Time and change will surely show...how firm thy friendship, O-HI-O!

Who would have ever thought that after the beginning of the football season that the Buckeyes would end up winning the National Championship? This was an amazing feat that no one expected, even Coach Meyer himself.

After the loss of Braxton, a Heisman Trophy contender, at the beginning of the season, J.T. Barrett, the second string quarterback, headed the team. The team took an early loss to Virginia Tech, and fans believed that it was going to be a long season for the Buckeyes. But, as the season progressed, Barrett’s skills proved him to be accurate on the line—and he too became a Heisman contender. Ohio State’s heart skipped a beat when J.T. went down in the Michigan game with a broken ankle. Our world stopped and we all thought, “What next?” Third string quarterback, Cardale Jones, went into the lineup and took control of the game. It was an amazing sight to watch when Cardale fired the football time after time into the hands of our players. His nickname was 12 Gauge!

Ohio State won that game 42-28. Still holding our breaths, the game coming up was for the B1G Championship against Wisconsin. Wisconsin has been a nemesis of Ohio State for years. Going into that game, this would be another test of Cardale’s capabilities to lead the team. After the astounding victory score of 59-0, fans were in awe of Cardale’s throwing arm and agile running at 6’5” weighing 250 pounds. With that solid victory, Ohio State was declared the number 4 team in the nation, and “WE WERE IN”! The first game to be played was number 1 team, Alabama. Winning that game 42-35, the Buckeye Pride was soaring! One more game to be played—the National Championship. Ohio State took down Oregon 42-20 and WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS my friends. We proved the B1G is alive and Ohio State is at the top and ready to start next year as #1! Congratulations to the team!

OSU Women Golfers at Wrightsville Beach

OSU Coach Therese Hession and her assistant, Lisa Strom, traveled with OSU’s Women Golfers to Wrightsville Beach in October to compete in the Landfall Tradition tournament. The team ended up 15th in a field of 18. Sophomores, Jessica Porvasnik and Zoe-Beth Blake were the top performers for the team, each with totals of 218 on 54 holes of play. That was a +2 for the course. They shared a spot for position 16, making it into the top 20. Jessica also played in the US Open in Pinehurst this past summer where many of our club members got to meet her and her family, as well as Coaches Hession and Strom at Keith and Penny Junk’s residence in Pinewild.

Ways to GIVE to OSU: https://www.giveto.osu.edu/makeagift/
Every year, our scholarship students at OSU are honored by our club while visiting Columbus for a home football game and attending the Alumni Seminar. This year was no different from the others. We met and ate at Buffalo Wild Wings at the corner of High and Neil Streets before the Cincinnati game.

This year we were pleased that Megan Middleton’s mother, Tracy, traveled along to see her daughter, and also visit her family while in Columbus. It was a great time chatting about what each student was up to and to learn what their plans were for the future. Garrett, Sarah, and Megan are all graduating this year. They have maintained their scholarships at Ohio State and each plans to further their educations in graduate school. Our club is extremely proud of each one of them and their personal accomplishments at OSU—which are too numerous to list!

Casie, who is a sophomore this year, and from West End, loves OSU life and will continue her studies in the field of Biology. Nicoe, a freshman from Fayetteville, is pursuing his course of studies in Aeronautical Engineering. He never saw the Ohio State campus until after he enrolled. He too loves OSU and is happy he became a part of the Buckeye Family!

These Sandhills sponsored scholarship students make our club VERY PROUD!

Wine on Wednesdays

Wine on Wednesdays is when the Buckeyes gather at different locations to kick back and enjoy one another’s company. This year our first Wine on Wednesday was held at the Jefferson Inn in Southern Pines. It was “Ladies’ Night” and the wine was half price. While there, we met two young ladies from Ohio who were unaware of our club. Needless to say, they are now on our contact list and will hopefully be joining the club in the fall! We would like to extend this invitation to all the members to come out and join us in our adventures as we travel about the town and do a little Buckeye Bonding. Our next evening together is planned for Wednesday, February 11, 6:00 at the Wine Cellar in downtown Southern Pines. Watch for club announcements on Facebook and emails. Make your plans to join us for some Buckeye fun together! Help us promote the club.

Reindeer Run for the Boys’ and Girls’ Club

Club members gathered EARLY in the morning on the same day OSU played and defeated Wisconsin for the B1G Ten Championship. This would be our 4th year to support the annual Reindeer Run held in Aberdeen to benefit the local Boys’ and Girls’ Club.

Over 2,000 runners and walkers participated in the event. Our club was there in our scarlet and gray to hand out water to help keep the participants hydrated.

We got the tent set up just in the nick of time; right before the rain started. When the race began, the sky cleared and the gig was on! This year our club had five of its members running. Eight of us supplied the water. Of course, when you are working the event in your Ohio State gear, you get all kinds of comments such as “Go Bucks!” to “What are all of you Buckeyes doing in the South?”

Next year we will return to the same spot, hydrate the runners as we help to represent Ohio State as the BDBCITL! Go Bucks! We support our community!
Upcoming Events and Member Highlights

- February 8—Board Meeting
- February 11—Wine on Wednesday
- Feb. 19-23—Buckeye Cruise for Cancer
- March 4—Buckeye Bowling
- March 11-16—B1G Basketball Tourney
- April 8—Wine on Wednesday
- April 24—Special Olympics
- April 25—SpringFest
- May 13—Wine on Wednesday
- May TBA—Concert on the Green
- May TBA—Bus trip to Charleston
- June 27—General Membership Meeting

Back Pack Pals Food Collection

The Sandhills Club collected boxes, cans, and packages of food and non-perishables for the Back Pack Pal School Program of Moore County. The collection was conducted during the entire month of November during our game watches. The goods received on the Fayetteville side of the club were delivered and added to the collection from Southern Pines. Together, Fayetteville and Southern Pines produced 464 pounds of food and snacks to donate to this worthy cause. This was the largest amount ever to be collected by the club. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of the people in our community. Every little bit helps. As the manager of the food bank stated, “This food is gone in no time. Your willingness to contribute is truly appreciated.” Buckeyes, as Woody Hayes would say, “Pay Forward” and you certainly have. Thank you Sandhills Buckeyes!

Buckeye Cruise for Cancer

Last year, 13 of our Sandhills Club members went on the Buckeye Cruise for Cancer. While on the ship, one of the highlights was to personally present Urban and Shelley Meyer with our club’s check for $4,105 raised during the month of October at our game watches. This year, coming up in February, our club will have 7 members on board the cruise liner headed to Cozumel. This cruise is TOTAL BUCKEYES with the alumni Marching Band, Cheerleaders, and Brutus. On board, there are activities with the past players who conduct fun activities. It is a GREAT time and the money raised on board goes to the James Hospital for Cancer Research. This year, our club is very proud to announce that we raised $5,623.51 for the Urban and Shelley Meyer Cancer Fund. We will again go on stage and do a personal presentation to Coach Meyer and his wife, Shelley. Being that Ohio State won the National Championship this year, the cruise is going to be EXTRA SPECIAL!
Our club’s Mission is dedicated to connecting alumni, friends, fellow Buckeyes, and possible future Ohio State students in a lifelong, positive support of Ohio State and each others as individuals. Go Bucks!

Find our club on the web at:
www.sandhillsbuckeyes.com, or google Sandhills Buckeyes for Facebook.