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BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Robert R. Paton, Edi

913 Ohio Departments Building, Columbus, Ohio 43215

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Cooperating with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources

FALL MEETING

The FALL MEETING of the BTA will be held at Chillicothe, Ohio 19 October, 1968. It will be a combined hike and membership meeting to initiate the newest section of the Buckeye Trail, a twenty-five mile stretch from the Tar Hollow firetower to a road intersection in Scioto Trail State Forest near Stewart Lake.

This new section crosses some high hills giving hikers good views of Mount Logan, the Scioto River Valley, the old preglacial Teays River Valley, and the wooded hills in Tar Hollow State Forest. The hike on the day of the meeting will only cover about six miles of the new trail, beginning in Scioto Trail State Forest and following across some of the highest hills in the area.

Plans for the hike have been mailed to all members, but for those who may have misplaced them, they are briefly:

Meet at Scioto Trail firetower (about 8 miles south of Chillicothe) at 12:00 noon Saturday, 19 October, ready to start from there by cars at 12:05. If any are delayed they may meet the group at 2:00 p.m. at the Higby Bridge, where the Three Locks Road crosses the Scioto River east of Scioto Trail Forest. Bring your own trail snack and drinking water, and wear sturdy shoes.

The hike will end and drivers will be shuttled back to their cars by 5:00 pm.

EVENING MEETING

An important meeting of the BTA members will be held at the Holiday Inn, one mile north of Chillicothe on U.S. Route 23. Through the courtesy of the Mead Corporation, we will meet in the Mead Room at the Inn, at 7:30 p.m. If you have guests with you bring them to the meeting - all will be welcome.

The revised constitution will be presented and discussed and voted on at this meeting. This has been approved by the Board for presentation to the members and will require approval by a majority of members present in order to become the official constitution. The committee, headed by John Bay, has incorporated into the new revision the suggestions of several groups of members, following the ideas expressed at the BTA annual meeting at Marietta, and the new constitution should provide a workable basis for the association for coming years. The Board hopes that there will be a good attendance at this meeting.

SUNDAY HIKE

The Central Ohio Hiking Club has invited the BTA members to join them in their October hike over another part of the new section of the trail. The group will meet at the Blue Lick Road, Tar Hollow State Forest, at 9:30 a.m., Sunday 20 October. To reach this point, drive east from Chillicothe on U.S. Route 50 to Londonderry, then turn north on State Route 327 and follow the blue Buckeye Trail blazes. These will turn off Route 327 in less than a mile onto Blue Lick Road. Follow this until the pavement ends.

There will be two optional hikes, one of about six miles and one of eleven miles. Bring your own trail lunch and drinking water and be ready for some good hilly country trails.

PROGRESS REPORTS

CINCINNATI TO PIKE COUNTY - The trail from Cincinnati, starting in Eden Park, to Cynthiana, at the Highland-Pike Countyline is now all marked with the official Blue blazes, thanks to the efforts of Harry Wilkie and his wife. This is about 65 miles in length and follows country roads the entire distance. This part of the state is nearly level farm land and there are no opportunities for cross country hiking here, but the trail follows roads for the most of the distance that are very little traveled and will be good hiking.

There will be camping available on this section of the trail at Stonelick State Park and at Rocky Fork State Park in the off-season. Both of these parks are very popular during the summer months and the campsites have been filled almost everyday. Hikers should not expect to be able to camp there during the summer unless reservations have been made. Plans are being developed for additional campsites along this route.

PIKE COUNTY TO SCIOTO TRAIL STATE FOREST - Plans are to cross Pike County from Pike Forest to Scioto Trail Forest. This section is moving along, but there have been a number of problems which developed which have held up progress. Some essential permissions to cross private land have not yet been obtained, but the committee is hopeful that a completed trail will be ready for hiking before long.

An alternate route, going from Pike Forest northward into Ross County and then east to Scioto Trail has been offered by a group in Ross County and this route will be presented at the next Board meeting for consideration. It is possible that there may be two branches of the Trail here, making possible a loop route for hikers to use.

SCIOTO TRAIL FOREST TO BURR OAK STATE PARK - This section, nearly 100 miles in length, is a continuous trail and is already a popular hiking route. It is completely marked and a map has been published of the section from Tar Hollow fire-tower to Burr Oak.

MORGAN AND NOBLE COUNTIES - The route across these two counties has been prepared and awaits approval by the Board. It is anticipated that the blazes will be painted this fall or winter.

GUERNSEY - HARRISON - CARROLL COUNTIES - Much work is needed in these counties to plan the best route across the area. Fine cooperation from the Muskingum Conservancy District has been assured and there is much interest in many localities.

TUSCARAWAS COUNTY - The Tuscarawas County Commissioners requested and obtained title to the old canal route from Bolivar across the northeastern part of the county and the trail will follow this land to Atwood Reservoir.

BOLIVAR TO CANAL FULTON - The trail across Stark County is completed and the work was done by the Tri-County Trail Association. This section of the trail follows the old canal tow path across the county, terminating where the canal crosses Main Street in Canal Fulton.

CANAL FULTON NORTHWARD - The Board has authorized the development of two branches of the trail between Canal Fulton and Lake Erie, one to follow the canal lands through Akron and northward through Summit County to Cuyahoga County then through some of the Cleveland Metropolitan Parks east of Cleveland into Geauga and Lake Counties, and the other to swing eastward from Canal Fulton then northward through the lakes of Portage County, to connect before reaching Lake Erie with the canal branch. The full cooperation of the cities of Barberton and Akron has been already given in planning the canal route through those cities and the Akron Metropolitan Park Board and the Cleveland Metropolitan Park Board have both promised their full cooperation. It is hoped that these routes will both become a reality this winter.

STATE MAP - A copy of the state map is enclosed for your information, showing the approximate routes and the status of the different sections. Map officials in the State Highway Department have indicated their plan to include the Buckeye Trail in the next edition of the official State Highway map and it is hoped that most of the trail can be ready by that time. If BTA members wish to help on some of the unfinished sections, please write to the BTA office.

TRAIL MAPS

Maps of the different sections of the trail will need to be developed and published as rapidly as possible. This will entail considerable work and expense and definite plans for this project have not yet been developed by the Board. The Appalachian Trail Association has been able to publish maps of the entire Appalachian Trail and have done so through volunteer workers under a map committee and sale of their maps has produced a sufficient revenue to finance this big project. The Buckeye Trail Association is not yet large enough to accomplish a similar project, but give us time!

MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you know of prospects for members, send us their names and addresses and a check for dues (either their check or yours!) and they will receive an immediate reply and welcome. And if you know of anyone who can help on some of the new areas, in planning or maintenance, please let us know.

WINTER HIKE

The annual winter hike is scheduled for 18 January at Old Man's Cave. Last year there were nearly 1,000 people on the trail, in spite of the 18 inches of snow which fell two days earlier. It was a beautiful day and everyone enjoyed the "Winter Wonderland". Plan to join us there this year if you can.

CANOEING-HIKING ROUTE PROPOSED

The rolling wooded country southeast of Mansfield through which the Mohican and Walhonding Rivers flow has been an interesting recreation area for many Ohioans. Mohican State Forest and Mohican State Park are located here and downstream from these are many private campgrounds.

Canoeing is becoming a favorite sport on these rivers and there are a half-dozen or more canoe liveries doing business here. These firms will rent the interested visitor a canoe and arrange to pick up the party and the canoe at some landing area downstream and then bring them back to the starting point.

The rivers traverse some of the prettiest hill country in Central Ohio and from the water level position of a canoe, a person soon forgets he is still in a busy, populated state.

This country is ideal for hiking too and a route which would combine hiking and canoeing has been proposed by two BTA members. George McConnell, Mt. Vernon, and Merle H. Marietta, Gambier. They suggest that a Buckeye side trail from Charles Mill Reservoir near Mansfield to Stockport on the Muskingum River below Zanesville be developed. At Stockport it will connect with the main Buckeye Trail through Morgan County.

This route would be over 125 miles in length, much of it along or near the rivers and travelers could do part or all of it by canoes in one direction and then hike back.

Campsites can probably be developed in several places, but there are also many motels and hotels which are near this route.

This proposed route will be considered by the Board and if approved will open up a new kind of outdoor recreation for many Ohio folks, hiking-canoeing vacations.

TWO-HUNDRED MILE TRAIL CLUB

Do you hanker to walk the entire Buckeye Trail someday? It will be a 500-mile hike when it is all done, but as a starter a 200-mile club is being formed. Here is the way it will work.

Anyone interested can take part in it. A schedule of hikes will be published in the next TRAILBLAZER, starting in February, and will be arranged for alternate Saturdays throughout the year. Persons planning on hiking may sign up in advance through the BTA office or not as they wish. In many cases it will be possible to work in teams, with a car being left at each end of the day's hike and each driver having a set of keys for both cars so that the hikers can get together again at the end of the day with the alternate car.

You will hear more about it in the next TRAILBLAZER.