



M-DTS NEWSLETTER January 1996

M-DTS WORK PARTY -- 9:00 a.m., Sunday, March 17
M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING -- 2:00 p.m., Sunday, March 17

For both the work party and members meeting meet at the south end of the Gaging Station Bridge over Muddy Creek on Papermill Road. See map.

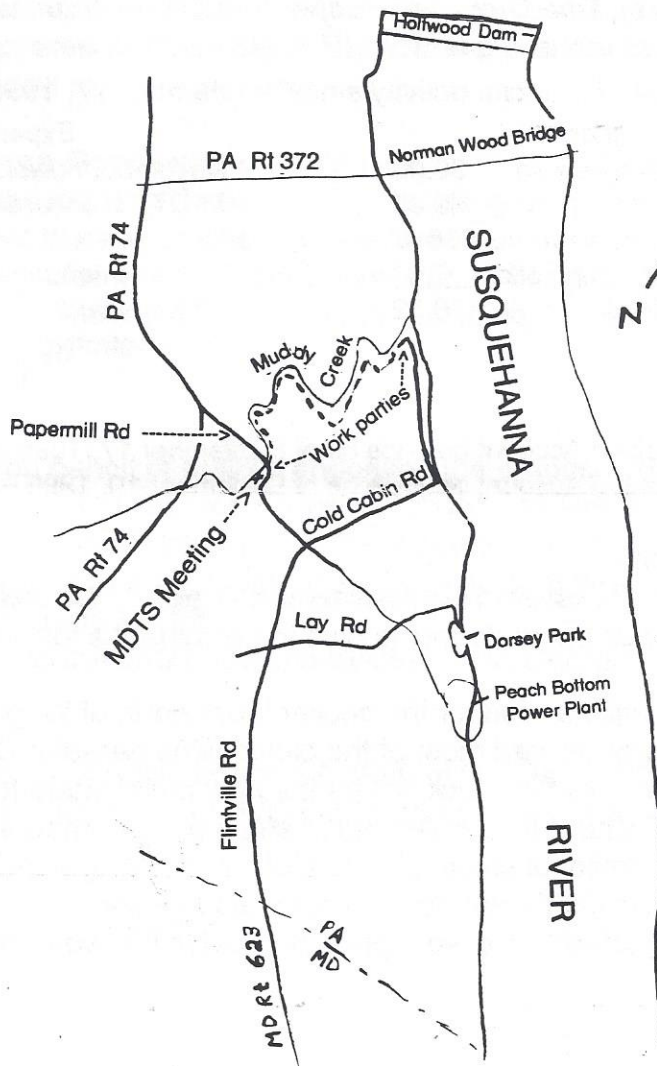
The work parties will tackle projects on the Muddy Creek section of the Mason-Dixon Trail including: improvement of the dug-in trail up the embankment near the mouth of Muddy Creek, trail realignment off eroding stream bank, clearing blowdowns, cutting back encroaching growth and blaze touch-up. There is something for everyone whether you prefer wielding a mattock, a chain saw, garden shears or a paint brush. Please join us. This is a very beautiful section of the M-DT.

For the work party bring work gloves, lunch, water and the appropriate tools eg. chain saw, mattocks, loppers, pruning shears, paint set-up.

Directions

From north: come down PA Rt 74 - about 2 miles south of PA Rt 372, at a sharp bend to the right, leave Rt 74 by going straight on Papermill Rd. Cross Muddy Creek. Park at south end of bridge.

From south: via PA Rt 74 heading north, turn right on Papermill Rd where Rt 74 turns sharply left about 1 mile after crossing Muddy Creek. Continue as above.
From Rt 1 south of Conowingo Dam turn right on MD 623, becomes Flintville Rd in PA. At intersection with Papermill Rd, turn left to reach Gaging Station Bridge on Muddy Creek.



\$ \$ 1995 M-DTS MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE \$ \$

Your 1996 Mason Dixon Trail System membership dues are now due. The 1996 dues form is included in this mailing. An addressed, return envelope is enclosed for your convenience. No envelope is enclosed if you: (1) joined late in 1995, (2) are a life member or (3) paid twice in 1995.

Chain Saw Gang Clears Trail at Greenbranch

In spite of wintery weather and icy roads, six hardy souls turned out for the December 10th M-DTS work party to clear the blowdowns on the rocky stretch of trail between Cuffs Run and Greenbranch Road. Three chain saws were in action and 90% of the blowdowns were cut through including 8 very large logs. One blowdown, the farthest from the access road, remains to be cut. Our thanks to the hard working crew: Ron Gray, Jim Hooper, Rick Maerker, Pat O'Dell, Dennis Schmuck and Jim McCoy.

Minutes of the December 10, 1995 M-DTS Members' Meeting

The meeting was held in the John Paul Jones cabin of the York Hiking Club. Those attending were: Rick Maerker, Ron Gray, Jim Hooper, Pat O'Dell, Yvonne Blades and Charles Albin.

The minutes of the September 17, 1995 meeting were approved as circulated.

Treasurer's report: Financial activity since September 17, 1995 was as follows:

Income		Expenses	
Membership renewals	35.00	November newsletter, printing	42.25
New members	40.00	M-DTS brochures, printing	60.50
Sale of map/guides	68.45	Postage	57.60
Interest in checking acct	<u>7.07</u>	Trail maintenance supplies	47.52
Total	150.52	KTA renewal	25.00
		Administrative	<u>56.26</u>
		Total	289.13

Checking Account balance as of September 17, 1995 -- \$ 1218.89

Checking Account balance as of December 10, 1995 -- \$ 1080.28

Trail Reports

Western Section - Western Terminus to Mill Creek Coordinator: Ron Gray

- Ron Gray now has the materials to give to Lorraine Sis for the replacement sign for the Western terminus.
- A maintainer is still needed for the section from north of Wrightsville to Accomac Inn.
- Today's workparty cleared most of the blowdowns between Cuff's Run and Greenbranch Road. Jim McCoy and Dennis Schmuck will be the new maintainers for this section.
- Ron Gray and Richard Winemiller put in steps up the embankment at Greenbranch Run. More work is needed; additional steps, pins to stabilize the steps and blazing.
- The climb up from Cuff's Run to the south needs work.
- Ron Gray suggested that a work party be held in the warm weather for stone work in Apollo Park.

Central Section - Mill Creek to Havre de Grace Coordinator: Kay Way

- Yvonne Blades reports that the M-DT along Muddy Creek was blocked at both ends - near the bridge by a clump of six trees across the trail and at the east end by the branches of a large hemlock that had fallen across the trail descending the embankment.
- Some blazes on the Peach Bottom relocation need refreshing. The blazes on metal posts have become discolored and are difficult to see.
- Yvonne Blades reports that Rick Smith, manager of Susquehanna State Park, has affirmed that we may continue to use the Deer Creek peninsula route for the M-DT for the foreseeable future. Yvonne and Barbara Davison have now reblazed that section and made some minor relocations to improve the route.
- Ron Gray reports that one of the large rocks that the M-DT traverses below the police shooting range south of Arundel Quarry is unstable and a safer route is needed.

Eastern Section - Perryville to Eastern Terminus Coordinator: Turner Darden

- A Wilmington Trail Club work hike on Sunday, November 6th, with 28 participants, groomed the M-DT through Elk Neck State Forest and west to MD Rt 272. Barbara Davison, Pat Glanden and Yvonne Blades repainted all the blue and white M-DT blazes through Elk Neck State Forest. (The standard blue blazes are not allowed in the Forest due to possible confusion with blue boundary markings).
- Bob Bennett reports there are still some residents of the Christianstead development unhappy with the trail in their neighborhood. He hopes to get the City of Newark involved and to try to assess the number of proponents of the trail as well as the opponents.

Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway Update

Yvonne Blades has been attending the monthly Greenway Coordinating Committee meetings representing M-DTS. She reports that there have been no new developments regarding the greenway alignment south of the completed section from Conowingo to Stafford Road. The committee plans to hire a coordinator to move the project along. Land acquisitions for the greenway have been made in the Port Deposit area.

Other Business:

- Turner Darden has written a letter on behalf of M-DTS endorsing the proposal for the State of Delaware to purchase an additional parcel of land for the White Clay Creek Preserve.
- There is a KTA proposal to create a series of hiking maps for various regions of Pennsylvania. A copy of the M-DTS map/guide will be sent to the KTA maps and guides committee as requested.
- Robert Way has donated his chain saw to M-DTS.
- Kay Way has asked to be replaced as the M-DT, Central Section, Trail Coordinator.

Next Meeting

The next M-DTS meeting will be held on Sunday, March 17, 1996 at the Gaging Station bridge on Muddy Creek. There will be a work party starting at 9:00 am followed by the members' meeting at 2:00 pm.