

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.



M-DTS NEWSLETTER November, 1995

M-DTS WORK PARTY — 9:00 a.m., Sunday, December 10
M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING — 2:00 p.m., Sunday, December 10

The work party will be clearing blowdowns through the one-mile stretch of rocks along the west bank of the Susquehanna between Cuff's Run and Greenbranch Road (mile 9.1 to 10.1 on the "East to West" portion of MAP # 4) caused by high winds during thunderstorms in late July/early August. Chain saws and many willing hands to help pull away the cuttings will be helpful (bring work gloves).

Meet at the parking lot on the river side of PA Rt. 425 across from PP&L's Otter Creek Campground at 9:00 a.m. for car pooling to the work site (see map below).

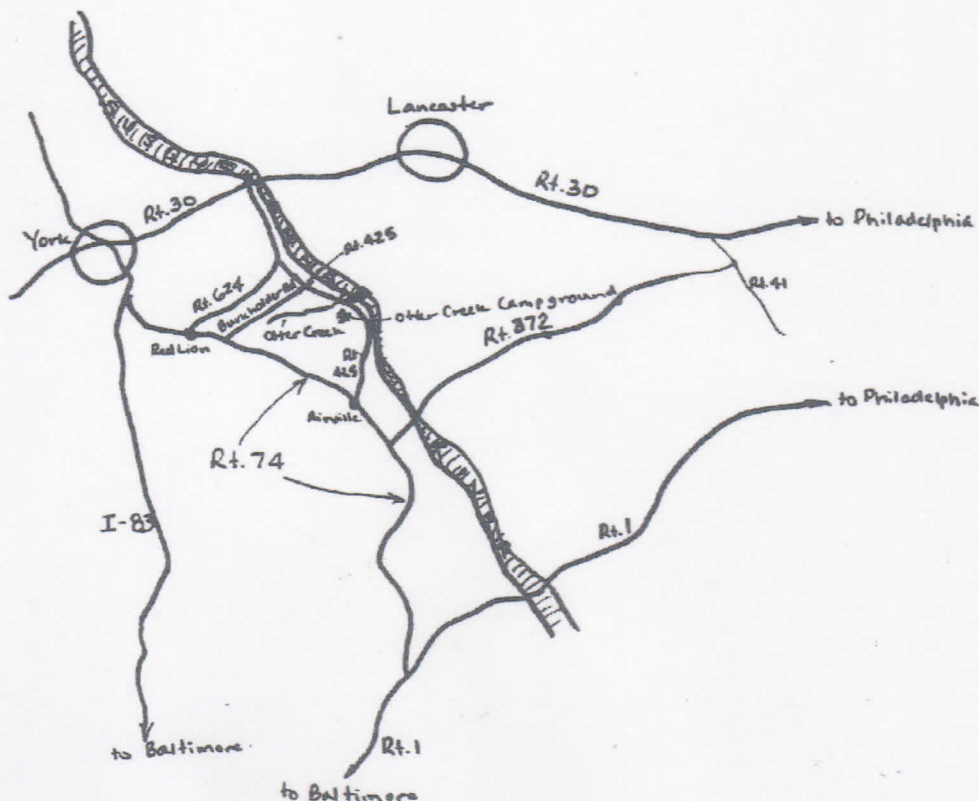
The members' meeting will convene at the York Hiking Club's Cabin at 2:00 p.m. Again, assemble at the same above-mentioned parking lot and you will be guided to the nearby cabin location for the meeting.

Directions

From the north: From Wrightsville, drive south on Rt. 624 to the town of Cralley, turn left on PA Rt. 425; go about 7 miles to bridge across Otter Creek; immediately after crossing bridge turn left into parking lot.

From Red Lion, go south on PA Rt. 74 about 1 mile; turn left onto Burkholder Road at Mack's Ice Cream Store; go 6 miles to 3-way stop sign intersection; continue straight ahead on Rt. 425 for about 6 miles to bridge cross Otter Creek; immediately after crossing bridge turn left into parking lot.

From the south: Go north on PA Rt. 74 to near Airville; turn right on Rt. 425 and drive about 5 miles, finally passing Otter Creek Campground on left; just past campground turn right into parking lot



Minutes of the September 17, 1995, M-DTS Members' Meeting

The meeting was held on the grass bank of the Arundel Quarry Company along the Mason-Dixon Trail at a scenic overlook of the lower Susquehanna River about one mile north of Havre de Grace on a beautiful, sun-shiny Sunday afternoon and was attended by the following: Rick Maerker, Ron Gray, Clair Piersol, Pat O'Dell, Tim Schmidt, and Warren & Vivian Davies.

The minutes of the July 9, 1995, M-DTS meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's report: Financial activity since July 7, 1995, was as follows:

Income		Expenses	
Membership renewals	\$ 37.00	June newsletter	\$61.63
Sale of map/guides	29.50	August newsletter	48.21
Interest in checking acct	<u>4.87</u>	Postage—August	<u>51.20</u>
Total	\$ 71.37	Total	\$161.04

Checking Account balance as of July 7, 1995 — \$1308.56

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

Trail Reports

Western Section — Western Terminus to Mill Creek

Coordinator: Ron Gray

- Ron Gray will get a piece of carsonite to maintainer Louise Sis that will be used temporarily to replace the missing western terminus sign at Whiskey Springs.
- the trail relocation through Pinchot State Park near the western end to reduce the road walking is done (see map, attached); the change is on MAP #2 between mile 21.5 and 22.4 on the "East to West" section (or between mile 1.8 and 2.7 of the "West to East" section of MAP #2) whereby the trail turns just before East Campground Road and parallels that road in the woods instead of along the macadam.
- another relocation in Pinchot Park between mile 20.2 and 20.6 on the "East to West" section of MAP #2 (or between mile 3.6 and 4.0 of the "West to East" section of MAP #2) is pending so as to avoid walking along the macadam of the main entrance road into the park.
- Rick Maerker volunteered to write a note to the caretaker of the Keasey estate along River Road north of Accomac to see whether permission can be gained to route the trail along the river bank to Codorus Creek instead of the present 3-mile stretch of road walking to go around the edge of the estate.
- Ron Gray noted that a new maintainer is needed for the 3-mile stretch of the trail along River Road north of Wrightsville up to the Accomac Inn. Maintenance consists primarily of freshening the blazes.
- Ron Gray and Jim Hooper will work on steps up the bluff from the berm over Greenbranch Run to the escarpment along the river at mile 10.6 of the "East to West" section of MAP #4 (or mile 5.5 of the "West to East" section of MAP #4)
- Rick Maerker reported that the blazes along the one-mile rocky stretch of trail between Cuff's Run and Greenbranch (mile 9.1 to 10.1 of the "East to West" section of MAP #4 or mile 6.0 to 7.0 of the "West to East" section of MAP #4) have been freshened, but a number of blowdowns need to be cleared (the objective of the December 10 work party).
- Ron Gray will find four carsonite posts for M-DT stickers to mark the Gladfelter Paper Company clear-cut south of Apollo County Park between mile 3.8 and 4.2 of the "East to West" section of MAP #4 or mile 11.9 to 12.2 of the "West to East" section of MAP #4).

Central Section — Mill Creek to Havre de Grace

Coordinator: Kay Way

- as a result of the work of one of today's work parties (Ron Gray, Pat O'Dell, and Tim Schmidt), the one-mile stretch between mile 11.6 and 12.8 of the "East to West" section of MAP #7 or mile 3.5 to 4.7 of the "West to East" section of MAP #7 is now cleared of blowdowns but needs "brushing" and paint-blazing.
- Dave Linthicum reports that he has cleared and reblazed the high point of his section between Conowingo and Broad Creek (between mile 13.0 and 13.5 of the "East to West" section of MAP #6 or mile 7.2 to 7.7 of the "West to East" section of MAP #6).

- Dave Linthicum also reported that ownership of the property along the north bank of Broad Creek just off MD Rt. 623 at mile 14.5 of the "East to West" section of MAP #6 or mile 6.2 of the "West to East" section of MAP #6 has recently changed hands so that permission to cross a corner of that property for a possible relocation of the trail along Broad Creek might be timely (Ted Brower: please note!)

Eastern Section — Eastern Terminus to Perryville Coordinator: Turner Darden

- Vivian and Warren Davies and Rick Maerker in one of today's work parties cleared overgrown trail along Northeast Creek from just south of the railroad tracks to near the telephone cable right-of-way (mile 0.5 to 0.9 of the "East to West" section of MAP #7 or mile 15.0 to 15.4 of the "West to East" section of MAP #7).

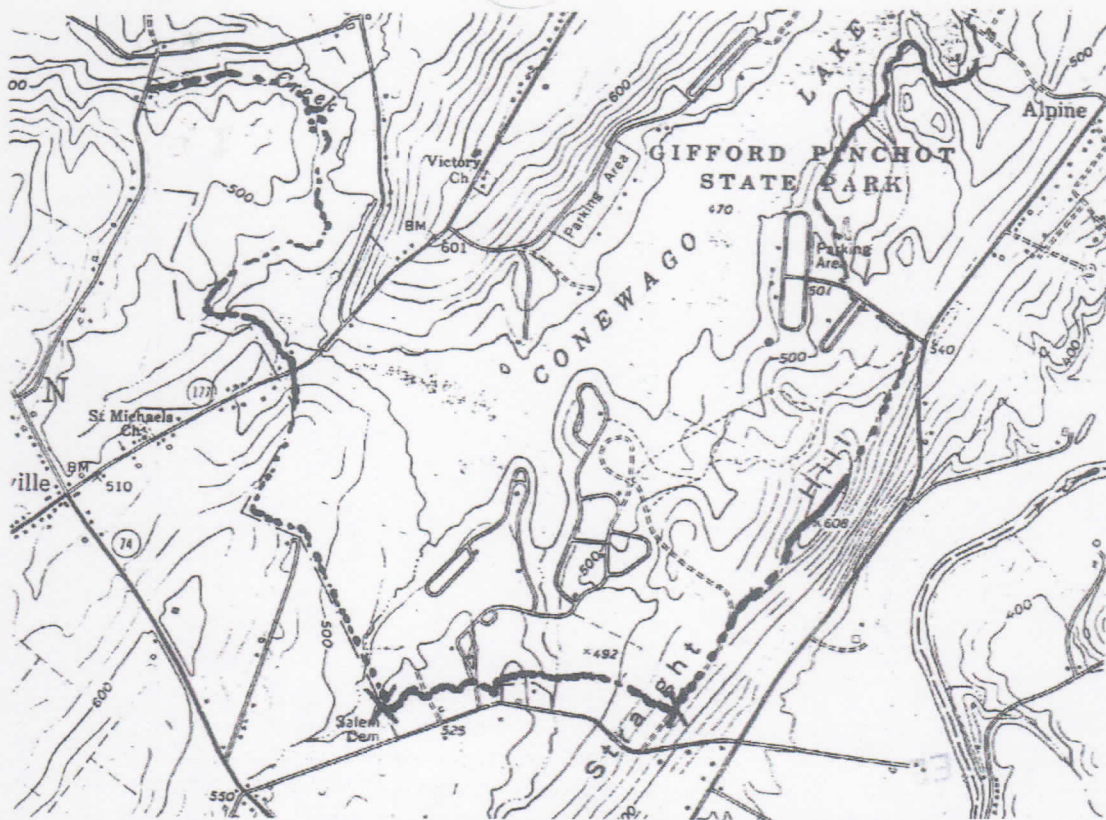
- Bob Bennett reported to Rick Maerker that on Saturday, September 16, Turner Darden had freshened the blazes between Wedgewood Road and Rt. 273 (mile 8.9 to 10.1 on the "East to West" relocation section of MAP #9 or mile 10.8 to 12.0 of the "West to East" relocation section of MAP #9) along the Christina Creek through the backyards of the development homes in West Branch and Christianstead. John Wriston and Bob Bennett were most concerned with repercussions from Turner's blazing, preferring instead to take a much less aggressive approach to the trail in that politically sensitive area. However, Turner was acting on the impetus of using the Mason-Dixon Trail between White Clay Creek Preserve and Iron Hill Park as part of the "Northwest Delaware Greenway" in his role as a member of the Governor's Council on Greenways and Trails

Other Business

- Correspondence from maintainer Dave Linthicum praised Rick Maerker's account of hiking the entire M-DT this summer, saying "for all maintainers it's a valuable, rare, tangible testimony to the value of their work, actually hearing from a hiker!" After sharing Dave's note, Rick Maerker again expressed his gratitude for all our maintainers who do such a great job in voluntarily maintaining a difficult, 190-mile long trail.
- Rick Maerker reported sending a letter of support on M-DTS letterhead for the White Clay Watershed Association Greenways Committee's attempt to get funding for a feasibility study to "select a wildlife corridor between the White Clay and Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area" to be known as the "Mason Dixon Greenway."
- Rick Maerker reported on his response to a survey from the Keystone Trails Association regarding the number of volunteer hours and costs associated with trail maintenance by M-DTS in a given year. For 1994, covering the 190 miles of the M-DT, an estimate of maintenance of 54 times/year by about 2 people per occasion at a total monetary expenditure of \$795.26, amounted to ~\$2/person/year.
- Rick Maerker read letters sent to two rangers he met in Susquehanna State Park over the summer who expressed interest in helping to maintain the M-DT. Both rangers were sent complimentary copies of the M-DT trail guide.

Next Meeting

The next M-DTS meeting will be held at the York Hiking Club's Cabin on Sunday, December 10, 1995, at 2:00 p.m. Meet at 2:00 p.m. in the parking lot on the river side of PA Rt. 425 across from PP&L's Otter Creek Campground to be escorted to the cabin. A work party will assemble at 9:00 a.m. in that same parking lot for the purpose of clearing blowdowns as outlined on the front page of these minutes. Your participation is most welcome at either or both the work party and the meeting. Don't forget to bring a lunch for yourself!



M-DT Relocation in Gifford Pinchot State Park - between the Xs

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.



Yvonne Blades



R. Ronald Gray

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