

# BATONA TRAIL RESUMÉ

The idea of building a hiking trail through the Wharton Tract and Lebanon State Forest was first suggested by Dale Knapschaper in 1960, of the Batona Hiking Club.

Early in 1961 the Batona Hiking Club decided that this would be a worthwhile project. Morris Bardock <sup>then President of the Club</sup> dispatched a letter (#1 attached) to Commissioner Bantempo explaining our plan, and hoping for endorsement; but wondering whether it would be favorably received, or even ignored.

To our pleasant surprise a most favorable reply was received (#2 attached). We were to meet with Wharton manager J. C. MacDonald. Just about that time Mr. MacDonald was advanced to a post in Trenton, and our first meeting was held with his assistant, Sid Walker. We had earlier received a letter from Mr. MacDonald (#3 attached).

During the winter and early spring <sup>1961</sup> Walt Koryzniak and Morris Bardock made about a dozen exploratory trips to lay out the exact route of the trail. <sup>Dale Knapschaper & Paul Pejchowski</sup> assisted on several trips by

From June through September Koryzniak and Bardock made a series of eighteen work trips to construct the trail, by blaze marks on the trees; clearing where necessary, and avoiding difficult obstacles. Several other Batona members assisted on a few of these work trips.

The 30-mile trail was completed Sept 16, 1961. The final blaze was put on a tree about a ~~1/4~~ <sup>1 1/4</sup> mile <sup>just SOUTH OF</sup> Deep Hollow Pond, & indicated by a blaze encircling the tree.

During the whole period a most cordial relationship had been established with Mr. Walker (who had become manager of Wharton) by a series of meetings with Koryzniak and Bardock, to discuss details, and progress.

Bardock 5/22/93