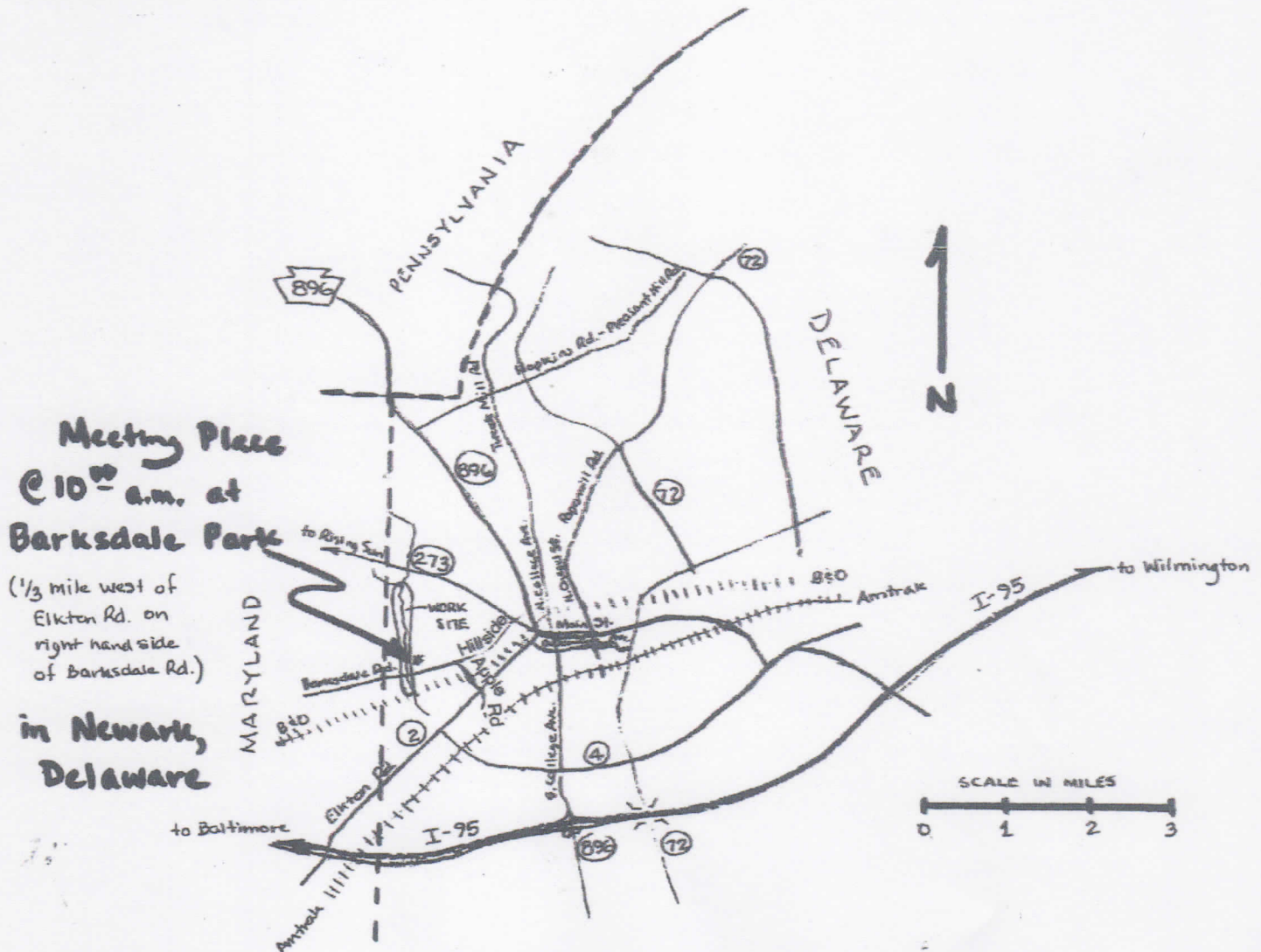




M-DTS NEWSLETTER January, 1993

M-DTS MEMBERS MEETING and WORKPARTY - 10:00 a.m., Saturday, February 20

The plan is to meet at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 20, at Barksdale Park in Newark, DE (on right side of Barksdale Road about 1/3 mile west of Elkton Road. Turn west off Elkton Rd at the traffic light onto Apple Rd. Cross the overpass and then turn left onto Barksdale Rd at the T junction.) We will work for two hours clearing brush along the west branch of the Christina River between the B&O railroad trestle south of Barksdale Rd to Church Rd north of Barksdale Rd (almost up to Rt. 273). At noon we will return to the parking lot and travel to some nearby indoor site (Bob Bennett will pick the place and get approval ahead of time) for bag lunch and a meeting. If there is more work to be done after the meeting those who wish may continue into the afternoon. **Bring lunch and a drink and work gloves, loppers, pruning sheers, swing sticks (weedwackers and chain saws would be nice, too).**



1993 MEMBERSHIP DUES NOTICE ENCLOSED

1993 Mason-Dixon Trail System membership dues are now due. The 1993 dues form is on page 5 of this newsletter. A stamped, addressed return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Agenda for Next Meeting

Sign in
Discussion of minutes of Nov. 15, 1992 meeting
Treasurer's Report
Reports from Trail Maintenance Coordinators (Turner Darden, Kay Way, Ron Gray)
Budget
Correspondence received
Set up next meeting in conjunction with work hike
Other new topics of interest
Adjournment

Successful Work Hike Held in November

Dear M-DTS friends,

We hope the work hike planned for February 20th will be as successful as our effort on November 15 in the Peach Bottom area. A veritable crowd of people showed up and we divided into teams. One group (Kay Way, Yvonne Blades, Turner Darden, and Warren Davies) scouted and flagged a possible relocation behind the Peach Bottom Plant to take the trail off of Lay Road. Another group (Ted Brower, John Wristen, John Scheiky and Anthony Marc) scouted and flagged a possible relocation about five miles downriver that will take the trail off Rt. 623 in the Broad Creek area and give some spectacular scenic views high above Broad Creek and the Susquehanna. Still a third group, the "chain gang" (Ron Gray, Jim Hooper, Jim Trautman, Richard Winemiller, Charles Albin, Ken Power, Clair Peirsol, and Rick Maerker—I still haven't figured out what those guys did to deserve such punishment) toiled with maddocks and crowbars to cut the trail up the slope of a hill between Johnson Road and the cottages above Coyne Lock. This group did a masterful job in creating a nice walking path over a quarter of a mile stretch, cutting through roots and rearranging rocks. After seeing how nice the job looked, we began thinking of all the other spots along the 187-mile stretch of the trail that could benefit from such work. But that's another day. A sincere thanks to all who participated.

Hope to see you on February 20.

Sincerely,
Rick Maerker

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 14, 1992 MEMBERS MEETING

The meeting was held at Dorsey Park, the PA Fish Commission boat launch area near Peach Bottom Power Plant. Members attending were: President Rick Maerker, Warren Davies, Charles Albin, Richard Winemiller, John Wristen, Ron Gray, Ken Power, Jim Hooper, John Schelky, Yvonne Blades, Ted Brower, Kay Way, Turner Darden, Anthony Marc, John Wilds, Clair Piersol and Jim Trautman.

The minutes of the last meeting (Sept. 20, 1992) were approved as circulated.

Rick Maerker reported that wholesale lots of the M-DTS map-guides have been sold to Clay Book Store, Travellers Book Store and to Eastern Mountain Sports Towson store.

Budget: Jim Hooper reviewed M-DTS expenses and income over the past few years to prepare a budget for the coming year but lacks a complete set of treasurer's reports. Rick Maerker will look for the missing reports in his files.

Trail Reports:

Eastern Section - A possible relocation looping over to Fairhill and back to the Christina River has been mapped by Warren & Vivian Davies, Bob Bennett, Rick Maerker and Yvonne Blades. At the next M-DTS meeting we will clear a section of this route along the Christina River.

- John Wilds has placed stakes with blazes and added a turn marker to improve route marking in the Pleasant Valley Rd area.
- Turner Darden contacted Amy Rand about the possible relocation in Somerset Lake development. Amy said the development may expand and thus obliterate the proposed trail system. Warren Davies raised the possibility of relocating through Wilkinson Farms.
- Yvonne Blades has scouted a relocation in Elk Neck State Forest to avoid the wet area below the equipment storage facility near the landfill.
- Turner Darden asked to be relieved as Eastern Section Coordinator, a job he has ably performed since the inception of the M-DTS.

Central Section - Kay Way reports that Bob Yost has removed blowdowns on Peavine Island.

- Yvonne Blades and Barbara Davison have cleared the trail from Havre de Grace to Quarry Rd including the route up the rocks.
- Yvonne and Herb Blades rerouted the trail heading north off Lapidum Rd up some stone steps, across a grassy clearing (an old home site) then steeply up hill to rejoin the old vine-covered route.
- Ted Brower and Dave Linthicum have scouted a relocation along Broad Creek between Rt. 623 on the north side of the iron bridge to a dirt road near where Broad Creek empties into the Susquehanna.
- Rick Maerker reported briefly on a class project on the Susquehanna Greenway being carried out by graduate students in geography at Towson State University. Rick has spoken to the class and walked two of the students through our suggested relocation of the M-DT from Quarry Rd to Lapidum Rd.

Western Section - Ron Gray reports the trail is in pretty good shape.

- Near Fishing Creek a cabin owner has built a goat pen on the right of way which interferes with the M-DT. Ron has contacted PP&L. *Safe Harbor*
- Ron has met with Mark Arbogast of PP&L concerning a bridge over Sawmill Run. PP&L will provide utility poles. Ron will fill out the permits, supply photos of area and submit \$100 fee required by PA Department of Environmental Resources. A 55-foot bridge is required, we will have to buy decking etc. Estimated cost \$600-700 which could be shared among M-DTS, York Hiking Club and KTA. Another possible source of money is under the Simms Act. Ron suggests a combined work party with the York Hiking Club on July 11 for site preparation and to do work on the trail leading to both sides of the bridge. He hopes to build the bridge in the fall.
- Ron has walked members of the Shenks Mare Explorer Post through their section of the M-DTS (Green Branch to Cuffs Run). They plan to go in soon to improve the route through the rocky area.

- There is a mule problem in the Fishing Creek and Green Branch areas.

Other Business:

- John Wristen is considering writing an article for Delaware Today on the trail and backpacking. He needs information regarding camping spots along the trail.
 - Next meeting: Saturday, February 20, 1993.
 - Next, next meeting: July 11, 1993.
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Susquehanna Spring Wildflower Walk and Litter Clean-up

Yvonne Blades [REDACTED] will lead a 3-mile wildflower walk and litter clean-up on a stretch of the M-DT along the Susquehanna River in Susquehanna State Park, Harford County, Md, on Sunday April 25, 1993. This area is noted for its spectacular springtime display of bluebells and trilliums. The M-DT follows close to the river edge and is a popular route for fishermen and thus becomes littered with cans, bottles, food containers and tangled fishing line. Most of the litter is on a 1-mile section of trail and river edge near the mouth of Deer Creek. **Meet at the far end of the Deer Creek picnic area parking lot off Stafford Rd in Susquehanna State Park at 10 am, Sunday, April 25. Bring lunch, water, and work gloves. Trash bags will be provided.**

Following lunch, for those interested, we can take a 3 or 4-mile loop hike (litter-free this time) through another section of this scenic park.

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

George Kahler

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Joan E. Riley

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Bob Russo

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]