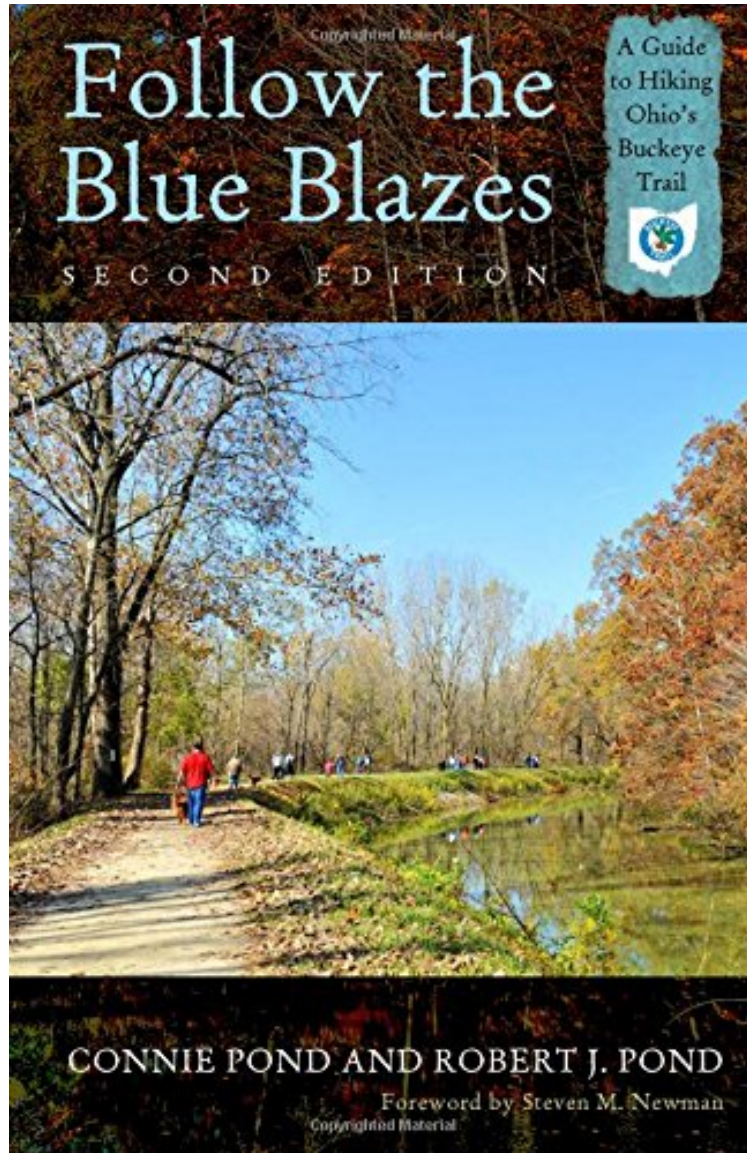


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Connie Pond, Robert J. Pond

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Connie Pond, Robert J. Pond : Follow the Blue Blazes: A Guide to Hiking Ohios Buckeye Trail before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Follow the Blue Blazes: A Guide to Hiking Ohios Buckeye Trail:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great guide book to take along.By J. C. BednarI thought that this hiking guide book was great to take along during hiking adventures. Having grown up in NE Ohio in the 1960s-1970s, had NOT heard about this trail until I read something somewhere about this trail just being mentioned on another web-

site a few years ago. Curiosity got the best of me and did some research. Low and behold, found some information and decided to see if may have something written about this trail. They did and this book was the primary source material I purchased. Living in the great state of Kansas for the past 20+ years, its just a bit difficult to hike Ohio like I would like to, but whenever I get the chance to go home, I do as much hiking as possible. I usually hike portions of this great trail in the Painesville/Akron/Canton areas - hopefully, will be able to extend my hiking parameters in the future. Most of my hikes begin at Headlands Beach State Park or somewhere inside the Cuyahoga Valley National Park areas. Think I have roughly 40+ miles tackled thus far - not much to brag about, but it's a start. Anyway, this guide book is detailed enough for me to give me an idea of what to expect. The book describes the history of the trail system, trail conditions to expect, is broken down into chapters by region and tells you what county(s) you will hiking through for that region, directions to trail heads, maps of the areas hiking through, inter-connecting trails from other systems, approximate hiking time, trail length along certain sections, difficulty ratings, as well as plenty of other useful information. Also, probably most importantly, a description of the trail blazes is given and the author tells you what to look for/pay attention to when multiple trails blend into one, then later start to branch off from each other - thought that was helpful down in the Akron area one day!! Each regional chapter starts out with a geological/historical overview which I thought was interesting and goes on to describe local sights to see along the trail or along some inter-connecting trails. Maps are also provided and I thought that they were detailed enough to get around. Also, description of probable wildlife that may be seen along the trail system is also included - though I did not see anything about Ohio's version of Big Foot that is supposed to live somewhere in the south-central region. Also thought that the geological information in the 2 appendices was most helpful since I am most interested in that type of history. Photos are also provided for points of interest and scenic views. Overall, I thought that guide book was very well written, easy to understand/follow. Whenever I go home to Ohio, this book is always with me, whether I do any hiking or not. Purchased through and received roughly 3 days sooner than promised. Excellent guide book!!!!4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Good, but less than comprehensive By D Swaney When I purchased this book, as a native Buckeye (sadly, only until age 12!) contemplating a thru-hike, I'd assumed that it would cover the entire route on a day-to-day basis, but instead, it includes little more than the highlights plus a few peripheral sites of interest. That's fine, and the portions of the trail included are all worthwhile and trip-inspiring, but for thru-hikers, it would be much more useful to include information on potential campsites and other nearby services in the 'wilds' of far-flung rural Ohio counties - especially along the many secondary and farm roads that make up much of the Buckeye Trail. In short, the book is very good, but there's still scope for more thorough coverage. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not really a hiking guide. By Brian Not really a hiking guide. More of a description of the areas.

Many changes have taken place in the decade since Follow the Blue Blazes was first published, changes in the trails themselves and in the way we hike them. The Buckeye Trail still wends its way around the state of Ohio, following the course marked out by the characteristic blue blazes on trees and signposts along the way. In the intervening years, however, sections of the trail have changed their route, added amenities, or just grown more interesting. From the startling rock formations and graceful waterfalls of Old Mans Cave, to Native American mounds, battlefields, and scenic rivers, Connie and Robert J. Pond provide a captivating guide to often-overlooked treasures around the state. Each chapter features an overview of a 100-mile section of the trail and three self-guided featured hikes. The overviews and the accompanying maps may be read consecutively to acquaint the reader with the entire course of the trail. But most readers will best enjoy the trail by taking the guide along on one of the featured hikes. Each route is outlined on an easy-to-read map with GPS coordinates and waypoints to guide the hiker, as well as explicit directions from parking lot to trailhead. The Buckeye Trail is readily accessible from Cincinnati, Dayton, Toledo, Cleveland, and Akron. Even a short trip can lead to an adventure near your own backyard.

Ponds book details the local wonders of Ohios 1,200-mile Buckeye Trail and its history. The text is imbued with an appreciation for the need to just get out and commence a walk through the world. The aim in writing such a book is to catalogue the various species of wonder close at hand and enable the reader/hiker to compile his or her own life-list of ah-has and eureka's. Pond succeeds at this and much, much more. Ohioana Quarterly