee Shack Roasters
- 10 Yellow Sundress Boutique
- 11 Barrel Bar
- 12 Buckeye Lake Museum
- 13 Leisa Davis/Parker Realty
- 14 CRT, Realtors Lighthouse
- 15 Buckeye Lake Yacht Club
- 16 Boat Yard Tavern & Grill
- 17 3XP Tours
- 18 TLR and Associates
- 19 EYECARE about YOU
- 20 Buckeye Lake Brewery
- 21 Chef Shack
- 22 Lepi Real Estate
- 23 Buckeye Lake Beer Pier
- 24 North Valley Bank
- 25 Village of Buckeye Lake
- 26 Harbor Community Center
- 27 Louie's Corner House
- 28 Buckeye Lake Hardware
- 29 RE/MAX 360
- 30 Bob's Bar & Grill LLC
- 31 Rittberger Market
- 32 The Blue Heron



Village of Buckeye Lake

The Village of Buckeye Lake was incorporated July 9, 1980. This village is located on State Route 79, abutting I-70 on the north and Buckeye Lake to the south. It is approximately half way between Columbus and Zanesville and many of the residents commute to work in these towns. It is a growing community covering 1159 acres or 1.81 square miles, with a population of approximately 3,200.

Interestingly, the village was originally comprised of privately-owned so called "additions." Instead of selling the land to the cottage owners, it was leased for, say, \$10 a year. The additions were Neel, Myer,

Rosebraugh, Bounds, Carlin, Elliott and Holtsberry. Today nearly all land has been sold to homeowners.

The evolution from resort area to incorporated residential village was driven by the desire to update former summer cottages into year-round, permanent homes. Interesting places to see in Buckeye Lake Include the Blue Heron nesting area, Cranberry Bog, the Lake itself, Buckeye Lake Museum, the multi-use trail along the original canal tow path and the Yacht Club.

There are churches of several faiths, a Community Action Agency, the "Harbor" Community Center, LEADS, a full-service library and more serving the residents.



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Village of Buckeye Lake

A professional Fire Department, Youth Association, Chamber of Commerce and Civic Association are all active in the concerns and welfare of the community and in the affairs of a self-governed, growing village. Buckeye Lake Village has a nicely equipped park, “Ryan Park”, with a ball diamond, basketball court, picnic shelter, bike & skateboard park, rest rooms and children’s play equipment.

Several restaurants, a brewery, bank, an auto parts store, hardware store and a motel are welcome business assets to the community, as is a public water system that came online in 2010, along with the re-paving of many of the village streets. Highlighting the community pride is the Buckeye Lake Museum, dedicated to the history of the 3-county Buckeye Lake Region. News service is furnished by the Buckeye Lake

Shopper, Columbus Dispatch, Newark Advocate and websites including explorebuckeyelake.com and escapetobuckeyelake.com. The radio stations of Heath and Newark cover activities in the village.

Fishing, boating and camping are available in the village. The State of Ohio purchased the former amusement park land and developed the grounds into the state-owned “North Shore Landing” park with 3 boat ramps, sand beach swimming area, restrooms and public docks. This park also offers access to the east end of the 4.1-mile “multi use path” atop the Buckeye Lake dam. Smooth and level with an asphalt surface, this trail along the shoreline is unique, scenic and permits both walking and bicycling.

Come spend an afternoon at Buckeye Lake – you may be so enchanted you become our newest resident!

Greater Buckeye Lake Museum

The pride of the Buckeye Lake Region is evident at the Museum, located at the corner of Route 79 (Walnut Road) and Cottage street beside the Post Office in the Village of Buckeye Lake. Open: Tuesday – Sunday from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. and other hours by request.

Thousands of items bring back the memories of the famous Buckeye Lake Amusement Park. See a complete layout of the Park, the original taffy puller, plus hundreds of photos, tickets, bathing suits and

shoe skates.

The Museum features special displays of the Polo Field, the Yacht Club, our Veteran’s Memoriam of Uniforms and Guns, and the completely restored Rocket Ship ride from the park.

A great way to learn more about the Buckeye Lake Region is to visit our Museum. Put it on your “must see” list! Contact (740) 929-1998 or www.buckeyelakehistory.org.

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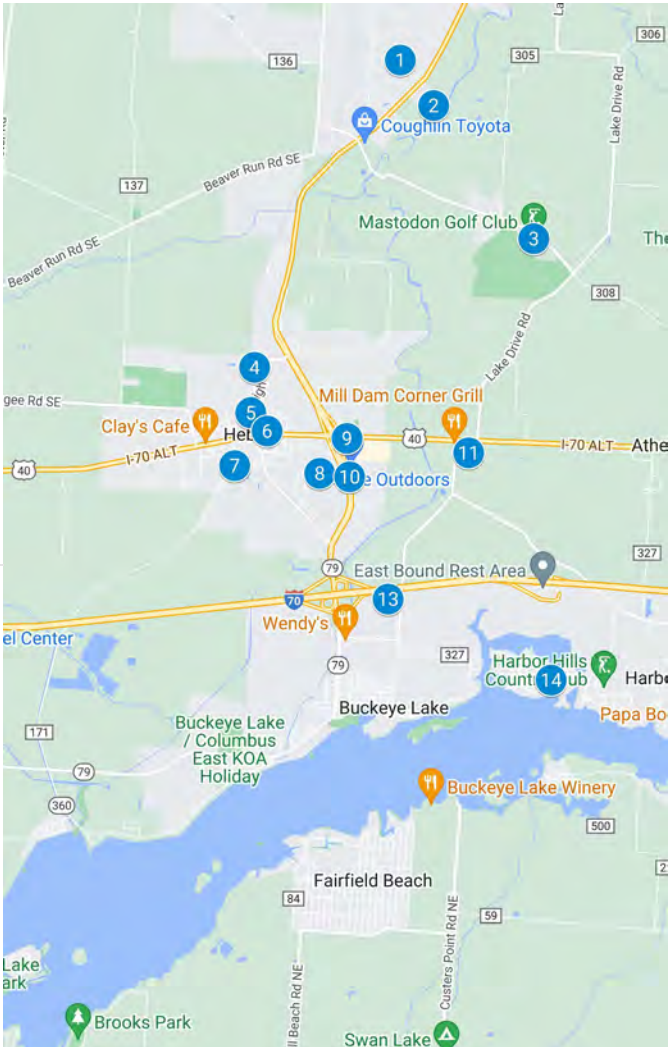
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Hebron - Heath

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- 1 Coconis Furniture
- 2 RCD RV Supercenter
- 3 Mastodon Golf Club
- 4 Mantonya Chiropractic
- 5 Park National Bank
- 6 Beth Moore - State Farm Ins
- 7 Pal Printing
- 8 KapitMarketing
- 9 Commodore Bank
- 10 Vance Outdoors
- 11 Mill Dam Corner Grill
- 12 Crossroads Pub and Grub
- 13
- Buckeye Lake Anchors Away Storage
- 14 Harbor Hills Country Club



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Village of Hebron

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Village of Hebron

Hebron , the sixth town founded in Licking County, is located on Route 40, the “Old National Trail”, which was constructed through Hebron in 1834.

The Ohio-Erie Canal extended from Cleveland on Lake Erie to Portsmouth on the Ohio River, and was constructed through Hebron in 1828. Since these two major routes of transportation crossed directly in the center of Hebron, the village became known as “ The Crossroads of Ohio”, the nickname of the village to this day.

Hebron was a busy market-place as the regional center for importing and exporting products. Soon there were tanneries, sawmills, warehouses, distilleries, stage coach stops and pioneer traffic heading westward.

The Village is governed by an elected Mayor, Village Council and Clerk/ Treasurer. A Village Administrator oversees daily operations. It is protected by a full-time police force and a staffed Fire Department provides EMS.

The Newark Advocate, Columbus Dispatch, multiple websites and Buckeye Lake Shopper serve as our news outlets.



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Village of Hebron

A large industrial park on State Route 79 north (known as the Newark Industrial Park) is a boon to the area, providing a number of assets for the Village of approximately 2200 residents. Hebron is strategically located near Interstate 70, with State Route 79 and RT 40 crossing through Hebron. There are utilities, good schools, churches, library, banking, restaurants and shopping facilities. Access to Port Columbus Airport is only a half-hour away.

Canal Park features two lighted

ball fields, gazebo, shelter house, and a playground. Evans park with its protected wetlands, walking path, basketball courts, BMX park, Veterans Memorial, baseball, football, and soccer fields add to our beautiful community.

Active organizations in Hebron include the Mutual and Civic Improvement Club, Hebron Lions Club, American Legion Post 285 and Ladies Auxiliary, Boy and Girl Scouts, 4H Clubs, Masonic Lodge F&AM 116, Fifty Five Club for seniors and the Hebron Historical Society.



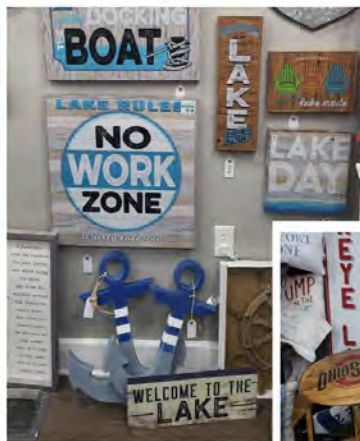
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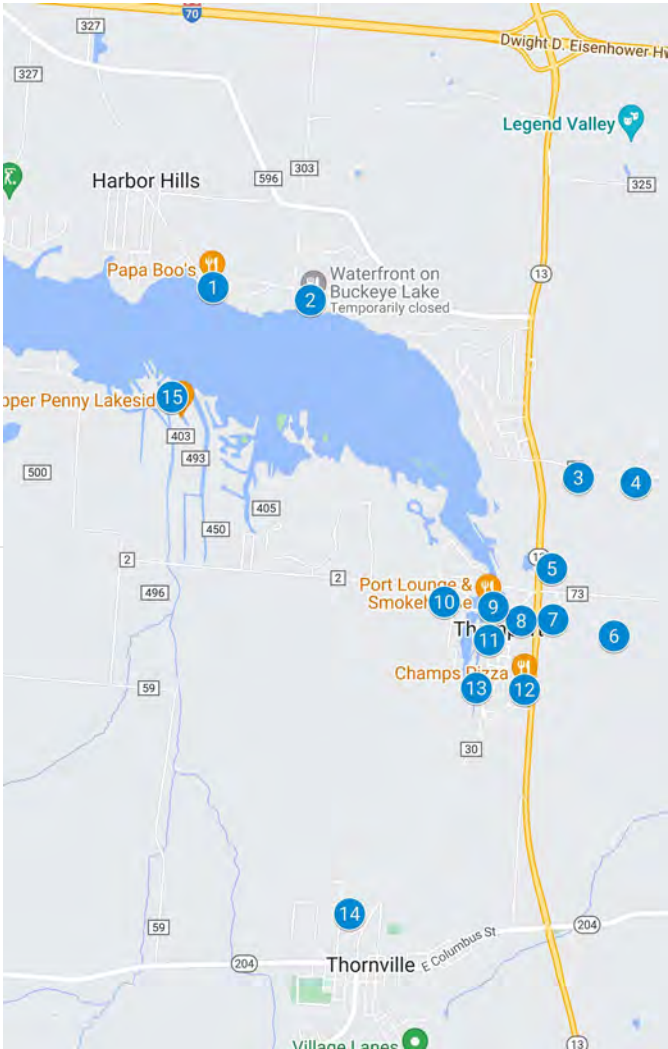
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Thornville/Thornport (East End of Lake)

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- 11 Horvath's Harbor
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- 14 Thornville Medical Center
- 15 Haven's Copper Penny



Thornport

Thornport is an unincorporated hamlet with rich history. It's been more than a fishing resort and a place to visit the local tavern.

A map of a government survey of the Refugee Tract (the present Buckeye Lake) was signed in 1801 and Thornport was laid out in 1839 by William W. Talbott who had an agreement with Licking Summit Reservoir Improvement Company of Thornville to construct the canal in Thornport.

In 1850 Thornport was a lively community at the head of navigation on the east end of the lake and the only seaport in Perry County. During

the boating season, many canal boats could be seen waiting their turn to be loaded with flour and grain for Cleveland. Upon their return they brought pine lumber, salt, groceries, dry goods, etc.

Modern visitors to Thornport will find a complete grocery, several dining/shopping and banking options along with the active and vibrant Amvets Post. Heron Bay, a beautiful lake-side community of fine home and condominiums, is adjacent to Thornport. Work is underway to create a public park with access to the Lake on Honey Creek Rd in Thornport.

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Lake Facts

The State of Ohio has owned and managed Buckeye Lake for over 150 years.

Buckeye Lake, not a true lake, is a shallow, man-made impoundment holding millions of gallons of water from a twenty-seven-hundred-acre reservoir and a forty-four square mile watershed...all held in place by a four-mile long dam which was rebuilt from 2015-2018 at a cost of \$110 Million.

The first Buckeye Lake Dam was built before the Civil War by men and mules using swamp dredging and loose rock fill to create a crucial link in the Ohio – Erie Canal system.

Buckeye Lake Dam is the only known dam in the world to have private residences and other structures built adjacent to the toe of the dam.

First spillway to control lake water level was added around 1910.

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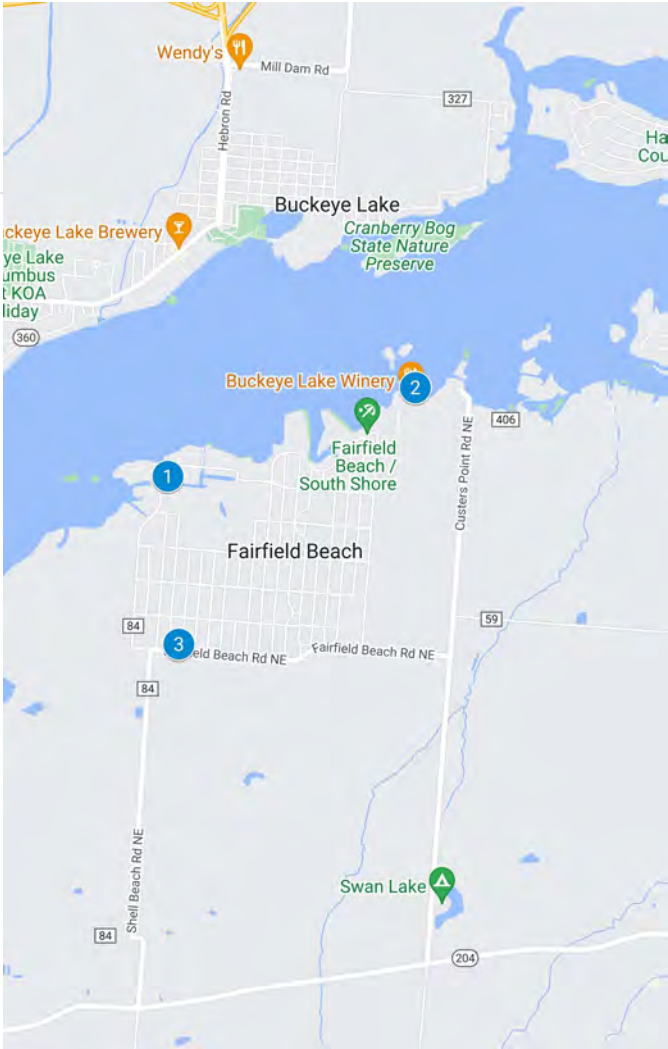


Thornville - South Shore (mid lake)

Chamber Members

- 1 Beach House Pub
- 2 Buckeye Lake Winery
- 3

Marathon/Beach Stop Market



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Thornville and Thorn Township

The most likely first explorer to what is now Thornport was Christopher Gist who in 1750 began work for the Ohio Company, established by the British government to stem the flow of the French into what is now the State of Ohio. From Gist's writings we know he stopped on the shores of the "Great Buffalo Swamp", that he encamped, fished and trapped here, wrote of the beauties of the area and the abundance of wildlife.

Thorn Township, named for the numerous thorn bushes along the southern shore of the lake, was originally part of Fairfield County. In 1804 it was organized as a congressional Township, a six-mile square unit. March 1, 1817, parts of Washington, Muskingum and Fairfield Counties were combined to create a new county, Perry, named for Oliver Hazard Perry of Put-in-Bay fame.

Settlements began to appear on the map as center of trade for the local farmers. The largest is Thornville, platted in 1810.

The early industries thriving between 1833-1880 included tailors, shoemakers, a wagon factory, several blacksmiths, and other businesses which attracted people from miles away.

Now that the railroads have moved out, Thorn Township and Thornville enjoy easy access to the world by way of nearby Interstate 70 and State Rt. 13. Visitors will find beautiful Victorian homes, a public swimming pool, bowling alley and restaurants, banks and antique shops. Thornville hosts several festivals each year, including the "Backwoods Fest" a September festival of primitive arts, crafts, music and food that draws tens of thousands of fans to this unique, family-friendly event. And access to beautiful Buckeye Lake is never far away.



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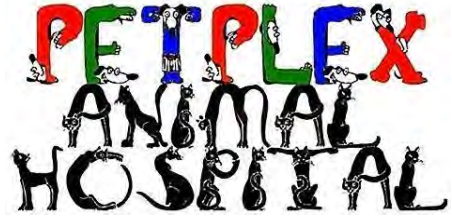


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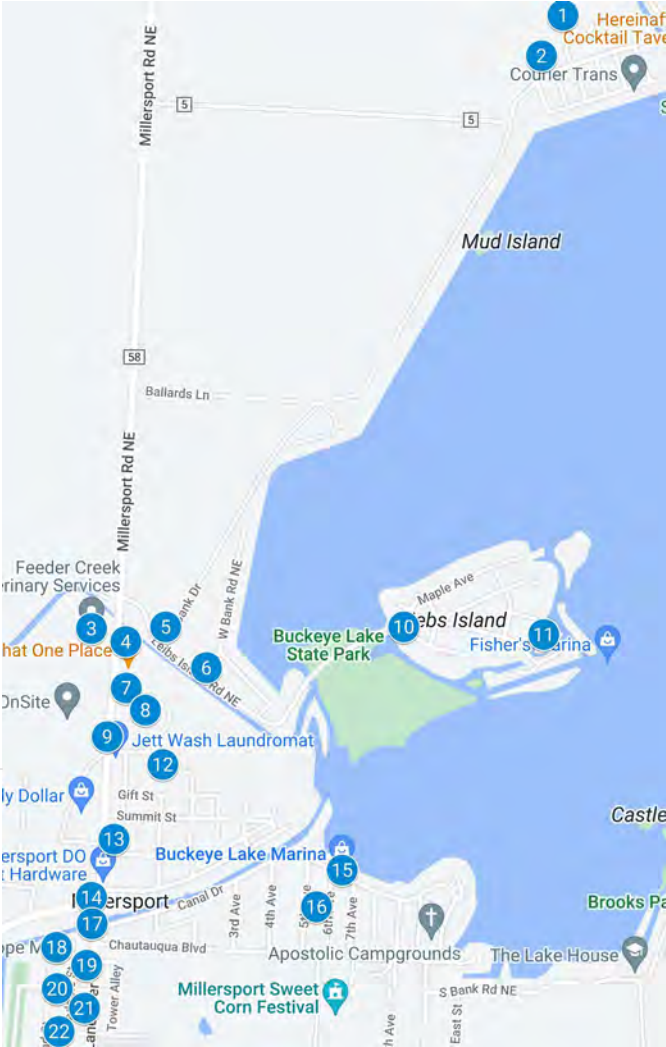


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Millersport

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- 3 Feeder Creek Vet
- 4 Karen's Bakery
- 5 52 Nutrition
- 6 Dockside Donuts
- 7 Magic Needle
- 8 Guitar Parts Factory
- 9 Johnstons LakeHouse pizza
- 10 Pappy D's Island House
- 11 Fisher's Marina
- 12 Wall to Wall Floors
- 13 Hook and Ladder
- 14 Commodore Bank
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- 16 Weldon's Ice Cream Factory
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Millersport

The community of Millersport, Ohio, was founded in 1825 by Mathias Miller as a port of trade on the Ohio Erie Canal. With the perseverance and creative initiative of its residents, Millersport has flourished.

Millersport is a beautiful community with Buckeye Lake to the east and rural farms throughout the surrounding area. A well preserved portion of the Ohio Erie canal cuts through the center of town enhancing the colorful, picturesque community loved by its approximately 900 citizens.

Millersport is located in the northeast corner of Fairfield County in central Ohio. It rests on the south and west banks of Buckeye Lake, an extremely popular resort area in central Ohio.

Businesses provide tourists with restaurants, coffee shop, art studio, bait stores, park offices, service stations, grocery stores, nightclubs, and a very popular old-fashioned homemade ice cream parlor.

Millersport is also the site of the second largest festival in the state of Ohio, the annual "Sweet Corn Festival". Through the years, millions of people have come to enjoy the shows, music, parades, rides, and exceptionally good food. Square dancing, talent shows, games and lots of fun grace the festival each year on Labor Day weekend. With every conceivable delicious food available, the most popular is the steaming hot and juicy sweet corn dripping with butter.

Children and adults alike devourer it with earnest enjoyment and utter delight. The profits earned by the Sweet Corn Festival help finance participating civic organizations and provide eyeglasses through the Lions Club for children unable to afford them.

There is no community as small and tranquil that offers more than Millersport. The mayor, village council, board of public affairs, Volunteer Fire Department and Police Department continually seek to maintain a community rich in history, patriotism, culture and environmental beauty. They also endeavor to enhance the opportunities of the citizens, local churches, civic organizations, businesses, and the public school system. The local government has as its goal maintaining the values upon which the community was established and building upon that foundation to assure steady growth, progressive innovation and a healthy tomorrow.

The Village of Millersport is a great place to live and raise a family. It is a tremendous place to visit and enjoy as a guest. Though it is within 30 minutes of Columbus and Zanesville and within 20 minutes of Lancaster and Newark, Millersport has maintained a fresh country flavor. Perhaps you should come see for yourself, taste Millersport's fruit, meet its people, and enjoy what it has to offer. Likely you too will find it an oasis in the desert, an island in the stream, and an extremely refreshing community in the heart of Central Ohio. That's Millersport!

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Walnut Township

Fairfield County was organized December 9, 1800. It was part of the Northwest Territory until March 1803 when Ohio became a state. By 1807 or 1808, Walnut Township was created from the northern part of Pleasant Township. Its name came from Walnut Creek.

Walnut Township is a part of the Refugee Tract, set apart by Congress in 1798 to certain persons who left the provinces of Canada and Nova Scotia to aid in the Revolutionary War.

The first road in Walnut Township was built in 1803 and was called the Lancaster and Newark (New Ark) Pike. This later became the Lancaster-New Salem Road and is now known as Ohio Route 188 or Lancaster-Thornville Road.

New Salem, located halfway between Lancaster and Newark, was laid out December 12, 1832 by Abraham Hashbarger /Harshbarger and David Swazey/Swayze. It may have been named after the town of Salem, Massachusetts.

The Village of Thurston, originally called Hitedale (1849) was laid out as Bush City in 1881 by George Bush, and a year later became Hadley Junction. In 1913 the village officially became Thurston, named for a well-liked Methodist minister.

With the construction of The Ohio and Erie Canal (begun in 1825 and completed in 1833), "Buffalo Swamp" became the Licking Reservoir, which served as a feeder for the canal. In 1894 the name was changed to Buckeye Lake.

Mathias Miller laid out the town of Millersport, a port on the Ohio-Erie canal, on February 12, 1827, near the southwest shore of the Licking Reservoir.

The Village of Monticello was settled about 1803 by a small group of Virginia

Pioneers. When Millersport was laid out, Monticello was already thriving about a mile south along the bank of "Deep Cut". It had grown as a community for those working on the construction of the canal and had a Post Office from 1827 to 1833. Now nothing remains of Monticello only the "Deep Cut".

At the southern end of Walnut Township, Columbus Street in Pleasantville is the boundary between Pleasant and Walnut Township.

Today's visitors will find that Walnut Township includes over a third of the shoreline of Buckeye Lake, including sections of the north, west and south shores. Visitors are welcomed by several restaurants and clubs, along with marinas, islands and businesses. Learn more about what Walnut Township has to offer at www.walnuttp.com.

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Licking Township

Rolling Hills, Historic National Road and Lakeshore

Easily accessed via state highway or interstate freeway, Licking Township includes portions of the east and north east shore of Buckeye Lake and Rt. 40 – the old “National Road” – runs through its length. One of the 1st townships in Licking County, its rolling hills and beautiful, honest, country character are a rare treat. That beauty is enhanced by the famous Dawes Arboretum. Home to rare and varied plant species from small and delicate to towering trees, you can read more about Dawes elsewhere in this book. Licking Twp recently built a spacious and modern fire station, serving the community with professional, rapid

emergency response. For the visitor there are several golf courses, a major concert venue (Legend Valley) and restaurants both inland and on the shore of Buckeye Lake. A recent major project brought public sewer and water to the hamlet of Jacksontown, at the intersection of Rt 13 and Rt 40, resulting in renovations and new construction. Licking Twp is dedicated to staying green and preserving its charming rural character while welcoming visitors, residents and businesses. Learn more about Licking Township online by visiting <http://www.lickingtwpohio.us>

National Trail Raceway

Located just west of Buckeye Lake, National Trail Raceway began life as an NHRA quarter-mile dragstrip in 1964 and has continually hosted drag racing events since. Today, National Trail Raceway hosts over 70 days of racing each year. During the summer, fans are treated to many large events, including Hillbilly Nationals Demolition Drag Race,

JEGS SpeedWeek, Mopar Nationals, and Night of Thunder. National Trail Raceway offers all kinds of drag racing, from the Jr. Drag Racing League to 280 mph jet cars. Come visit while you are in the Buckeye Lake region.

Find our schedule at nationaltrailraceway.com or on Facebook.



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BUCKEYE LAKE STATE PARK CONTACT INFORMATION



Mark Hoffhines is the Park Manager for the Buckeye Lake State Park. He encourages visitors and residents to embrace all that Buckeye Lake has to offer and looks forward to a bright future for Ohio's first state park.

Contact information for the Buckeye Lake State Park:

Buckeye Lake State Park Office

740-527-4008

robin.fink@dnr.ohio.gov

Park Manager, Mark Hoffhines

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Buckeye Lake was home to the World's Oldest Chris-Craft Dealership!

In 1926 Mr. Edgar Wolfe Sr. went to New York to attend a boat show. While there he was impressed by the “Chris-Craft” line of boats. Wolfe told Chris-Craft representatives if he could get a Chris-Craft serviced at Buckeye Lake he would purchase a boat. The boat manufacturer contacted Sayre Brothers and appointed them “Chris-Craft” agents for sales and service at Buckeye Lake.

It is debated if Sayres’ was the first or second authorized dealer, but when they quit carrying the Chris-Craft line in 1994 they were certainly the oldest.



Does a new Chris-Craft for \$3485 sound like a good deal? Consider that a new car could be bought for about \$500 in 1929!



The Sayre Bros. boathouse built over the Lake with living quarters above. The last remnant was torn down in 2016 during the dam construction.

Bud & Zenna Sayre



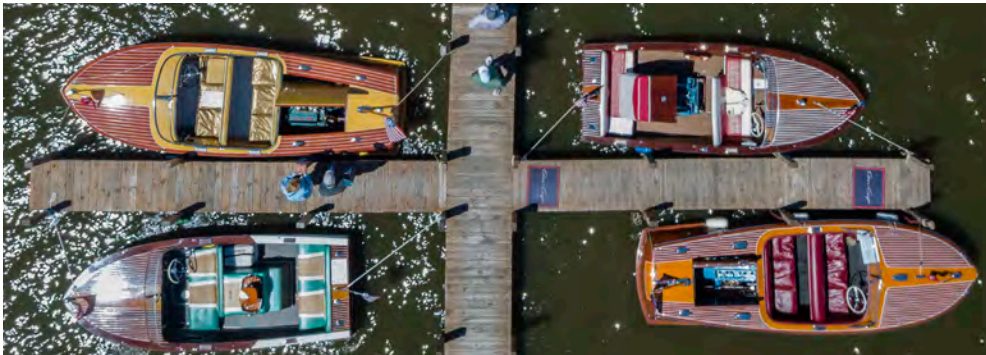
Looking East from Sayre Bros., Wolke's Grocery & Meats was renovated into the Sayre residence, still standing today



“Cherokee”, a stunning restoration by Sayre Bros. and owned by Bud & Zenna



Sayre Bros. restaurant, located immediately West of the Marina



Buckeye Lake Story

In the mid 1700's, Buckeye Lake was known by the Indians as the "Big Swamp" or "Big Pond." Near the pond was a salt spring that attracted deer and bison, which gave the area another name: "Buffalo Lick." The Lake, as it is known today, was formed in the Glacial Period. It was of little importance to the white men until the building of the Ohio Canal. The building of the canal enlarged the lake to 7 1/4 miles in length and about 1 1/4 miles in width at its widest point, the dimensions of the lake as we know it today. On July 4, 1825, the first shovel of earth was turned to begin the Ohio-Erie Canal System. The July 4 ceremony was held on State Route 79 midway between Newark and Hebron. Approximately 100 years after the ceremony, a granite boulder with a bronze plaque was erected on the site by Licking County residents. Construction of the dike, blocking drainage into the South Fork of the Licking River, began in 1826 and was completed in 1830, forming the reservoir which would eventually become Buckeye Lake. In the canal days, Buckeye Lake gained yet another name, the "Licking Summit", because it was one of the high points along the canal's planned path.

As the water level rose, several large mats of sphagnum moss broke

loose from the bottom and became "floating islands." Other islands were also created because the land was above the water level.

Port towns and mills sprung up along the canal system during its construction. Horses and mules pulled the barges up and down the canals from the tow paths built along the sides of the canal. In fact, the North Bank of Buckeye Lake was a tow path and today is known as the "Old Tow Path." Barges first used the route in 1831, six years after ground breaking. Even in disuse, canals exerted a great influence on transportation because eventually highways and railways were often constructed along the old, abandoned canal routes.

The Deep Cut Canal is the most discernible part of the Ohio and Erie Canal in Fairfield County, running from Bickel Church Road to Buckeye Lake, approximately 4 miles in length. The Deep Cut is actually a very deep cut canal made specifically to get the canal water in the Lake to flow toward Baltimore, Canal Winchester, and on to Circleville. This canal goes right through downtown Millersport.

Bike Buckeye Lake



Bike Buckeye Lake (BBL) is a local 501(C)3 organization dedicated to developing a continuous multi-purpose trail around Buckeye Lake so that families can safely cycle and hike between communities. Most of our time throughout the year is spent working with local villages, counties, and townships to identify the best routes for trail segments and pursuing the funding required to build them.

A highlight of BBL efforts includes helping to develop the 4.1-mile Buckeye Lake Dam Trail. We have several projects occurring at any time around the lake. For example, there are now active trail projects in Millersport, Maple Bay, and Thorn Township. We are also working on safety and wayfinding signage for the Buckeye Lake Trail, the current 28-mile loop around the lake.

The route uses surface streets where no trails exist and will continue to evolve as new multi-purpose trail segments are completed. Check out our website for the current route – www.bikebuckeyelake.org.

Throughout the year, we also host several community events, including:

The Tour de Buckeye Lake fundraiser, which occurs on the third Saturday in August each year, and is a community event



Bike Buckeye Lake

for all cycling skill levels. Ride distances range from 10 to 63 miles. Unique to our event, a free water taxi service that is available to all registered participants. The ride is followed by a festival with food trucks, live music, and local craft beers. This year's Tour takes place on August 19.

Our Christmas Bike Drive provides brand new bikes, locks, and helmets to underprivileged children in all three counties surrounding the lake. To date, over 900 bikes, locks, and helmets have been distributed. We hope to give

away our thousandth bike in 2023!

Periodic Public Meetings take place to provide information on our activities and to solicit volunteers. Meetings are announced on our Facebook page, facebook.com/bikebuckeyelake.

If you are interested in participating in one of our events, becoming involved with the organization, or want to contribute funding to the cause, please visit our website, www.bikebuckeyelake.org, or our Facebook page, facebook.com/bikebuckeyelake.



Terry Fischer, President
Bike Buckeye Lake
terry.fischer@bikebuckeyelake.org

Thank you, and please take the time to enjoy what we have to offer at Buckeye Lake!



The Famous Buckeye Lake Amusement Park

Buckeye Lake was home to “The Playground of Ohio”, a very popular amusement park located where the North Shore State park is now. It was not unusual for 50,000 people a day to come to the Park on holidays... Easter, 4th of July, Labor day and other special times.

The park had two big dance halls and all the big bands of that time, including Tommy Dorsey, Guy Lombardo, Vaughn Monroe, Xavier Cugat, Kay Kyser, Lawrence Welk and Cab Calloway played at the Lake.

Free Acts were performed each night in the center of the park. Among the performers were the Wallendas (an aerial group), carnival acts, dog and horse acts, and “Seldon the Stratosphere Man”, just to list a few.

Boats of all kinds were available for boat rides, including the big stern-wheeler, fast speed boats, “u-drive em” boats and row boats.

The Park had many ride attractions through the years. The biggest and most popular was the roller coaster “The Dips”.

Concessions of all kinds were in the park, with games of skill, Bowling, Penny Arcades, Fortune Tellers, a Rifle Range using live ammunition, and a Drug Store with souvenirs.

The Roller Coaster “crashed” in 1958 and was never repaired. As other attractions deteriorated, the Park went downhill, coming to an end in the late 1960’s.

The Buckeye Lake Yacht Club

Since 1912 the BLYC has been located on an island connected to the North Bank by a foot bridge. Illustrating their early political connections, the island is named “Watkins Island” in honor of George H. Watkins, president of the Ohio State Board of Public Works in the early 1900’s. Watkins ran the state agency with the authority to turn this stumpy reservoir into a real lake, and with the urging of the club members did exactly that. The Buckeye Lake Yacht Club sponsors many

lake-area projects and community charities to this day, along with sailing races and regattas. The private, members-only club is open to the public during Winterfest the “Cruisin’ at the Yacht Club” car show and the Classic Boat Regatta. Mark your calendar to visit the historic clubhouse during these “open house” events and check out far more information and membership details at www.buckeyelakeyc.com.



Unprecedented Business Growth

You've probably heard about the glory days of Buckeye Lake. The Buckeye Lake Amusement Park opened in 1901 and was referred to as "The Playground of Ohio." In its heyday, crowds as large as 50,000 would come to visit the attractions, which included rides, a skating rink, boating excursions, swimming, and dining. The park also had two large ballrooms, The Crystal Ball Room and Lake Breeze Pier Dance Hall, which often hosted popular big bands including Louis Armstrong and Tommy Dorsey. Radio broadcasts that could be heard across the country were also recorded in the Pier Ballroom. It was glorious.

When bigger amusement parks became all the rage, and the popularity of dance halls plummeted, the glory days came to a halt, and the Region's activity slowed. The final remnant of the amusement park is the fountain that was the centerpiece of the midway, which is located at the North Shore boat ramp.

The ebbs and flows of activity in subsequent years came as naturally as the water of Buckeye Lake. People have come and gone, businesses have come and gone, but one thing has remained constant - the attraction to the Buckeye Lake area. Most recently, with the updating of the Buckeye Lake Dam, the Region is experiencing an emergence of a new glory era. Housing starts and remodels are booming, and businesses are

popping up everywhere. 2022 brought the biggest business emergence in recent years, with a total of 13 new Chamber businesses added to the Region,



three businesses under new ownership, and two businesses expanding their footprint to meet the

demand. A few examples of the newbies follow.

Beth Moore relocated her State Farm Insurance agency to Hebron from Zanesville. Beth lives here, and saw the need for an agency in the area. In her own words, "I always knew I wanted to be a part of the local community and wanted to be a local small business owner. For me, everything was confirmed the day I opened my doors in Hebron. The community and local small business owners stopped by to introduce themselves. My team and I were welcomed with open arms, and it's truly inspiring. I look forward to giving back to this amazing community!"

Sometimes the big city vibe isn't all that, and the story behind 52 Nutrition confirms that for the Hetteberg family. The whole family was looking for a change in order to heal from Amber Hetteberg's nephew's death, and wanted to move to a lake eventually. When her sister researched Buckeye Lake, the family decided that's where they wanted to move. Hetteberg is honoring her nephew's legacy by following his beliefs of better nutrition for a healthy lifestyle, and 52 Nutrition provides foods and drinks as a healthy

alternative in the Millersport area.



Donuts + Karen's Bakery and Custom Cakes = yum! Dockside Donuts began as a collaboration

with Karen's Bakery, and has expanded to offer delivery of the delectable confections to the lake region. As for now, walk-in hours are Friday and Saturday, and Dockside hopes to compliment other businesses at the lake by channeling their inner baker for the Region to see.

Other new business in the area include:

Unprecedented Business Growth

- Yellow Sundress Resale Boutique, featuring women's clothes accessories, and home décor items.
- Coffee Shack Coffee Roasters – North Shore, serving coffee and custom beverages, breakfast all day, and lunch.
- Buckeye Lake Margaritas, featuring Mexican food and the best margaritas around the lake.
- Lepi Real Estate
- CRT Real Estate
- Hereinafter Cocktail Tavern, a cocktail tavern with a mission to democratize great cocktails in a stylish tavern setting. Serving classic unpretentious cocktails alongside food, wine, and beer.
- The Blue Heron Kitchen and Pub, a lake-inspired, elevated dining destination known for its nautical-inspired ambiance and elevated menu featuring the best of local fresh produce and ingredients.
- Java 13, a fully-renovated and converted café that serves high quality coffees and house-made gelato to order. Located at the crossroads of State Routes 13 and 22 in Somerset.
- Millersport Flowers, committed to providing great customer service, the finest floral arrangements, beautiful floral designs, as well as gift baskets, and much more.
- Rittberger Market at the Lake, a farm fresh market offering local top quality meats, Amish cheeses, soups, delicious condiments, and much more.

Expansion has also been a theme for a couple of businesses in the Region. Millersport Coffee is housed in a brand new 1,600 square foot building with indoor seating space, a meeting room, and expanded food menu, and an outdoor walk-up ordering window. Lindsey's Smokehouse Barbecue started in a trailer, and became so popular that they had to move into a brick and mortar building.

In addition to the new businesses and expanded businesses, three of the Region's most popular staples are under new ownership – Papa Boo's on the north shore, Pappy D's Island House on Liebs Island, and Haven's Copper Penny, on the southeast side of the lake.

With all that's been happening with Buckeye Lake Region businesses, the bar has been raised in 2023. The definition of glorious is different now than it was in the 1960's. The fountain at the North Shore ramp has been restored, and the fountain's restoration is scheduled to be unveiled in May of 2023. It will once again serve as a centerpiece for the Region, the Region that has seen its biggest resurgence in decades. Visit the Buckeye Lake Region's new businesses, old businesses, and newly-relocated businesses while you're here, and be a part of the "new glory days."



Buckeye Lake Library

Thanks to a partnership between the Friends of the Buckeye Lake Library and the Newark Public Library (now Licking County Library), the Buckeye Lake Library opened its doors for the first time on September 10, 2005. It's original location at 41 W. First Street was leased to the Friends Group for \$1.00 a year by the Village of Buckeye Lake. The agreement was that the Library would provide the staffing, collection, and technology providing the Friends Group paid for the lease, utilities, and upkeep on the building. This was all part of a two year provisional status, both parties wanting to see if the interest, usage, and support of the area was enough to maintain a fully operating library branch.

The community responded to the library in a positive way by voting "yes" on a library levy, providing support to the Friends of the Buckeye Lake Library group, and becoming loyal everyday patrons. In January 2012, the library moved from its original location to a spacious facility located at 4455 Walnut Road. The new location boasts more than three times the original square footage, better visibility, and more parking spaces. So much hard work and dedication has went into making this library a successful and thriving organization. The library has become an integral part of the community offering programs, materials, and technology to area residents.

Many people who walk through our doors are surprised by the diverse collection, the vast variety of programs and technology resources provided. Children of all ages love the life-sized pirate, treasure chest, and story time boat located in the children's department. The gazebo and victory garden is a relaxing outdoor space for programming during the warm summer months. And many groups and organizations reserve our spacious conference room for meetings and programs.

Looking to the future, the goal of the library to keep growing in every way. To build lifelong relationships within the community, to inspire learning and intellectual growth, and to always make the library an open and welcoming place to everyone. Please stop by the Buckeye Lake Library and check us out!



This bronze sculpture welcome visitors to the full-service Buckeye Lake Library.



ONE LAKE. ONE VISION. ONE VOICE.

BUCKEYE LAKE REGION CORPORATION (BLRC)

is a non-profit organization open to all political and civic entities of the tri-county Buckeye Lake Region, created to coordinate and implement the mission outlined in BLR2036.

BUCKEYE LAKE 2036 is a grassroots declaration created January 2016 by over 270 volunteers to chart the growth of the Buckeye Lake Region, in order to improve the well-being and prosperity of its residents and businesses.

OUR CORE VALUES

RESPECT ■ OPEN COMMUNICATIONS ■ PRIORITY TO LOCAL
COMMUNITY FIRST ■ DIVERSITY AND OPENNESS









HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

Go to BLRC2036.org. There you will find the work that has been done by BLRC, along with the roster of board members, contact information, links to the Buckeye Lake Region Community Foundation and more. You may also want to check out "Buckeye Lake 2036" on Facebook for news and updates.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

YOUR IDEAS

Email mfnartaro@blrc2036.org or contact appropriate committee

YOUR SWEAT

Email mfnartaro@blrc2036.org or contact appropriate committee

YOUR TREASURE

BY CHECK:

Make payable to: The Columbus Foundation

Memo Line: The Buckeye Lake Region Community Foundation

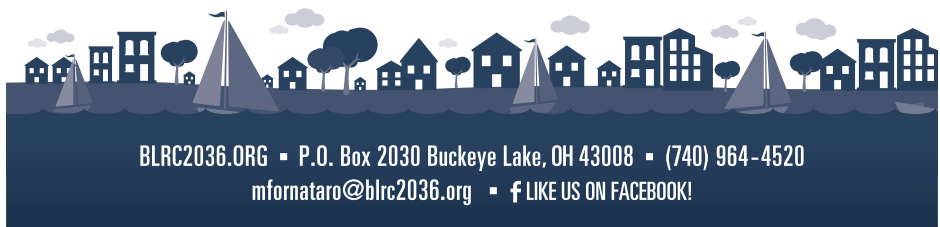
Mail: The Columbus Foundation, Attn: Jeff Byars 1234 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43205-1453

OR ONLINE:

Go to BLRFoundation.org and click on "DONATE NOW"

Thank you sincerely for your interest and support.

CHAMPIONS OF THE LAKE - MAJOR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS:



BLRC2036.ORG ▪ P.O. Box 2030 Buckeye Lake, OH 43008 ▪ (740) 964-4520
mfnartaro@blrc2036.org ▪ [f LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!](#)

Harbor Hills

Harbor Hills, a development of beautiful homes on the northeastern shore of the Lake, was started in 1922 by Harry Freeman, a Columbus realtor. Homes were built on the hilly property and a nine-hole golf course was put in with the 7th green beside the Lake.

Harbor Hills also featured a polo field that was a scant 18 inches higher than nearby Buckeye Lake keeping the ground in soft condition. The field, owned by Dr. Clyde Reed, was rented for \$1 a year.

Matches were played on Sunday afternoons as Spectators lined the sides of the field and riders came from throughout Central Ohio.

Preserving the history of the polo era are photos, balls, clubs and saddles on display at the Buckeye Lake Museum, donated by Bill Gochenbach who, along with his son, played the game. Today, Harbor Hills offers visitors a fine public golf course with beautiful lake views from several vantage spots along the course.

Area Community Service Organizations

Contact Organization for Services and Hours

Family Health Services of East Central Ohio

12462 Lancaster Street
Millersport
740.654.6338

First Community Church 4381 Walnut Road

Buckeye Lake
740.928.4976

The Harbor Community Center

5312 Walnut Road
Buckeye Lake
740.527.1443

John's Helping Hands

84 W. 5th Street
Buckeye Lake
johnshelpinghands@yahoo.com

LEADS Buckeye Lake Center

41 W. 1st Street
Buckeye Lake
740.928.4481

Millersport Community Food Pantry Food Distribution Center

2315 Weakley Avenue
Millersport
740.467.2622

Millersport United Methodist Food Pantry

2310 Refugee Street
Millersport
740.467.2622

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

5133 Walnut
Buckeye Lake
740.928.3266

The Water's Edge Community Center

4852 Walnut Road
Buckeye Lake
740.404.0867

Buckeye Lake Region Chamber of Commerce Winterfest

WINTERFEST - BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE BUCKEYE LAKE REGION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The biggest party of the year just keeps getting bigger – and it’s in January!

At Dawn on the last Saturday of January, “Benny the Bass” rises from the Magical Waters of Buckeye Lake to offer his prognostication of Spring. Hundreds gather to see firsthand if Benny “takes the bait” and predicts an early spring or refuses breakfast, which means 6 more weeks of winter.

Regardless of Benny’s prognostication, we celebrate Winterfest with fireworks over the lake at dawn...and then it’s on! Activities around the lake begin EARLY and last all weekend! Enjoy live music, art shows, wood carvers, food and drink specials, food trucks and more... in 2023, over 50 venues participated in Winterfest!

The fun continues Sunday when the

Buckeye Lake Winery hosts a “Polar Plunge” into the bone-chilling waters of the Lake to raise money for charity!

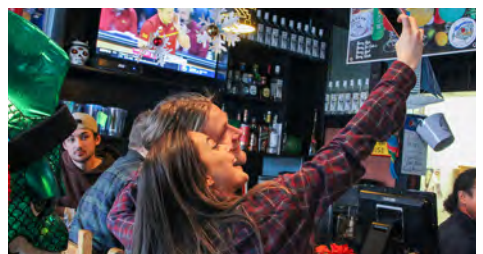
Check out “BLRCC Buckeye Lake Winterfest” on Facebook and make plans now to have Hot Fun in the Wintertime. An interactive map there will help you and your friends navigate around the lake and has details and links to all the Winterfest activities.

BLRCC Winterfest is made possible by the efforts of the Buckeye Lake Region Chamber of Commerce Winterfest Committee: Mike & Ann Fornataro, Tim & Dianne Ryan, Andrea & Phil Blower, Lisa & Dave Stewart, Brendan Underwood, Brody Kuhns, Tom Wolfe, John Doneff, Roxanne Bailey and Tony Brownlee.

We couldn’t do Winterfest without our great Sponsors

Papa Boos
Ohio Party Bus/Lake Area Transport
Jim Ward - Edward Jones
Kessler Sign Company
Buckeye Lake Winery
Buckeye Lake Brewery
Lindsey’s Smokehouse Barbeque
Buckeye Lake Shopper Reporter
Buckeye Lake Place
Marnita Swickard and Michelle Blizzard,
e-Merge Real Estate
Explore Licking County
Lisa Stewart Team - Howard Hannah Realtors
Eastern Cottontail Solar

Escape to Buckeye Lake/Visit Fairfield
County
North Valley Bank
Fisher’s Marina
Pappy D’s Island House
Matesich Distributing
Randy Thorp Licking County Sheriff
The Boatyard
Buckeye Lake Civic Association
Coconis Furniture
Commodore Bank
Lepi and Associates Realtors
The Blue Heron Kitchen & Pub
Heidelberg Distributing



The Winterfest Story



The Buckeye Lake Region Chamber of Commerce (BLRCC) Winterfest is, by far, the most successful special event in the Buckeye Lake Region, and a time when Chamber-member businesses have their best weekend of the year. Busses and area short-term rentals and hotel rooms are sold out. All this on the last Saturday of January, when not much else is happening and many Buckeye Lake Region businesses are awaiting the return of customers in the spring and a resurgence of activity in the area.

This is the story of how Winterfest came to be. Following a Chamber Board meeting in February 2014, Trustee Mike Fornataro and then- Vice President Pat Plankenhorn sat at the bar of John Doneff's Island House, sharing conversation about the miserable weather and how the local businesses could use a boost in the midst of winter. What could the Chamber do to help? Tossing ideas around, Fornataro mentioned that he had been to Groundhog Day festivities in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, along with about 20,000 other people. Perhaps there would be a way to replicate that success. The groundhog thing has been done to death, so how about a fish? Makes sense for Buckeye Lake. Carl the Carp...no, nobody likes carp. Charlie the catfish...still a bottom feeder. How about "Benny the Bass"? Yeah...

The next day, Fornataro sketched an outline of the event, and how it would draw positive attention and business to Buckeye Lake. While Groundhog Day is always on February 2nd, this event would be on the last Saturday in January, perfectly between playoff football and the Super Bowl. Buckeye Lake Winery was already holding their Polar Plunge on Sunday of that weekend. Tracy Higginbotham, Winery owner, agreed that this would be the perfect complement to his event, making it a full weekend of fun at the Lake. The prognostication of Punxsutawney Phil is at dawn, followed by fireworks. Winterfest would follow that same plan. Why fireworks at dawn? It reminds people that something special is happening, plus it gets the attention of every TV station in Columbus, as they all have live morning shows. And what could be better TV than fireworks at dawn...unless you added music and people dancing out in the cold, and a costume character named Benny, and the Official

Proclamation of Spring by a live bass in a 100-gallon tank. Minnows are added to the tank at 7 a.m., and Benny has three minutes to eat one, his way of letting us know that an early Spring is coming. There is even a crowd chant: “TAKE THE BAIT, SPRING CAN’T WAIT!”.

But I am getting ahead of myself. Several planning meetings with the Buckeye Lake Region Chamber of Commerce board were held at Fornataro’s office at National Trail Raceway, with the idea tabled from May until October when it was time to make plans, to do this or not, and enthusiasm for the event was not unanimous on the BLRCC board. But we went ahead with it, and nearly everything the BLRCC did for the first Winterfest on January 31st, 2015 is part of today’s celebration. The cups have evolved into quality Tervis tumblers; the original utility trailer fish tank display is now a really cool vintage boat; a DJ played music up until 2023, when KOOL 101.7 WNKO took over playing music and integrating their morning show into the festivities; an official Winterfest song was written by David Spires in 2022; and the crowds keep getting bigger. A highly detailed, interactive map on Facebook to help people navigate the event debuted in 2020. The logo has been nearly the same since the beginning, and the rented Benny costume of the first 5 years has given way to a custom costume commissioned by the BLRCC. Oh, and who is in that costume? I won’t give away who it is now, but Pat Plankenhorn was in the very first “Benny” costume.

The BLRCC Board members work long and hard to make Winterfest an event that the community can be proud of. It is worth noting that the original core mission of Winterfest has not changed: to provide an economic boost to the Region in the slowest time of the year. It has succeeded beyond expectations, with Winterfest becoming the most lucrative weekend of the year for participating businesses, with some DOUBLING their best weekend of the year! Any revenue generated by the sale of cups, official souvenirs, and sponsorship goes to supporting the event and community. Everyone on the BLRCC Board and Winterfest committee volunteers to put on this event and none receive compensation beyond the satisfaction of doing this for the community. And that is more than enough.

Join us at 6:30 a.m. at North Shore Ramp for the Winterfest ceremony on the last Saturday in January, then make your way around the Lake and enjoy the festivities and hospitality of the friendliest place you may have ever been...the Buckeye Lake Region.

See you there!

Polar Plunge

The Buckeye Lake Winery hosted the first Buckeye Lake Polar Plunge in 2014 to benefit the Buckeye Lake Library. Over 300 people gathered for the very first Plunge, and the crowds have consistently grown for this annual event. The Polar Plunge is a fun event that exhibits a pageantry of jumpers into

the frigid Buckeye Lake water to raise money for a good cause. Whether you're a jumper or an observer, it's worth braving the cold. The Polar Plunge raises funds for a local charity every year, and in 2023, the Buckeye Lake Winery and the Polar Plunge raised over \$11,000.



Dawes Arboretum

The Dawes Arboretum is a nearly 2,000-acre tree museum dedicated to enriching lives through the conservation of trees and nature. Founded in 1929 by Beman and Bertie Dawes, The Arboretum features an extraordinary collection of trees, beautiful gardens and distinctive natural areas.

It is home to four national plant collections, and its 370-acre central grounds were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2016. In addition to stunning vistas, Arboretum visitors can spend the day enjoying:

- Nearly 17,000 labeled collection plants
- A Japanese Garden
- Miles of paved and natural walking trails
- The Learning Garden with a patio social space
- A bird watching garden with a year-round, indoor viewing area
- An automobile tour

Visit www.dawesarb.org for directions, visitor information and a program calendar.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

For Police and Fire Emergencies

State Highway Patrol (Granville)	911 740-927-0065
Fairfield County Sheriff	740-653-5223
Licking County Sheriff	740-349-6400
Perry County Sheriff	740-342-4123

BUCKEYE LAKE

Police Department

Police Business Office	911 740-928-0999
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Fire Department

Fire Business Office	911 740-928-3473
Village Office	740-928-7100

MILLERSPORT

Police Department

Police Business Office	911 740-467-2333
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Fire Department

Fire Business Office	911 740-467-2646
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HEBRON

Police Department

Business Office	911 740-928-4721
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UNION TOWNSHIP

Police Department	740-928-7655
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To report a fire

THORNVILLE

Police Department	911 740-246-5511
Fire Department & EMS	740-246-6735

Legend Valley

Legend Valley has been reborn from footprints of the past, and with kind support from friends, family and all of you, the Valley will continue to jam and be the number one concert venue in central Ohio!

In the early 1970's, Clifford and Helen



Jinks, then owners of the farm, started doing small get togethers. Evening gatherings on the farm became a place for friends and family to come together to jam; and through Cliff's love of music, a true grassroots music venue was born.

In April of 1978, Helen and Cliff signed a lease with George Biddle and Gary Kutch, who planned to step up the talent and bring in big name acts. Biddle and Kutch named the venue Legend Valley. They started doing shows in 1978 with Charlie Daniels, Earl Scruggs and Pure Prairie League. Some of the early shows, which were called Dixie Jams, included Allman Brothers, Ricky Skaggs and many more.

On July 25, 1982, Legend Valley brought Alabama, Hank Williams Jr., Juice Newton

and A Touch of Grass. Later that year in August, Legend Valley hosted Willie Nelson, Marshall Tucker Band, Leon Russell, Ricky Scaggs and the Wright Brothers. One thing that made Legend Valley stand out from other venues was that they allowed and encouraged coolers and picnic baskets to be brought in the valley. During the following 7 or 8 years of Legend Valley hosting shows, there was a true who's who of music royalty, such as Journey, Foghat, Bryan Adams, Scorpions, Quiet Riot, Fast Way, Kick Axe, Adrenelen and many, many others.

In the mid 80's the venue changed hands and was named Buckeye Lake Music Center (BLMC). The days of bringing in your coolers and picnic baskets came to an abrupt halt! Saturday June 28th of 1986, with promotional assistance from Sunshine Promotions and QFM 96, BLMC invited their first show, ZZ Top, to the valley. Later in the year on Saturday September 6th, BLMC and local radio station 92X brought AC/DC's WhoMadeWho tour, which included Quiet Riot and Loudness. On August 30th of the same year, BLMC, country radio station K95 and Sunshine Promotions welcomed Hank Williams Jr., Sawyer Brown and Earl Thomas Conley. The late 1980's cultivated such acts as Bon



Jovi, Cinderella, and Def Leppard just to name a few.

In 1988, the venue would host what was by far one of the best and largest stops on the Grateful Dead tour. Special thanks would have to go out to Helen Meredith, as well as Will and Rachel Powell, for allowing their farmland to be inundated by a sea of parked cars. From 1988 to 1996, most of the big acts were declaring BLMC one of their favorite scenes. The Dead, Buffett, Lollapalloza, WOMAD and many others, were hosted here in the valley. After the last Buffet show in 1996, BLMC said they were done! That is where I came into the picture.....

My friends and I were spending each Memorial and Labor Day weekend with a band called Ekoostik Hookah. After a few short years of Hookahville at other local venues, we were sitting around a campfire at the Songbird amphitheater when someone said, "Hey Steve, you should try to get Hookahville to come to the farm". After a few meetings with Hookah's manager, it seemed things were a go ahead. I went to the township to renew the Camping license for the farm in 1996. Unfortunately, I was told that the books from 1975, with my camping variance, were lost—and nowhere to be found. Without a camping license, and BLMC still in control of the parking lots, my hands were tied!

After a few quiet years without shows, BLMC was again ready and determined to try to bring Hookahville to the lake. Somehow, BLMC was able to get a camping license granted for the farm. In 1999, the first Hookahville was brought to BLMC. Hookah's management and staff took over and did the best production—start to finish—that the venue had ever seen.

In 2003, I was able to get the camping license put in my name, Steve Trickle. All

I had left to do was somehow get the lease to the parking lot that was being leased by BLMC.

I was snowboarding in Big Sky Montana and had just ridden the tram to the top of Loan Peak. I wanted to get a picture of myself and asked some guy to take the photo for me. He asked where I was from and when I told him he said that his Dad owned the parking lot...tell me that's



not meant to be... I gave him my phone number and told him to let his Dad know if BLMC did not renew their lease at the end of February to give me a call. One day in February my phone rang, it was the guy's Dad that owned the lot!

Now I had the camping license and the parking lot. All that was left to do was name the venue. I renamed the place "Legend Valley" and with a lot of help from family and friends, I have been able to put this magical venue back on the map.

Since then, Legend Valley has hosted Hookahville, Gathering of the Juggalos, All Good Festival, Dark Star Jubilee, The Werk Out, WCOL's Country Jam, Lost Lands, and numerous musical and athletic events.

Legend Valley President
Steve Trickle

Thornville Backwoods Festival



“Thornville Backwoods Festival: A celebration of American Heritage arts, crafts, food & music”

Since 1995 the Thornville Backwoods Festival has drawn tens of thousands of fans every 3rd weekend of September to the beautiful rolling hills of Northern Perry County. Over 250 vendors offer primitive fine art,

crafts, iron work, late-season produce and plenty of food prepared in traditional outdoor kettles. Bluegrass music and the aroma of wood fires fill the autumn air the 3rd weekend in September as visitors wander the corn maze and are transported to the frontier days of America.

More details may be found at www.thornvillebackwoodsfest.com

The First Hotel at the Lake

Thomas Minthorn was an early pioneer in the Lake Region, building a log cabin where the canal entered the reservoir (now Buckeye Lake). Then as now, it's all about location, location, location: Mr. Minthorn's settlement became the center point of activity as a “packet station” where horses and mules were relayed so that boats may proceed along the canal.

Mr. Minthorn had an “outdoor hotel” with a large kettle that was always steaming with wild turkey, venison, dumplings or green corn that he sold to the laborers. Food and lodging (in lean-tos) was \$1.06 per week. Around 1840 Minthorn built a tavern that offered 10 tiny sleeping rooms by the night. Around the turn of the century the Liebers of Newark purchased the tavern. At the

time the road (now Rt. 360) ended at the tavern. There the Liebers rented carts to people that were now coming to the cottages that were springing up around that side of the lake. They would load their belongings in the cart and leave their cars parked at the Tavern. Once a VFW Post, the Minthorn's future is bright, as the “Hereinafter Cocktail Tavern” is coming soon to welcome guests to the most historic commercial location at the lake.



Fishing Buckeye Lake

As an avid fisherman and full-time resident of Buckeye Lake, my wife and I are living our dream. I've spent countless hours fishing all over the country, but my home lake is Buckeye. I love fishing this lake, and there are many reasons why. Unfortunately, Buckeye Lake often gets a bad rap; due to the shallow nature of this lake, it turns green as the water warms each



spring. This is natural and it does serve to feed all the small fish but let's face it; you're not looking for small fish. The green water makes the methods, time of day, and locations to fish different than most other lakes in Ohio. Don't get frustrated if your normal tricks aren't working, there are ways to find helpful information. Local bait stores are a great place to learn what's working and where. There are several Buckeye Lake Fishing Facebook pages you can check and if you can catch a seminar on the Lake you will get this figured out in no time. With the new 4.1-mile rip rap dam and the water level restored, fishing will only get better. The State of Ohio has a regular stocking program for Saugeye and Hybrid Striped Bass. Buckeye is one of the best lakes in Ohio for tasty, good fighting Saugeye, large quantities of bluegill, crappie, catfish, largemouth bass, and many people don't know it

has a population of yellow perch, too. Many fishing clubs have tournaments here at Buckeye Lake due to the amount of large fish that can be caught in these waters. With plenty of good parking, docking and ramps it's a natural choice for clubs to host their events here. Buckeye Lake is also very active in the winter; there are many activities on the lake when it's frozen over, ice fishing being my favorite. Buckeye Lake is one of the few that allow licensed ATV's, snowmobiles, and ice boats on the lake, making my trip to the shanty both quick and fun. Ice fishing is very productive and the fish taste even better when caught at this time of year. In the summer you can boat right up to 8 different restaurants to grab a great meal, often with free entertainment, meaning you can keep your wife and kids happy too. To extend your fishing hours even longer you can drop them at the boat ramp where they can walk the beautiful water front, or grab something from the store, a pizza, etc. Be sure to stay for sunset, they are beautiful over Buckeye Lake.

-Submitted by Doug Stewart

Doug Stewart is an expert fisherman; he has earned 140 "Fish Ohio" awards and 10 "Master Angler" pins. Doug shares his love and expertise of the sport with many non-profit organizations by way of speaking and teaching at fishing seminars. Occasionally you can catch him on the radio at 1590 WAKR on the Buckeye Sportsman Outdoor show with writer/host Dan Armitage.

BUCKEYE LAKE YACHT CLUB

Founded 1906



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Watkins Island

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A Boater's Guide to Fun on Buckeye Lake

Just 30 miles east of Columbus, surrounded by small hamlets, rolling hills and corn fields, is one of the most unusual boating habitats in the Midwest. Here are the statistics;

- Built in the 1820's from a glacial swamp
- Designed as a reservoir for the Ohio & Erie Canal system
- Designated as a public park in 1894
- Home of the Cranberry Bog State Nature Preserve
- 3,000 acre shallow canal lake
- 10,000 residents on or near the shore
- 354,000 recreational visitors annually
- Unlimited horsepower boating

As when boating on any unfamiliar waters it makes sense to first do a bit of research. Boaters new to the area should log on to the ODNR site and download a countered map of the lake showing the depths throughout and refer to it when entering a new area. (<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us>)

LAUNCHING:

There are several public launch ramps. At the far west end of the lake is Lieb's Island State Park; There you will also find the ODNR office, restrooms and overnight parking. At Fairfield Beach on the south-central shore and the North Shore Park in the town of Buckeye Lake you will also find public boat ramps and restrooms. There are several private ramps as well.

NO WAKE ZONES:

Buckeye Lake is highly residential. The "no wake" zones are designed to both provide safety for residents, swimmers and boaters, as well as protecting the environment. There are "no wake" zones extending about 300' from shore along all of the shoreline, at all recreational and swim areas, and there is a "no wake" zone across the mid-section of the lake at Cranberry Bog. These are not "slow" zones; these are "No Wake" zones. The lake patrol takes No Wake zones seriously.

MARINAS:

There is no shortage of Marinas for fuel, supplies and service. Traveling west to east:

- Buckeye Lake Marina, Millersport
- Fishers Marina, Lieb's Island
- Alexander's Landing, South Bank

NAVIGATING:

- In general the north side of the lake is deepest.
- The south shore is a natural shoreline and can be shallow, so keep your eyes on your depth finder.
- There is ongoing dredging to improve water depth and quality. The dredge lines are clearly marked with round markers. To prevent damage to your boat and the dredge line cross only at the large buoys. One is red, one is green: when returning from open water keep the red buoy to the right of your craft.

A Boater's Guide to Fun on Buckeye Lake

- From Seller's point to the east side of Onion Island there was a causeway so the muls could pull the barges to Millersport. Minor remnants of the wall still exist between Seller's Point and Onion Island. It is not marked on maps and caution is encouraged. Generally, there is minimal risk unless you were to accelerate rapidly from a standstill over this obstruction.
- The deepest area of the Lake is the no-wake area near the Bog. The route to Snug Harbor, immediately to south of this zone, can be quite shallow if you do not stay within the dredged channel.
- The area between the Cranberry Bog and the shore is navigable. There is also a lot of root structure in the area very close to the Bog, an attraction for fish due to the habitat it provides. Enjoy the excellent fishing and be aware of obstruction markers.
- The East end of the lake is shallower than the west end. Much of the area is under 3 feet in depth. Extensive dredging is planned for this area.
- During the late summer, east of the bog, pieces of the bog may break loose from the bottom and rise to the surface. Be aware of these floating obstructions.

CANALS:

There are navigable canals all around the lake, many with destinations at the end (It is suggested to raise your outdrive or engine). Every canal is no wake. Please be cautious and pay attention to the depth. Here are just a few, from west to east:

- Millersport: immediately north of Buckeye Lake Marina leading to the town of Millersport with public docking where Millersport Road crosses over the canal. You can dock here and visit the stores and restaurants in town. There is even a library, pharmacy and gas station.
- On the south side of Leib's Island. It opens to Fisher's Marina or follow it west to the Island House restaurant.
- Fairfield Beach that leads to Buckeye Beach Park/ campground.
- Once past mid-lake there is a large bay on the north called Maple Bay. You can navigate the bay all the way around the island of Harbor Hills, under bridges and out to the lake again.
- Honey Creek area: There are many canals south and east of the boat swimming area. These are residential with the exception of the Flip Flops restaurant.
- Heron Bay: Explore the bay in your boat and check out the homes. There is no public docking in Heron Bay.
- You may exit the southeast end of the lake up a canal, and you get to pass under bridges. The first bridge has quite a lot of head room. There is a bar and restaurant here called the Port Smokehouse with customer docking. The next bridge is much lower and this is the end of the lake for most boaters.



A Boater's Guide to Fun on Buckeye Lake

here called the Port Smokehouse with customer docking. The next bridge is much lower and this is the end of the lake for most boaters.

DESTINATIONS:

Unlike wilderness lakes, there are many fun places to go and things to do on Buckeye Lake. There are bars and restaurants from one end of the lake to the other many with live entertainment throughout the week. Below are a few listed from west to east with customer or nearby docking:

- The Canal on Buckeye Lake - restaurant, Millersport, west end
- Pappy D's Island House, Lieb's Island, west end
- Buckeye Lake Yacht Club, north shore, members only
- The Boatyard at Buckeye Lake, north shore
- Papa Boo's, north shore
- Waterfront, north shore
- The Port, Thornport, far east end
- Buckeye Lake Winery, south shore
- The Copper Penny, south shore

SWIMMING:

There are two designated swimming areas in the lake: one on the west end at Onion Island, and the other at the east end of the lake across from Papa Boo's. Here you can anchor your boat in water 3-5 feet deep, with a sandy bottom. Check with the park concerning mooring rules & regulations.

PICNIC AREAS:

There are two public swimming areas with parking facilities and restrooms on the shore of the lake accessible by car. These beaches are open from Memorial Day to Labor Day:

- Fairfield Beach on the south side of the lake
- Crystal Beach on the north central side of the lake



A Boater's Guide to Fun on Buckeye Lake

WATER SKIING:

The lake can be like glass early in the morning or mid week. The east end of the lake is designated as the water ski area for good reason: this area has a natural shore line which helps “damp out” the wave action. Skiing requires an observer in the boat besides the driver and an approved life jacket.

IN CONCLUSION:

Buckeye Lake is a beautiful, enchanting area filled with delights for watersports and fishing enthusiasts. You can have a wonderful adventure here, if you just keep a few things in mind. First, it is a State Park, so open container rules are the same as on land. And though we have repeated warnings in this article about shallow water, watch your fellow boaters and you will see that most of the time it is “smooth sailing” (or skiing or tubing or...). So c'mon - join us on the water! – *David Luttenberger*

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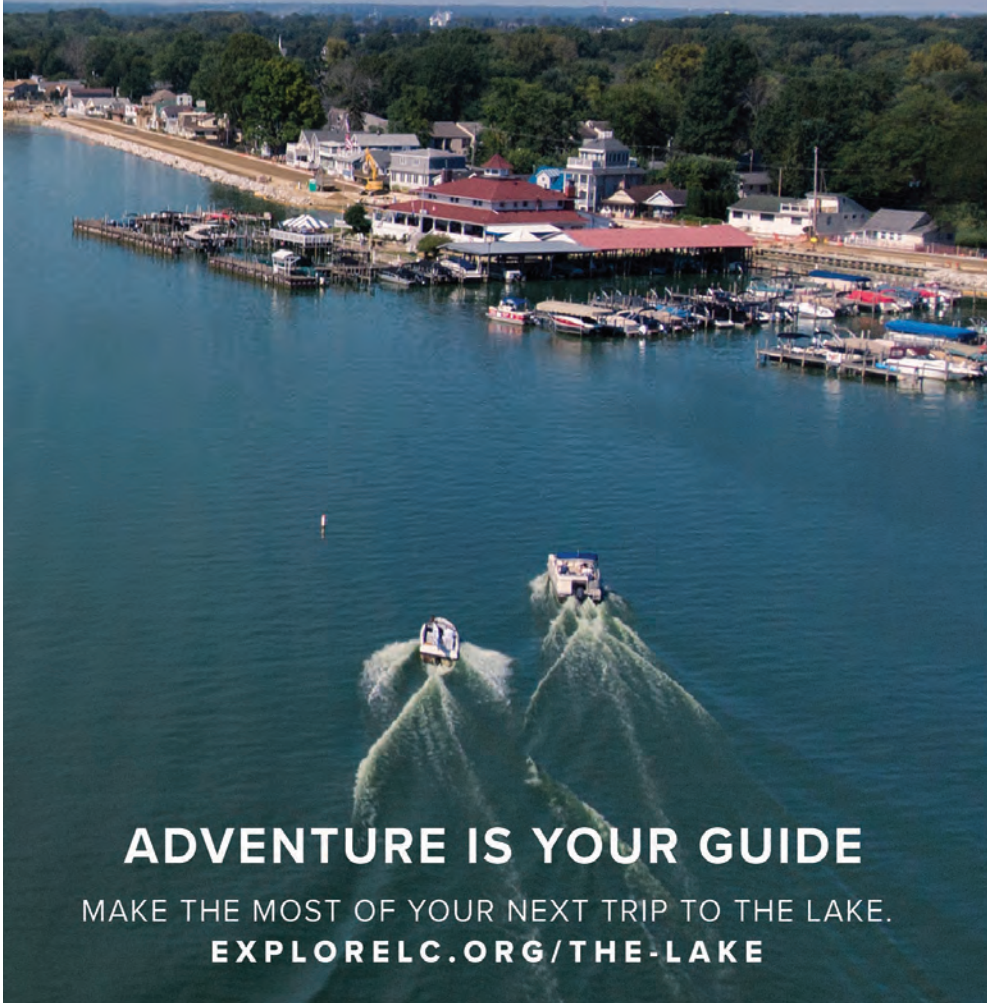
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Dining and Entertainment Guide

Welcome to the Buckeye Lake Region, a great place to eat, drink, and celebrate since around 1835, when Thomas Minthorn started his “outdoor hotel” with large kettles of stew cooking over open fires.

The menu around the lake has expanded greatly since the days of Mr. Minthorn. You can find everything from great hometown diners, burgers, pizza, wings, and “bar food” to full-service restaurants with creative chefs preparing innovative fare for all tastes and budgets.

And entertainment – the Buckeye Lake Region has had that covered for a long time as well. In the era of the Buckeye Lake Amusement Park, the biggest names in music played here, including Louis Armstrong, Guy Lombardo, and Tommy Dorsey, with his singer Frank Sinatra. The Region still draws some of the world’s most popular musicians at the immense Legend Valley Concert Venue and Campground. Looking for something a bit more intimate? The Buckeye Lake Region is known for hosting more live music than you can possibly see in one weekend. All genres of music and all sorts of venues await your visit to the Region. Many of the venues have placed ads in this section of your tour book. Come by boat, car, motorcycle, or bicycle and visit as many as you can, then come back and visit the places you missed!



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