

BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION, INC.

NEWSLETTER

Number 1

Robert R. Paton, Editor

January, 1968

PROGRESS REPORT TO BT MEMBERS

The Buckeye Trail program is moving forward in big strides, (if we may be permitted a small pun), thanks to the help of a good many friends. This NEWSLETTER, the first of many, we hope, will bring you up-to-date on BT developments and then in future issues there will be progress reports, news of local work groups, information on places of interest along the trail, etc.

At this point we are planning to publish the NEWSLETTER quarterly, but this may be modified perhaps to a more frequent schedule. In the meantime, may we present to you the present officers and staff of the Buckeye Trail Association, Inc.

President	Victor C. Whitacre, M.D. Box 188, Beverly, Ohio 45715
Vice President	Ralph Regula, Attorney, State Senator Box 1, Navarre, Ohio 44662
Vice President	Al Simpson, Canton Repository, 5656 Spring Lake Rd., N.W., Canton, Ohio 44718
Secretary	Robert E. Merkle, Ohio Fuel Gas Co., 1529 Ashdowne Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43221
Treasurer	Robert R. Paton, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources 1947 Snouffer Rd., Worthington, Ohio 43085 (Home) Room 913 Ohio Departments Building, 65 S. Front St., Columbus, Ohio 43215 (Office)
Directors	Mrs. Emma Gatewood, Thurman, Ohio 45685 William S. Miller, Box 758, Logan, Ohio 43138 William B. Price, Box 345, Murray City, Ohio 43144 James Ucker, 643 Walhonding Ave., Logan, Ohio 43138 Harry Wilkie, Box 222, Bellbrook, Ohio 45305
Corresponding Secretary	Joanne Baughman, Box 16, Beverly, Ohio 45715
Executive Director	Robert R. Paton

OFFICIAL MEETINGS IN 1967

The Buckeye Trail Association, Inc., is chartered as a non-profit organization with its stated purpose to be the development of a foot trail across Ohio. By state law, such organizations must hold at least one meeting of its members annually at which time officers are elected and the treasurer makes his report to the membership.

The 1967 meeting was held at Burr Oak Lodge on June 25 with 33 members and guests present. Reports on progress along the trail were made and officers elected. (See page 1)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

July Meeting

The executive Committee met in Logan, Ohio on July 23, 1967 with all members present. The committee voted to ask the Department of Natural Resources to add a State Trail Coordinator to the staff of the Division of Parks and Recreation to assist in the development of the Buckeye Trail. Senator Ralph Regula favored this appointment and stated that he would assist whatever needed to accomplish this proposal.

The map of the completed section of the trail from the Tar Hollow fire tower to Burr Oak State Park, prepared by James Ucker was ready for printing and the committee approved the expenditure of funds to publish 5,000 copies. They are to be distributed free of charge in single copies on request.

Harry Wilkie reported that the Cincinnati Chapter of the American Walkers Association has a proposed route from Cincinnati to Rocky Fork State Park, ready for Board approval.

The treasurer presented an offer of Paul Dingledeye, Vice President, Ohio Edison Co., to consider locating the trail along their power line right-of-ways where this was feasible. The committee voted to follow-up on this offer.

October Meeting

The Executive Committee met October 5, 1967 in Columbus to discuss new developments, including the appointment of your treasurer as State Trail Coordinator (see below) and discussion of new projects with the U.S. Forest Service and the Dept. of Natural Resources.

The Executive Committee voted to establish a new position, namely, Executive Director for the Buckeye Trail Association pending approval of the membership at the next annual meeting. The treasurer was nominated for this position and then appointed by action of the committee, subject to the amending of the constitution. The new post carries no salary with it, but is established as a means of working with cooperating agencies under the new program.

The Executive Committee approved a design for a new letterhead and approved the establishment of the address of the Division of Parks and Recreation as the official address for the permanent address of the association. This address is as follows:

Buckeye Trail Association, Inc., Room 913, Ohio Departments Building,
Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Paul Brohn, District Ranger, U.S. Forest Service; Norville Hall, Assistant Chief, Division of Parks and Recreation, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources; and Ernest Gebhart, Assistant Chief, Division of Forestry and Reclamation all promised their full support for the trail project wherever it crosses the lands under their management.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTS BUCKEYE TRAIL RESOLUTION

A Joint Resolution, sponsored by Senators Ralph Regula and Harry Armstrong and Representative J. Harvey Weis, was adopted by the General Assembly during the 107th Regular Session and signed by Governor James A. Rhodes. This Resolution made the Buckeye Trail the official Ohio hiking trail and opened up new opportunities for cooperation with both state and federal agencies. This important development will make the trail a reality in the near future and hikers are going to enjoy a completed trail system across Ohio.

STATE TRAIL COORDINATOR APPOINTED

The new position of State Trail Coordinator was created by the Department of Natural Resources and Fred E. Morr, Director, named your Executive Director to this post. The appointment was effective October 1, 1967. Duties of this job include cooperating with the Buckeye Trail Association in development of the trail and also in developing the hiking and riding trails in the state parks and forests of Ohio.

NEW TRAIL ACTIVITIES

Since October, Ralph Ramey, Supervisor of Recreation, and your Executive Director, have been making contacts in counties along the proposed route of the trail. The people contacted have all been enthusiastic and glad to help. As a result the prospects for getting a trail marked and ready for hiking from Cincinnati to Lake Erie by the summer of 1968 are bright.

The route will follow back roads, for the most part, excepting where there are publicly-owned tracts along the route and in these and across some industrially-owned lands the trail may leave the roads and go cross-country. The back roads make good hiking routes and the use of them eliminates one of the major problems which comes up frequently when crossing private lands. This is the problem of the property changing hands and the new owners summarily closing their lands to the trail. Along public roads this will not be a problem.

In the urban areas especially, the roads have proved to be the only route to follow. Choosing which roads to follow is a question which local people can best decide. Not only must the roads be lightly travelled, but they should be scenic, chiefly rural in character, and should pass points of interest, such as historic, geologic, or botanical features. These routes will not always be as direct a line between distant points as "the crow flies", but neither will they meander unreasonably.

These general conditions have been discussed with the local committees and they will give them consideration when planning the route.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE TRAIL

Cincinnati has been used as the starting point in planning the route and getting plans into action. When the trail is completed and the paint blazes are in place, hikers can travel in either direction over any part of the route.

Following is a brief report on the progress of the different sections of the trail at this time:

Cincinnati to Rocky Fork State Park in eastern Highland County. This area has been explored and a route selected by the Cincinnati Chapter of the American Walkers Association. Harry Wilkie has been one of the active members in this project and has done most of the exploration. The BT Executive Committee named a sub-committee (Robert E. Merkle, Robert R. Paton, and Ralph Ramey) to review the proposed route and to decide whether it should be accepted and made a part of the Buckeye Trail system. This was done on November 18 and with some minor changes the committee approved the route, starting in Eden Park on a bluff overlooking the Ohio River. The trail will be marked this winter after conferences with county commissioners and others to clarify marking procedures and obtain permission to paint blazes on public property.

Rocky Fork State Park to Pike Lake. This route reviewed with Harry Wilkie is tentatively established.

Pike Lake to Ross County. A committee headed by Jim Steiner, Waverly, has met in Waverly, and has made good progress towards selecting a route across the northern part of Pike County, heading towards Scioto Trail State Forest.

Ross County to Tar Hollow Fire Tower. The initial job of getting a route planned for this part of the trail has been done by John Bay, Columbus, and with only a few small gaps is nearly ready to present to the Executive Committee for consideration.

Tar Hollow Fire Tower to Burr Oak State Park. This part of the trail is completed and mapped. Any members of the association who may not have received a copy of this map should write to the Buckeye Trail Association for a copy. (See page 2 for address).

Burr Oak Park through Morgan County to Noble County. Wesley Green, Chairman, Morgan County Planning Commission, has done the initial work in routing the trail across Morgan County. A meeting has been arranged in McConnellsville by Green to discuss the route and to arrange a work party to complete the trail when approved by the Executive Committee.

Noble County to Guernsey County. John Wargo and Merle Marietta have marked a route across Noble County and this will be the official trail except as some minor changes may be needed. Wargo is actively handling this section and may ask for some help from local groups to maintain the trail in the future.

Guernsey, Carroll, and Harrison Counties. Tentative plans are underway to route the trail in this area using Muskingum Conservancy lands as well as other publicly-owned tracts. Jack McCormick, Park and Recreation Supervisor, Muskingum Conservancy District, is coordinating the project as the trail crosses these counties.

Tuscarawas County. A committee headed by Walter Burbick, New Philadelphia, is in the process of planning a good route from Guernsey County, swinging east of New Philadelphia, through the Muskingum Conservancy lands, to Bolivar, where it will meet the canal tow path.

Stark County to Canal Fulton. The Stark County Commission by prompt and timely action acquired title to the old canal lands across Stark County and this historic route will be used by the Buckeye Trail through this area. Al Zaleski, East Sparta, has plans well underway to have this route ready for reviewing by the committee at an early date. The route from Crystal Springs to Canal Fulton has already been officially approved.

Canal Fulton to U.S. Route 322, Geauga County. The Akron Metropolitan Hiking Club under the leadership of Don Vogt has been doing the exploratory work in planning the route from Canal Fulton northward. They recommend that the route go east of Akron past several reservoirs, towards Chardon and have a tentative route under consideration. If they can accomplish a good route and we believe they can, the trail will be close to Lake Erie within the year.

EXHIBITS PLANNED

The BTA has been offered free exhibit space at several outdoor shows and we plan to prepare a display to use there. A drive will be made at these shows to obtain new members.

Some good pictures which illustrate activity on the trail will be needed. We will appreciate any offers of either black and white photos which can be enlarged (the negatives will be needed) or 35mm color slides. Captions should be enclosed and please put your name and address on each photo.

WINTER HIKE

The third annual winter hike along the BT in Hocking County will be held January 20. This hike, sponsored by the Division of Parks and Recreation has been a popular feature, and many have come out for it. This year the hike will start at the shelter near the parking lot at Old Man's Cave at 10:00 a.m. Bring your own sack lunch and hot drink. We will stop at Cedar Falls at noon for lunch and there is now a new well there at the picnic area.

The hike will end at Ash Cave about 2:30 and Ralph Ramey, Supervisor of Recreation, Division of Parks and Recreation has assured us he will have hot coffee there and transportation back to Old Man's Cave. A new section of the trail from Cedar Falls across country towards Ash Cave will be opened for this occasion.

NEW MEMBERS WANTED

A new member form is attached to this issue of the NEWSLETTER. Fill it out with the name of a neighbor or friend, get three dollars from them and send the form and dues to the BT office. They will receive the NEWSLETTER, a copy of the map, membership card, and notices of meetings. Dues are a deductible item, you know.

FROM

BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION, INC.
Room 913, Ohio Departments Bldg.
65 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215



BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

913 OHIO DEPARTMENTS BUILDING
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215
TELEPHONE (614) 469-3984

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME _____ DATE _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

CITY AND STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____ COUNTY _____

SEX _____ AGE _____ OCCUPATION _____

Would you be willing to serve on a committee or in an official capacity? _____

Could you help in planning a section of the Buckeye Trail? _____

If a section of the trail is located within 50 miles of you, would you be willing to help maintain the trail in hiking condition? _____

Type of membership desired:

_____ Individual (\$3.00 per year)

_____ Family (\$5.00 per year) List names on back.

_____ Organization (minimum, \$10.00 per year)

Amount enclosed _____

Membership in the Association is not required for hiking any part of the Buckeye Trail.
The trail is free and open to all people.

"Follow the Blue Blazes"