

1233 Princess Ave.
Camden 3, New Jersey
January 20, 1961

Mr. Salvatore A. Bontempo, Commissioner
Department of Conservation and
Economic Development
Trenton, New Jersey

Dear Sir:

The Back to Nature Hiking Club of Philadelphia desires to make hiking a popular past time for more people. One contribution our club can make toward this goal is the laying out and maintenance of a hiking trail in an area accessible to a large number of people. We are considering a trail connecting the Wharton Tract and Lebanon State Forest since these areas have many visitors. Also, South Jersey has few if any developed trails; therefore, our project, we feel, would serve a function for the Forestry Service and with no cost to the State.

The exact route will not be determined until we do more exploring, but it will probably go from Batsto to Pakim Pond or Deep Hollow Pond and beyond. The length will be about twenty miles, but people visiting in Lebanon Forest or the Wharton Tract could take shorter hikes along it. We will try to route the trail near campgrounds and picnic areas to make it easy to use.

We propose to use existing sand roads and trails and go cross country only where necessary. Therefore the forest will not be harmed by the trail. The entire trail will be marked by painting blaze marks on trees at necessary intervals. On cross country sections we would simply mark the trail following an accessible route. We might perhaps clear out a little debris where it would greatly impede walking.

The Back to Nature Hiking Club is thirty-two years old and the most active in Philadelphia. The trail work will be done by competent

Page 2

Mr. Salvatore A Bontempo

January 20, 1961

out-of-doors people who have been hiking for years. We are conservation minded and can assure you that no damage would be done to any trees or vegetation.

The main purpose of this letter is to obtain the sanction of our State Forestry Service before undertaking this work. When completed, we would send you a detailed route of the trail and its name.

Enclosed please find one of our schedules which will help to acquaint you with our organization.

Respectfully yours,

Morris Bardock, President
Batona Hiking Club

MB:kk
Encl.



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
TRENTON 25

February 10, 1961

Mr. Morris Bardock, President
Batona Hiking Club
1233 Princess Avenue
Camden 3, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Bardock:

Thank you for your letter concerning a hiking trail
in the Wharton Tract and the Lebanon State Forest.

I have asked Mr. J.C. MacDonald, General Manager of
the Wharton Tract and Mr. J.P. Allen, Superintendent of the
Lebanon State Forest to see if there is anything they can do
to be helpful. Mr. MacDonald will be in touch with you
directly.

I am pleased to know of the interest that your group
has in conservation and recreation activities.

Sincerely yours,

Salvatore A. Bontempo
Commissioner

State of New Jersey
Wharton Tract Office
Green Bank, R. D. #2
Egg Harbor City, N. J.

February 10, 1961

Mr. Morris Bardock
Batona Hiking Club
1233 Princess Avenue
Camden 3, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Bardock:

Reference is made to your letter to Commissioner Bontempo concerning the establishment of a hiking trail connecting the Wharton Tract and Lebanon State Forest.

We will be happy to cooperate with you in carrying out this project. We have regional maps and other information available at the Wharton Tract office at Green Bank, New Jersey (Telephone WOrth 5-1367 W) and will be glad to take you over the area on an inspection tour. Our office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. We would prefer to have advance notice of your coming so we can have transportation available.

Sincerely yours,



J. C. MacDonald
General Manager
Wharton Tract

cc J. P. Allen
File

JCM/phm

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Department of Conservation & Economic Development

Wharton Tract Office
Green Bank, R. D. #2
Egg Harbor City, N. J.