

Spring 1952

Cat Tracks

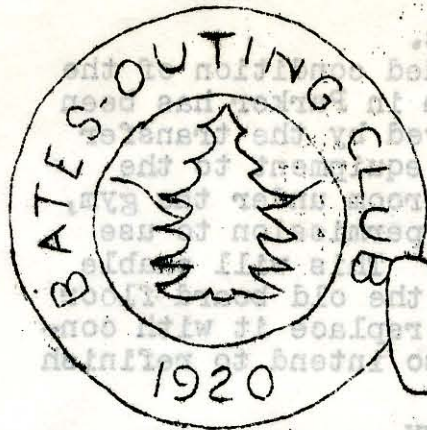
Bates Outing Club

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B.O.C.

NEWS LETTER

BATES OUTING CLUB, BATES COLLEGE, LEWISTON, MAINE

Vol. I. No. 1 Spring, 1952

DAYS OF OUR YEAR

The Outing Club opened its activities for the year '51-'52 with the traditional hike to Thorncrag Cabin for the freshmen during Freshman Week. On Oct. 7, the first all-college mountain climb was held, with the top of Mt. Chocorua in New Hampshire the destination. Plans were laid immediately for another, this one being run up Mt. Blue on Oct. 21st. The trips were a huge success.

On Oct. 20 the equipment display was put on by the equipment directors and several willing hands. Samples of all Outing Club equipment were set up behind Parker so that the campus could become acquainted with the equipment we have for general use.

Nov. 14 saw nearly twenty Council and Board members to the I.O.C.A. Conference at Camden.

In the meantime, considerable discussion on the Winter Carnival had taken place; and with blood, sweat, and dozens of committees, the weekend of Feb. 8, 9 and 10, came off successfully as Bates took a "Holiday in Hades" week end.

Following this event, the O.C. and the C.A. started to

see if those two all-campus organizations, in conjunction with Stu-C and Stu-G, could be used as a means to enliven the campus.

The Council also held a freshmen reception to explain the nature of B.O.C. and become better acquainted with prospective members.

As the Spring roared by, the Outing Club occupied itself with several work trips, an I.O.C.A. conference, renovating Thorncrag after the ravages of youthful wrecking crews and the winter, maintaining it for the Sunday Open Houses, increasing the supply of bicycles, painting canoes and holding trips, planning the clam bake, splash parties, and getting new butt cans for the home office.

TRAIL NEWS

Since last spring we have done nothing as spectacular as the winter trip of Feb. '51 (cf. A.T. News, May '51), but we did run a three-day coed trip to the C Pond section in May. It was a fly-biting, porcupine-disturbing, and unseasonable-warm experience, but 15 students and the faculty advisers had fun and accomplished much. You who have worked between Surplus and C Ponds will remember how inaccessible and "slushy" it is.

TRAIL NEWS (cont'd)

We were pleased to relocate a section through a stand of spruce in the Mountain Brook area. We also attempted to foster the growth of the small evergreens; thus the trip came to be known as "Operation Little Spruces" (cf. A. T. News, Sept., 1951)

Last fall we ran three trips. Two groups of 6 fellows cleared from Bemis Stream to Elephant Mt. lean-to and widened the trail near Long Pond. Many of you will remember crosscutting spruce logs on Elephant Mt. Your work was not in vain, but we still have trouble in this section. High winds and heavy snows take their toll of those hurricane-stricken trees, but we're still striving to hold high standards.

Early in Nov. 3 carloads of people made an assault on the eastern end of the C Pond section. We hoped to do the full six miles, but cleared and painted so well that we did only 4! Early in May 6 fellows went back and completed this work and got up C Pond Bluff for the first time in years. On May 18, 23 of us put the much-lumbered Saddleback section into first-class condition. Pleasant memories. There's always an extra axe available should you feel ambitious on your next trip to the campus!

CABINS AND EQUIPMENT

Thorncrag has been the scene for much work this spring. Since there seems to be no further trouble with breaking and entering, it was decided to improve the interior. The floor has been thoroughly scrubbed and waxed, the benches repaired and stained, and a new wiring job done in the main room; a pair of wagon wheels now serve as chandeliers.

Sabbatus Cabin has been cleaned; one sunny Saturday afternoon in May we constructed a new front porch to replace the one used for firewood by some break-

and-enter boys.

The crowded condition of the equipment room in Parker has been greatly relieved by the transfer of all winter equipment to the old equipment room under the gym, having gained permission to use it once again. This will enable us to tear up the old board floor in Parker and replace it with concrete. We also intend to refinish the walls.

SPRING ACTIVITY

Canoe Trips: Sundays, May 4 through June 1, the women's houses ran both day and overnight trips.

Thorncrag Open Houses: The cabin was opened every Sunday.

Clambake: The annual clam-bake was held at Popham Beach, Sunday, May 25. This has become a significant event, coming on the heels of Mayoralty and just prior to final exams. This year over 350 students and faculty members took the journey. We consumed 8 bushels of clams, about 500 hamburgers, and a variety of other things, including potato salad (despite the shortage!), tomatoes, coke, and watermelon. We did one other unprecedented thing; we reduced the charge from 50 to 35 cents! We hope we broke even. Several brave souls dared to break the ice for a swim; most people played softball, horseshoes, or volley ball.

SPRING AND SUMMER EQUIPMENT

Bikes (we now have 5, but would gladly receive any more!) Tents Sleeping Bags - Packs - First Aid Equipment (we hope you wouldn't need it!) - Trail Equipment (axes, saws, clippers, and weeders) - Cooking Utensils - Canoes.

Have

a

Pleasant

Summer