

BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION, INC.

NEWSLETTER

Number 2

April, 1968

Robert R. Paton, Editor

NINTH ANNUAL MEETING

The ninth annual meeting of the Buckeye Trail Association will be held in Washington County on the 15th and 16th of June, 1968.

Saturday afternoon there will be a hike through Hemlock Hollow and the Sandstone Grindstone area, then through the woods to the "High Point" and down an old road to the Rocky Mountain sandstone cliff. This is the place where rock climbing began in Washington County in 1959. There will be several rock climbing groups on the cliffs that afternoon and this will be interesting to many to watch.

Those who are interested in participating in this afternoon hike must be at the Washington County Fairgrounds, Civitan Park, junction of Front Street and 2nd Avenue, in Marietta before 1:00 p.m. The group will leave the fairgrounds promptly at 1:00 and will reassemble at the parking lot of the Fort Frye High School, Beverly, Ohio where others who wish to join the party there may do so.

The annual business meeting will be held at the Marietta YMCA at 8:00 p.m. Saturday. This meeting is open to members and guests.

Sunday morning there will be a devotional service at the Washington County Fairgrounds at 9:00 a.m. Following this those attending will leave by individual cars for Layman, on alternate U.S. Route #50, where the group will assemble for a sight-seeing combination of hiking and driving through a very interesting area of historic and natural features near Cutler, Ohio.

This trip will take about five hours and each person should plan to have a sack lunch and drinks in his car.

A list of hotels and camping areas in the Marietta area is enclosed with this NEWSLETTER and members and their guests should make their own arrangements for rooms and dinner Saturday evening.

BOARD ACTIVITIES

The Board of Trustees of the BTA have met twice during the past quarter and took a number of actions of interest to the members. Seven trustees were present at the February meeting in Columbus and eight at the March meeting in Chillicothe.

The proposed trail route from the outskirts of Cincinnati to Rocky Fork State Park prepared by the Cincinnati Chapter of the American Walkers Association was approved and Harry Wilkie instructed to proceed with the marking of the trail this spring.

The trail route across Stark County proposed by trustees Ralph Regula and Al Simpson was approved by the Board and is being marked this spring.

The new route between Cedar Falls and Ash Cave, prepared by members of the Division of Parks and Recreation was approved and the Executive Director was instructed to mark this route.

Whitacre reported on the inspection trip made over the proposed route from Tar Hollow State Forest to Scioto Trail State Forest which was prepared by John Bay, Columbus, and Bob Gavrill, Chillicothe, and the Board approved the route. The Executive Director was asked to obtain the necessary permission to cross the State Forests involved. Following this, Bay and Gavrill will then be authorized to proceed with the marking of the trail.

The Board approved the dates and program for the annual meeting, details of which are reported elsewhere in this NEWSLETTER.

The Auditing Committee, Bob Merkle, Columbus, and George Minister, Worthington, reported that the financial records of the treasurer were correct and in order. A financial statement is shown in this issue.

TRAIL PROGRESS

The Board's authorization to establish new sections of the trail is having immediate results. It is evident that by early summer there will be a marked trail from Cincinnati to Rocky Fork State Park in eastern Highland County and from Scioto Trail State Forest south of Chillicothe to Burr Oak State Park in Athens County. This comprises over 150 miles of trail ready for hikers and plans are to have maps ready this summer for members' use.

The gap between Rocky Fork and Scioto Trail Forest is being planned by a Pike County committee headed by James Steiner, Waverly, and they have an interesting route under consideration. When this is completed, a hiker can go from the Ohio River at Cincinnati almost to the Muskingum River without a break in the trail. This will probably be about 200 miles.

The route across Stark County is currently being cleared and blazed. This section will follow the tow path of the old canal and will be a fine trail through historic country. The Tri-county Riding Club, under Al Zaleski, East Sparta, is sponsoring this entire section.

BTA EXHIBIT

A Buckeye Trail three-panel folding exhibit was built by Bob Merkle, Columbus, W. D. Taylor, Waverly; and Bob Paton with some good help from the staff of the Division of Parks and Recreation. This exhibit has been busy already, having been shown at the following places:

Columbus Sportsmen's Show, 9th to 18th of February. The Central Ohio Hiking Club assisted in manning the display during the 10 day show.

League of Ohio Sportsmen's Convention, first and second of March. The display was given a good location at the Deshler Hotel by the club officers and drew a lot of attention.

Cleveland-Canadian Sports Show, 15th to 24th of March. The Cleveland Hiking Club, under Joe Mayer, assist in tending the display during the big show in the Public Hall.

Many good contacts were made at these shows and probably 20 - 25 new members will join as a result. In addition to these shows the Columbus Public Library has invited BTA to set the display at the main library through the month of May and it has been requested by the Boy Scout officials to be displayed at the big Scoutorama at the Ohio Exposition Center during the 15th and 16th of June. We were torn between the opportunity of having thousands of people see the exhibit at the Scoutorama or showing it to the BTA members at the annual meeting and decided to have it at the big show.

LEGISLATURE AMENDS PUBLIC LIABILITY ACT

One of the chief deterrents to getting permission from landowners to allow the Buckeye Trail to cross their lands in the past has been their fear of having liability suits from hikers. The Ohio General Code did not provide for protection for the landowners from such suits until a bill, introduced by Senator Ralph Regula, Navarre, was adopted by the General Assembly during the 1966 - 1968 session.

This new act, Sections 1533.18 and 1533.181 exempts persons granting rights-of-way for the Buckeye Trail from liability. They are exempt from liability for any injury to persons or property caused by an act of a recreational user. Owners, lessees, and occupants of both privately-owned premises and state-owned premises leased to a private person, firm, organization, or corporation are protected under Ohio law. The laws specify that such persons owe no duty to recreational users to keep premises safe for entry and use, and that they do not extend, by giving permission for recreational use without charge, any assurance that the premises are safe.

In order to maintain Buckeye Trail safety, members who are developing new sections of trail should attempt to discover, explore and avoid or post warnings for any hazards. Because trail conditions change, the Association seeks to learn about potential hazards which may develop so that the overseer of the section where the potential hazard lies may investigate the situation and take appropriate action. Examples of situations which may constitute hazards are highway construction, logging operations, and washouts due to erosion. Trail users encountering a potential hazard will please notify the Executive Director.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

President Victor C. Whitacre appointed trustee Senator Ralph Regula as a committee to consider amendments to the constitution. John Bay, a member of the staff of the Legislative Service Commission and a BTA member, was asked by Regula to prepare some amendments and these were presented to the Board at their March meeting for consideration. The Board approved them and arranged to have them presented to the membership at the annual meeting. Copies of the constitution and the proposed amendments are attached.

NOTICE TO MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

The Buckeye Trail constitution has provided in the past for trail "overseers" to be represented on the Board. This provision was not acted upon, partly because of its indefiniteness. The present Board has voted to present

an amendment to the membership to change this provision. The amendment, which is to be voted on by the members at the annual meeting would provide instead for each organization which is a "maintaining" member of the BTA to be represented on the Board. This representative may be the President of the member organization or his representative. This give some latitude to the organization to determine who shall be their representative.

The term, "maintaining" is defined in the proposed amendment.

The member organization should plan to apply for representation to the office of the Association, following the annual meeting and providing the amendment is adopted, stipulating who in the member organization is to represent them on the Board. The Board will determine whether the organization is in fact a maintaining organization and will take appropriate steps regarding their decision. The first step is for the member organization to apply and the Board urges all of these to make application by letter promptly.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER

The treasurer's books were audited by Robert E. Merkle and George E. Minister, 15 March, 1968, covering the period since the previous audit, 24 May, 1966, by William B. Price and reported them in order and expenditures and receipts properly accounted for.

The following summary is reported for the information of the members, covering the two-year period.

Balance on hand, 24 May, 1966 \$734.16

Income

Memberships	\$513.00
Gifts	63.00
Interest income	34.00
	<u>\$610.00</u>

Expenditures

Liability insurance	\$ 74.00
Postage	10.13
Paint	46.93
Printing	370.29
Exhibit	83.41
Miscellaneous	49.04
	<u>\$633.80</u>

Balance on hand, 15 March, 1968 \$710.36

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FROM

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