

# MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.



## M-DTS NEWSLETTER February, 2005

**M-DTS WORK PARTY -- 9:00 a.m., Sunday, March 13**  
**M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING -- 2:00 p.m., Sunday, March 13**

**Work Party:** Meet at the parking area at Apollo Park. Be on time. We will be car pooling to a closer access point to the work site.

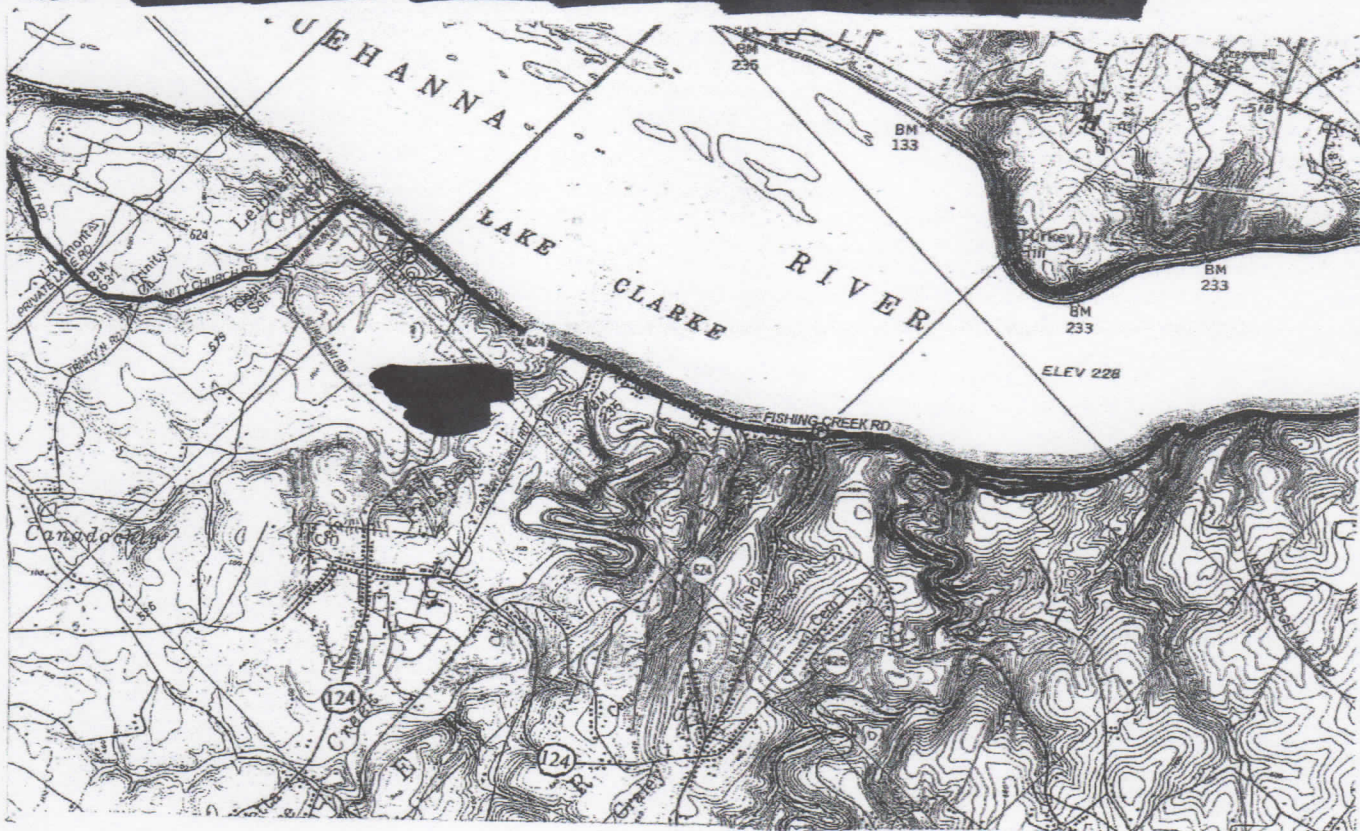
We will work on the last half mile of trail needed to finally complete the Apollo Park to Cuff's Run relocation. There is chain saw work, rock work and blazing to be done. Equipment needed: mattocks, digging bars, chain saw, loppers, paint set-ups. All workers should bring: work gloves, eye protection, lunch and water.

**Members Meeting:** Meet at the Hooper residence south of Wrightsville.

**Directions to work party:** From north: From PA Rte 74 east of Red Lion turn left on Burkholder Rd to connect to Rte 425 at New Bridgeville. Go south on Rte 425 about three and a half miles. Turn left on Boyd's Rd and follow it to the parking area for Apollo Park.

From south and east: Cross the Norman Wood bridge on Rte 372. Turn right, north, on Rte 74 to near Airville; turn right on Rte 425 and follow it about 8 miles. Turn right at Boyd Rd. Follow it to the parking area for Apollo Park.

**Directions to Hoopers:** From Apollo Park - Turn north on Rte 425. At the 4-way intersection in Craley, go directly across onto Rte 124.





## MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM INC

President ..... Anthony Belfiglio

Vice President.....Jim Hooper

Secretary & Newsletter Editor...Yvonne Blades

Treasurer.....Mary Bleecker

Director - Pennsylvania .....James McCoy

Director - Maryland..... Alan Roland

Director - Delaware.....Robert Bennett

Trail Coordinators:

Western Section.....Ron Gray

Central Section.....Pat Yale

Eastern Section.....volunteer needed

The M-DTS Newsletter is published about four weeks in advance of each of the four M-DTS members' meetings/work parties held annually. Submissions are welcomed. Mail or email to editor. (See address under secretary above).

The Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. is an all-volunteer, service-oriented association of trail clubs and individual hikers that has as its purpose the use and conservation of the backcountry through the development of new trails in the mid-Atlantic states. The nucleus of M-DTS is the 190-mile Mason-Dixon Trail which passes through historic and scenic areas of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware.

New members are welcome. To join send \$15 (which includes cost of M-DT maps and patch) to

Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc  
Mary Bleecker

Thereafter, the annual fee is \$5.

Life membership is available for \$250.

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Visit the M-DTS web site at:

[www.angelfire.com/pa2/yorkhikingclub/mdts.html](http://www.angelfire.com/pa2/yorkhikingclub/mdts.html)

*Your 2005 M-DTS membership dues are now due. We hope you will continue to support the Mason-Dixon Trail. An addressed return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.*

## New Mason-Dixon Trail Maps are here

The 2004 edition of the M-DT maps is now available. The maps have been updated; GPS data has enabled more accurate delineation of the M-DT, there have been many relocations, other trails have been added. Each map, printed on water-proof paper, is 20 x 8.5 inches and folds to a 4 x 8.5 inch format. A detailed trail description, both west to east and east to west, is printed on the reverse side of each map. The set of 10 maps includes a cover sheet and is enclosed in a plastic bag. The new maps include side trails and park trails shown as dotted red lines in addition to the solid red line of the M-DT. The cost of the map set is \$12 which includes the cost of postage. Checks should be made out to Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc and mailed to:

Mary Bleecker, Treasurer M-DTS

M-DTS members may renew their membership and receive the new set of maps for a total of \$15. See enclosed dues form for details.

## TRAIL UPDATES AND ALERTS

### No access to M-DT at Conowingo Dam !

There is, at present, no access to the M-DT from Shures Landing Rd at Conowingo Dam where the M-DT heads south along the Susquehanna River on the old railroad bed (Map 6: West to East, Mile 10.9). The closure due to a maintenance project on the pipeline that crosses under the river at that point. Colonial Pipeline Company hopes to have the project completed by March. Phone [redacted] for current information.

**Target practice across M-DT!** Unknown persons have set up a firing range angling across the power line clearing and maintenance road north of Bare Rd (Map 5: East to West, Mile 28.2 to 28.7). The alignment is such that hikers following the M-DT along the maintenance road could be in the line of fire.

**Trail closed north of Apollo Park:** The trail is still closed between Cuff's Run and Apollo County Park. (Map 4: West to East - Mile 7.6 to 9.7). About ½ mile of new trail construction is needed to complete the relocation.

**No parking at Gaging Station Bridge on Muddy Creek:** The area by the bridge has been posted as "No Parking" and parked cars have been towed away. (Map 5: West to East, Mile 17.3).

**Elk Neck State Forest Update:** The two bridges on the M-DT that were "relocated" by floods last July are now back in place - see page 4 - and an improved route has been marked with blue ribbons around the steep sided chasm mentioned in the last newsletter (Map 8: West to East, Mile 4.8)

**M-DT at Red Toad Rd:** (Map 7: East to West, Mile 3.7) A new house appears to be sprouting up where the M-DT passes through a small wooded area after crossing Red Toad Rd heading west. A lengthy detour via the entrance of Whitaker Woods development may be necessary.



## MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 24, 2004 MEMBERS' MEETING

The meeting took place at the Hooper residence near Wrightsville, PA following the indoor and outdoor work parties. Those present for the meeting included: president: Tony Belfiglio, vice-president Jim Hooper, secretary Yvonne Blades, treasurer Mary Bleecker and Turner Darden, Warren & Vivian Davies, Joyce Hooper, Ron Gray and Tim Schmidt.

The minutes of the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as circulated.

### Treasurer's Report

Mary Bleecker presented the treasurer's report for the period from June 30 to October 23, 2004.

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Membership dues	\$170.00	Trail Maintenance	\$62.65
Sale of map/guides	54.00	Newsletter printing	52.23
Sale of patches	14.00	Map-making expenses	22.26
Interest	1.35	YHC cabin rental	5.50
CD redeemed for map bill	<u>3370.67</u>		<u>\$142.64</u>
	<b>\$3610.02</b>		
Balance in checking account as of 6/30/04		\$5181.71	
Income minus expenses 6/30/04-10/24/04		<u>3467.02</u>	
Balance in checking account as of 10/24/04		<b>\$8649.09</b>	

Mary reported she had redeemed a CD to pay the bill for the new maps. There are two CDs (\$7500) left.

### New M-DT Maps

At the indoor work party before the meeting, a hard-working team including several York Co. Hiking Club members collated the 10 maps per set, added cover sheet and placed the map sets in plastic bags. The workers were: Jim & Diane McCoy, Lou & Sarah Tateosian, Warren & Vivian Davies, Gwen Loose, Kim Jones, Joyce Hooper, Mary Bleecker, Turner Darden and Yvonne Blades. We finished up with 660 complete sets including cover and plastic bag; 40 sets with cover and no bag and 200 additional sets of 10 maps without cover or bag.

Yvonne Blades reported that the new M-DT maps were delivered to her home October 18 from Donald Blyler Offset in Lebanon, PA. The maps turned out well but the printer had a large overrun which they included in their bill. The original quote was \$4998 for the 500 maps we ordered. There was a charge of \$240 for changes Yvonne asked for after reviewing the proofs and \$90.00 for delivery. The bill also included "\$888.00 overrun: 5200 pieces".

After much discussion, Jim Hooper moved, seconded by Tim Schmidt: M-DTS will pay the bill including the overrun costs if Blyler supplies us with 200 additional covers and 250 more plastic bags. Motion carried. Yvonne will contact Blyler Offset.

Ron Gray moved, seconded by Tim Schmidt: The cost for the map sets to members to be \$12 which includes postage. For bulk orders of 25 or more maps: \$7.50 each. Carried.

Mary Bleecker moved, seconded by Ron Gray: A gift of up to \$100 to be approved for Walter Steuber for his invaluable assistance in the creation of the new maps. Carried.

Jim Hooper will contact Jim Trautman to put information about the new maps on the M-DTS web site.

### M-DT Trail Reports

#### Western Section - Western Terminus at Whiskey Springs to Lock 12

##### Coordinator:

- At today's outdoor work party, Ron Gray, Jim Hooper, Tim Schmidt, Bernie Frick, Richard Winemiller, Tony Belfiglio and Charles Ament built 350 feet of new trail on the M-DT Apollo Park to Cuffs Run relocation. There is ½ mile of new trail construction, which includes a ravine, still to be done to finish the relocation.
- Ron reported that Jim Trautman had spent four hours doing trail maintenance on the M-DT in Pinchot Park
- The total hours spent on trail work on the M-DT in the western section so far in 2004 is 747.6 hrs.
- Jim Hooper plans to approach owners of the quarry that lies between Rte 624 and the Susquehanna River, south of Wrightsville about the possibility of a M-DT relocation through their land. A relocation there plus the potential for a relocation in the proposed Susquehanna Riverlands Preservation Project would take over a mile and a half of the M-DT off-roads.
- Yvonne Blades described the target practice set-up she noted while hiking on the M-DT north of Bare Road en route to Otter Creek. The set-up is on the power line clearing and targets are along the maintenance road which the M-DT follows. Thus hikers could be in direct line of fire. Ron Gray will look into the situation.



**Central Section – Lock 12 to Havre de Grace Coordinator: Pat Yale**

- No new developments about the Muddy Creek parking problem. Ron Gray has had discussions with Rodney Stark of PECO, regarding a monument survey and has asked for a copy of M-DTS agreement with PECO. Jim Hooper suggests a meeting of interested parties with Stan Saylor, the state representative for the area. We need to get this problem resolved.

**Eastern Section – Perryville to Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford Coordinators: Cecil Co. – Tony Belfiglio (410/392-9699)  
New Castle and Chester Co. – Yvonne Blades**

- Margit Pruett and her new Maryland Conservation Corp crew in Elk Neck State Forest have put back in place the two wooden bridges on the M-DT that were “relocated” by floods last July. Her description of the work on the MCCC-built bridge: “the bridge took two days to move but it was really an interesting project that involved tree climbing, ropes, pulleys, human power, the Gator and suspending the bridge in the air. We had fun doing it all”  
Margit and crew also put the M-DT-built bridge back in place. She reported they only had to do minor repair and replace a few screws that had snapped. They dug out the original post holes and placed the bridge back in them.
- Yvonne Blades reported that the recent relocation of the M-DT/Brandywine Trail near Chadds Ford is in poor shape due to flooding of the Brandywine Creek and the luxurious growing season. The trail is badly overgrown, muddy and partly underwater. A Wilmington Trail club work hike on the Brandywine Trail is scheduled for November 17.

**Other Business**

**Memberships, Donations:** Moved by Ron Gray, seconded by Joyce Hooper: M-DTS to renew membership in Keystone Trails Association as an organizational member. Carried. Moved by Jim Hooper, seconded by Tim Schmidt: M-DTS to become a supporting member of the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy at \$50. Carried.

**Pennsylvania Townships:** Jim Hooper emphasized that M-DTS members in townships through which the M-DT passes should make sure their township supervisors know about the trail and that it is shown on township maps. We need to have members from each of the townships that the trail goes through. The 2005 M-DTS dues renewal form will ask PA residents to include the name of their township.

**Negotiating Agreements:** Jim Hooper reported that John Stein is offering to put on a workshop on how to negotiate agreements. ie negotiating agreements with landowners for right of way for a trail across their property. Jim told John M-DTS was interested. Ron Gray moved, seconded by Tim Schmidt: M-DTS to get involved in a workshop re negotiating agreements. Carried

**Pennsylvania Hiking Week:** Tim Schmidt wants to lead a hike on the M-DT during Pennsylvania Hiking Week, possibly on the new Apollo Park to Cuff's Run relocation if it is completed by then.

**M-DTS Archivist:** Turner Darden was appointed as M-DTS archivist.

**Next Work Party & Meeting:** March 13, Sunday. Work party to meet at Apollo Park at 9:00 am. The M-DTS Meeting will be at the Hooper residence at 2:00 pm. The following work party & meeting is planned for a Saturday, May 7 possibly on the east side of the Susquehanna.

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**In Memoriam, John Wristen (1925-2004)**

John Wristen, who was one of the earliest active workers on the Mason-Dixon Trail, died in Newark, Delaware on November 6, 2004. In the mid-nineteen seventies John helped chart the location through the greater Newark area of the M-DT. Robert Bennett was recruited by John to help in this project which began a long partnership in this endeavor. Bob recalls that John especially loved his part in the establishment of the M-DT through the city of Newark, and they put in some good work to get the trail off of the rail tracks between Cashio Mill and the Deer Park (its original and hardly legal temporary routing), and routing it instead along the Christina Creek to Church Road. They also continued construction along the Christina through what is now the area of Christianstead and West Branch but local residents ignored deed restrictions which mandated a public access trail along the creek and that section of the M-DT was eventually relocated onto Creek Road on the White Clay.

Bob hopes that a plaque might be placed in John's honor at the foot bridge that crosses the Christina at Downes School that gives students and residents of nearby communities convenient access to the trail.

**Scouts Combine Back Packing and Kayaking for Adventure Trip**

Seven boy scouts from Troop 380 of Newtown, PA spent five nights and 6 days on the Mason-Dixon Trail and its environs last July. They backpacked along the M-DT from Broad Creek Scout Reservation to Otter Creek. Then they kayaked on the Susquehanna River crossing to the Lancaster County side and heading downstream to Susquehannock State Park. From Susquehannock they returned to the York County side at Coyne Lock and made their way back to Broad Creek.



## 2004 FINANCIAL PICTURE OF M-DTS ACTIVITY

OPENING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 1/1/04		\$4235.93
<b>INCOME</b>		
Dues/Donations (104 "old"; 15 "new")	\$1713.50	
Maps/Guides (~59 sold)	\$972.00	
Patches	\$14.00	
Interest	\$5.28	
Cashed in 6-mo. CD to pay for new guides & maps	\$3370.67	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$6075.45</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Administration</b>		
3/1/04 (February newsletter and envelopes)	\$104.01	
3/27/04 (topo maps on CDs)	\$89.99	
4/30/04 (treasurer—stamps, phone, misc for 2003)	\$16.00	
4/28/04 (May newsletter and postage)	\$287.64	
7/31/04 (July newsletter, mailing labels, postage)	\$52.23	
8/19/04 (use of York Hiking Club cabin twice)	\$5.50	
9/27/04 (shipping charges for maps to printer)	\$22.26	
10/24/04 (boxes for maps and postage)	\$25.25	
10/27/04 (October newsletter and postage)	\$67.06	
11/22/04 (600 MDTs brochures)	\$114.00	
11/29/04 (postage for 30 guides to PATC)	\$10.31	
12/13/04 (treasures—stamps, phone, misc for 2004)	\$49.58	
12/13/04 (publishing expenses for maps and guides)	\$94.00	
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$937.83</b>
<b>Trail Maintenance</b>		
3/27/04 (Blades for paint, brushes, etc.)	\$87.60	
3/27/04 (bridge materials)	\$18.89	
7/24/04 (chainsaw sharpening, new chain, wedges)	\$56.77	
8/19/04 (oil to mix with gas for chainsaw)	\$5.88	
12/21/04 (chainsaw sharpening)	\$16.96	
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$186.10</b>
<b>Guides &amp; Maps</b>		
11/19/04 (for ~900 complete sets)	\$6215.88	
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$6215.88</b>
<b>Donations/Dues</b>		
Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway	\$25.00	
Central PA Conservancy	\$50.00	
KTA	\$30.00	
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$105.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$7444.81</b>
ENDING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 12/31/04		\$2866.57
CD — 30-month		\$3122.12
CD — 24-month		\$4529.33
<b>TOTAL ASSETS OF M-DTS, INC. AS OF 12/31/04</b>		<b>\$10518.02</b>