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BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Robert R. Paton, Ed

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913 Ohio Departments Building, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Cooperating with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Buckeye Trail Association was held this year in the Marietta area, 14 and 15 June, combining a hike over parts of the Washington County trail on Saturday afternoon and Sunday with the business meeting of the members. The meeting was held Saturday evening in the YMCA building with about 50 people present.

The Minutes of the meeting were recorded by Robert E. Merkle, Secretary and it was decided to include them in this issue of the NEWSLETTER, newly named the BUCKEYE TRAILBLAZER. These will give the members a good report on the results of the active discussions which took place that evening. Incidentally, the Treasurer's Report, mentioned in the Minutes, is the same report which was sent to the members in the April issue of the NEWSLETTER.

MINUTES OF THE NINTH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, JUNE 15, 1968

President Whitacre called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the YMCA, Marietta, Ohio. Those members of the Board of Trustees in attendance were introduced. They were Victor C. Whitacre, Beverly; James Ucker, Logan; William Miller, Logan; Harry Wilkie, Bellbrook; Robert E. Merkle, Columbus; Emma Gatewood, Thurman; and Robert R. Paton, Worthington.

The members and guests present were then asked to rise and introduce themselves.

The recording secretary read the minutes of last year's meeting, held at Burr Oak Lodge. The minutes were approved as read with one addition, namely, R. E. Merkle should have been listed as Secretary. Bob Paton gave the Treasurer's Report, which was approved as read.

The proposed constitutional amendment was brought up by President Whitacre. He remarked about certain benefits of the new proposal, then introduced John Bay, Chairman of the Constitutional Amendment Committee. Bay reviewed the amendment and explained its many provisions. One error to be corrected in the proposal mailed out to the members was that dues notice should read 60 days rather than 30 days. President Whitacre noted that the Board of Trustees had approved the proposal.

The representative of the Akron Metropolitan Parks Hiking Club, Dale Akins, challenged the changing of the tenure of officers from two years to one year. Bill Miller, Logan, voiced his opposition to the proposed one year tenure and against the representation on the Board of Trustees by the maintaining organizations. Much discussion followed.

John Bay moved that the proposed amendment be adopted and this was seconded by Bob Paton. The motion was defeated by a substantial majority. President Whitacre then announced that a new committee will be appointed to present a new constitutional amendment at the next membership meeting. (Editor's note. It is tentatively planned to have a combined autumn hike and membership meeting at Chillicothe, 19 October, at which time the new amendment will be considered. You will hear more about this plan later).

Don Vogt of Akron moved that Bob Paton be officially appointed as Executive Director for the coming year. This motion was seconded and voted as approved.

Much interest was shown in the following reports of new trail construction and activity:

President Whitacre reported on the progress of the trail in Washington County and stated that the annual hike held that afternoon constituted an inspection hike of the portion of trail covered.

Harry Wilkie reported on the Cincinnati-Rocky Fork section. The work of marking is coming along fine and approximately 75% is completed. Very little trail clearing is required as this section is almost all along back roads.

John Bay reported on the Scioto Trail State Forest-Tar Hollow section. Marking and clearing are over 95% completed.

Bob Paton reported that the Stark County section has been completed. He also reported that the Noble County section where the trail was established and completed several years ago is to be relocated almost entirely due to difficulties with changes in private land title, and to the construction of Wolf Run State Park and the Interstate Highway system. An entirely new tentative route has been planned which will follow county and township roads for the most part. He reported also that the route across Morgan County prepared by Wesley Green, McConnelsville, is ready for Board inspection.

Jim Ucker reported on the progress of the horse trail bypass at Ash Cave and Old Man's Cave.

Bob Paton introduced the problem of trail maintenance and the assignment of various sections to individuals or organizations for responsibility of upkeep. Nothing was resolved in this matter.

President Whitacre gave a brief resume of the organization's activities and accomplishments for the past year. Bob Paton remarked on the new method of notification of membership dues, to be spread out over the entire year, thus spreading out the clerical work involved.

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Bob Merkle expressed appreciation and thanks on behalf of the officers and members of the Buckeye Trail for the hospitality and arrangements provided for by the hosts, the Washington County Hiking Club.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

R. E. Merkle, Secretary

REPORT ON BOARD MEETING

The quarterly Board Meeting was held at the YMCA building at 6:00 p.m. prior to the Annual Business Meeting, reported on above. Some of the items voted on by the Board included the following:

Two different routes for the trail northward from Canal Fulton were considered and it was decided to have a committee review both of these routes in July and report to the Board at their next meeting.

A side trail from Lockville in Fairfield County to Enterprise, following as much as possible the Old Canal has been proposed and the Board agreed that this would be an interesting project. The President was authorized to appoint a committee to review this proposed route and report at the next Board meeting.

The question as to whether a branch of the Buckeye Trail is a side trail or a part of the main trail was discussed. It was decided that if such a branch divides from the main trail and then joins it again further along, it will be considered as an alternate trail and will be marked with the standard blue paint blazes. Signs at the points of junction will be posted to inform hikers of the two routes.

If the branch is a stub trail, that is, does not rejoin the main trail further along, it will be designated as a side trail and will be blazed with a different color of paint. The selection of the side trail color is to be considered further by the Board.

REPORT OF INSPECTION TRIP IN SUMMIT AND PORTAGE COUNTIES

The committee appointed to review the two proposed routes from Canal Fulton (see above) met at Canal Fulton on 14 July and reviewed a part of the route proposed by the Akron Metropolitan Parks Hiking Club. This committee included the following persons: Senator Ralph Regula, Navarre; Al Simpson, Canton; and Robert E. Paton, as representatives of the Board; John Bay, Columbus (Central Ohio Hiking Club); Don Vogt and Dale Akins, Akron (Akron Metropolitan Parks Hiking Club); Al Zaleski, East Sparta (Tri-County Riding Club); and John Shade and Lou Yerick (Cleveland Hiking Club).

The trail proposed will traverse the lake area northeastward from Canal Fulton, through Portage, Geauga, and Lake Counties to the shores of Lake Erie. This route has many good features and these were presented to committee as follows:

1. The trail right-of-way is available for immediate use.
2. Some trails already exist along the route.
3. Public lands are used for part of the trail route.
4. Five reservoir lakes are along the route.
5. Twenty percent off-the-road hiking.
6. Three existing campsites on the trail route, with the possibility of two more in the near future. (One day hiking interval between sites).
7. Swimming, boating, fishing, camping available at campsites.
8. Private campsites are also available.
9. Greatest amount of rural environment available in this area.
10. Buggy parking lot available!

The following morning some of the members of the committee met to study the possibility of finding a suitable route through Summit County, following the Old Ohio and Erie Canal lands in part. Cleveland Hiking Club members, Mrs. Justine Mayer and Miss Florence Larrick, replaced John Shade and Lou Yerick.

It was agreed by the committee that this route too has many interesting features and should be given further consideration.

The committee agreed that there could logically be two branches of the trail northward from Canal Fulton and if these could be connected at or near Lake Erie, they could each be officially classed as branches of the Buckeye Trail. (See the report on this subject above, in the report of the Board meeting.)

NEW MASTHEAD FOR THE BULLETIN

The new masthead for the BTA bulletin is the work of Miss Patricia Johnston, Columbus. This original title and artwork is interesting as it combines the idea of pioneering, with the compass, the Buckeye tree, and trail blazing, and uses the official BTA symbol effectively.

This contribution is appreciated and we believe it will give the association's official bulletin a good start on what we hope will be a long and worthy life.

NEW AMENDMENT FOR CONSTITUTION

The proposed amendment to the constitution which had been presented to the membership by mail and then again at the annual meeting for vote, was defeated by almost 100% of the members present. This degree of opposition did not indicate a lack of support for the idea of amending the constitution, nor for many of the features which had been included in the proposal.

The discussion which developed at the meeting clearly indicated that the members present believed that some modification of the constitution was needed, but the proposed changes included some features which were not desirable. It was impossible, because of the nature of the amendment, to separate some of the good features from those not wanted, and it was the consensus that it would be better to start all over with an entirely new draft.

The committee, John Bay, Ralph Regula, and Robert R. Paton, agreed to meet again and incorporate the ideas expressed by the membership in a new proposal. The Akron Metropolitan Parks Hiking Club had given the amendment a great deal of consideration particularly, and they were invited to send representatives to the committee meeting to discuss the changes they had believed needed.

The committee met at the home of Al Simpson, 14 July, and went into the details of the amendment thoroughly. John Bay was asked to prepare a new proposal in time for mailing to the members 30 days prior to the fall meeting so that it could be voted on at that time.

LIABILITY LAW

There have been so many requests for copies of the liability law mentioned in the April issue of the NEWLETTER that it was decided to include, in this issue, the law itself. This law is important to the development of the trail across privately-owned lands and BTA members have repeatedly been asked to produce a copy of the law to show to the property owners whose land lies in the path of the trail being planned. Often these owners wish to be assured that they will not be sued for accidents which might happen to hikers on their land and need to be shown the law so they will know that it does exist.

OHIO RECREATION LIABILITY EXEMPTION LAW Sections 1533.18 and 1533.181, Revised Code

1533.18 Premises, recreational user, defined.

As used in section 1533.18 and 1533.181 of the Revised Code:

(A) "Premises" means all privately-owned lands, ways, waters, and any buildings and structures thereon, and all state-owned lands, ways, and waters leased to a private person, firm, organization, or corporation, including any buildings and structures thereon.

(B) "Recreational user" means a person to whom permission has been granted, without the payment of a fee or consideration to the owner, lessee, or occupant of premises, other than a fee or consideration paid to the state or any agency thereof, to enter upon premises to hunt, fish, trap, camp, hike, swim, or engage in other recreational pursuits. (131vS352. Eff. 10-30-65.

130vH179)

1533.181 Exemption from liability to recreational users.

(A) No owner, lessee, or occupant of premises:

- (1) Owes any duty to a recreational user to keep the premises safe for entry or use;
- (2) Extends any assurance to a recreational user, through the act of giving permission, that the premises are safe for entry or use;
- (3) Assumes responsibility for or incurs liability for any injury to person or property caused by any act of a recreational user. (130vH179. Eff. 9-24-63)

NATIONAL CAMPERS AND HIKERS ASSOCIATION COOPERATING WITH BTA

The NCHA recently named Louis E. Dawson, Columbus, as Trail Coordinator to work with BTA in the development of the Buckeye Trail.

This appointment is gratifying to the BTA officials as it makes possible close cooperation between these two organizations. Opportunities for working together will increase as more and more trails develop in Ohio and as standards for trail construction and maintenance are prepared.

THAT ELUSIVE BUG

A professor came from college.
We caught bugs of many kind,
But the great big bug I'd like to catch,
Seems extremely hard to find..

You thoughtless bug, you litter bug
Why don't you stop and think?
You're bringing shame on all of us
And make the roadsides stink.

One can travel over the country
One can look in vain for him
When all along 'tis plain to see
Where that dirty bug has been.

That thoughtless bug I'd like to
catch
That travels far and near
Just catch him when he least suspects
and just kick him in the rear.

He travels over the country
We track him by the litter
We've tried and tried our very best
To educate the critter.

GRANDMA EMMA GATEWOOD
Trustee, BTA

He still persists in littering
No matter what people say
And will it seems go on and on
Until on his dying day.

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