

# **TRAIL MAGIC!**

Support Letters

WGTE – PBS

Buckeye Trail Association

Appalachian Trail Museum

Catherine S. Eberly Center, University of Toledo



1270 South Detroit Avenue  
P.O. Box 30  
Toledo, OH 43614  
(419) 380-4600 Main  
(419) 380-4710 Fax

January 25, 2011

To Whom it May Concern:

WGTE has reviewed Peter Huston's proposal to produce an independent program on the subject of Emma Gatewood. The proposed idea would offer a glimpse into the world of Grandma Gatewood, Ohio's Legendary Hiker, and her courageous and optimistic spirit. The show will explore how Gatewood was inspired by a National Geographic story on the Appalachian Trail and became the first woman to make a sola trek of the entire length of the Trail. This subject matter should be of great interest to viewers in our area. WGTE is pleased to support the proposed program as a broadcast partner.

If you would like to discuss WGTE's support as a broadcast partner of the Grandma Gatewood story, please don't hesitate to contact me at 419-380-4615 or via email at [darren\\_lashelle@wgte.org](mailto:darren_lashelle@wgte.org)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darren LaShelle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Darren LaShelle  
Director of TV Broadcast Services



## BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 254 Worthington, Ohio 43085

February 22, 2010

Bette Lou Higgins  
Artistic Director  
Eden Valley Enterprises  
1250 East River St.  
Elyria, Ohio 44035

Dear Bette Lou:

The Buckeye Trail Association is excited about the possibility of a video and/or live performance recounting the life of Mrs. Emma Gatewood, affectionately known as "Grandma Gatewood." Emma, an enthusiastic and accomplished long distance hiker, was instrumental in the creation of the Buckeye Trail Association over fifty years ago. In 1959, Grandma Gatewood donated \$20 to purchase the first gallon of paint to put blazes on the Buckeye Trail.

The Buckeye Trail Association (BTA) supports your feasibility study grant request for the project and will help in any way we are able.

Sincerely,

Patrick Hayes  
Board President  
Buckeye Trail Association  
[president@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:president@buckeyetrail.org)  
937-962-4884

*Follow the Blue Blazes*



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1120 Pine Grove Road • Gardners, PA 17324 • 717-486-8126 • [www.atmuseum.org](http://www.atmuseum.org)

March 11, 2011

Peter Huston  
Producer/Director  
Film Affects  
Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456

Dear Peter,

On behalf of the Appalachian Trail Museum, I would like to endorse your project of producing a documentary on Grandma Gatewood. A pioneer long-distance hiker, Grandma Gatewood captured the imagination of the hiking community and touched many lives around the country during her travels from coast to coast. Grandma Gatewood drew widespread attention as the first elderly woman hiker to become widely known. She became a role model and has inspired countless hikers for the last fifty years. For all of these reasons, we chose to make Grandma Gatewood the subject of one of the initial exhibits in the year-old Appalachian Trail Museum, the first hiking museum in the country. A documentary that can introduce new viewers to her life as well as provide additional information to many of her fans is a project worthy of our support. We will be glad to help in any way we can.

Regards,

Larry Luxenberg  
President, Appalachian Trail Museum



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**TOLEDO**  
1872

**External Affairs**  
Office of Equity and Diversity  
Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women

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2801 W. Bancroft St.  
Toledo, OH 43606-3390  
Phone: 419.530.8570  
Fax: 419.530.8575  
[www.womenscenter.utoledo.edu](http://www.womenscenter.utoledo.edu)

June 18, 2012

Ms. Bette Lou Higgins  
Eden Valley Enterprises  
1250 East River Street  
Elyria, OH 44035

Dear Ms. Higgins,

Thank you for sending us the information concerning the Grandma Gatewood Program. Ms. Gatewood is really an inspiration for women everywhere and we love the idea of helping to spread her story throughout Ohio. At the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women, we are always looking for ways to honor some of the female heroes in Ohio's history and Emma Gatewood is no exception. We look forward to working with you and your organization to help bring this story of hardship and strength to Northwest Ohio. Please keep us up to date on any future plans. Thank you again for sharing Emma's story.

Sincerely,

Shanda Gore, Ed.D

Associate Vice President