

# Blue is the Favorite Color of The Friends of Crowell Hilaka

*Donna Spiegler*

The Friends of Crowell/Hilaka (FoCH) is an active grassroots nonprofit that is working on a campaign to purchase Crowell/Hilaka, which is for sale through the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. The former 336-acre Girl Scout camp at Broadview Road and Route 303 in Richfield sits on the Medina section of the Buckeye Trail (points 32-33). The property has two lakes, many streams, an abundant variety of plants and wildlife, and important historic value as the former estate of inventor Jim Kirby. The property has historic buildings—including a dance hall floor built on railroad car springs. Funding commitments and pledges are vital to the success of this campaign.

In addition to donors, FoCH is seeking partners to facilitate the purchase and transformation of the property to benefit hikers, trailblazers and outdoor enthusiasts. To that end, FoCH would like to work with the BTA to redirect the Buckeye Trail through Crowell/Hilaka. “We would be honored to have the Buckeye Trail’s blue blaze through our beautiful camp,” notes Corey Ann Ringle, president of the FoCH. “It would be a win-win for everyone.” If you are interested in learning more about the efforts to save this land for future generations, visit the FoCH at [www.friendsofcrowellhilaka.org](http://www.friendsofcrowellhilaka.org).

Note: The BTA Board has committed \$100 per acre to the project, conditional upon the inclusion of the BT on the property, the project going to closing, and the anticipated replenishment of the BTA Trail Preservation Fund from an approved grant. The project would help the BT relocate from road to the beautiful setting of the camp.

**Forever Friends of**



**Crowell/Hilaka**