



M-DTS NEWSLETTER April, 2000

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- Temporary trail at Holtwood - see page 2

M-DTS WORK PARTY – 10:00 a.m., Sunday, April 30 **M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING – 2:00 p.m., Sunday, April 30**

Work Party: Meet at parking lot on Paddrick Road, off Rte 623, just south of the Broad Creek Bridge.

There are two projects: 1) finish the relocation of a section of trail that is on private property - will require heavy rock work. Mattocks, and pulaskis will be provided. 2) enjoy a hike, do some clipping and blazing on the scenic upper Muddy Creek section of the M-DT. Bring clippers, loppers. All workers should bring: work gloves, eye protection, lunch and a beverage.

Members Meeting: Meet at Paddrick Rd as above at 1:45 pm. If the Boy Scout Reservation is available we will proceed to there, otherwise we will have the meeting at Paddrick Rd. Check website for update on meeting site.

Directions: From South or East: From US Rt 1, at traffic light 1.7 mi southwest of Conowingo Dam, turn north on MD Rt 623 for 4.1 mi to just before Broad Creek bridge. Turn left onto Paddrick Rd and park on right for the workparty. For the meeting, continue on 623 (across Broad Creek) for 1 mile. Turn left on Susquehanna Hall Rd (gravel) for 1.1 mi.; turn left at the scout sign into Broad Creek Scout reservation and park on the right at the headquarters building, our meeting site.

From York area: Go south on I-83. Get off at exit 1 (Shrewsbury) and go east on Rt 851 for about 3.5 mi to Stewartstown. Turn south on Rt 24 (becomes 23 in Md). About 5 miles south of Stewartstown, turn left on Rt 136. Follow Rt 136 for 15.5 miles. Turn left on Prospect Rd for 0.2 miles then right on Deep Run Road for 1.0 mi. Turn right on Susquehanna Hall Rd and after 0.7 mile, turn right into the Scout Reservation and park on the right for the meeting. For the worksite, continue on Susquehanna Hall Rd 1.1 mile. Turn right on Md Rt 623, and just south of the Broad Creek bridge turn right onto Paddrick Rd and park on the right.



MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM INC

President Jim Hooper
[REDACTED]

Vice President.....Pat Wolf
[REDACTED]

Vice President.....Jim Denny
[REDACTED]

Secretary.....Yvonne Blades
[REDACTED]

Treasurer.....Mary Blecker
[REDACTED]

Trail Coordinators:

Western Section.....Ron Gray
[REDACTED]

Central Section.....Pat Wolf
[REDACTED]

Eastern Section.....Rick Maerker
[REDACTED]

Newsletter Editor..... Yvonne Blades

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 M-DT maps and patch) to

Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc
Mary Blecker

Thereafter, the annual fee is \$5.

Life membership is available for \$250.

Visit the M-DTS web site at:
[REDACTED]

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

Your year 2000 Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc membership dues are now due. A dues form is included with this mailing to those who have not yet renewed their membership for 2000. We hope you will continue to support M-DTS.

TRAIL UPDATES AND ALERTS

Temporary trail rerouting north of Holtwood: The Pennsylvania Game Commission has again closed a section of the M-DT along the Susquehanna River north of Holtwood Dam because of nesting eagles. A temporary route, marked with white blazes, has been constructed to bypass the closed section. Northbound (Map 5, East to West), the MDT is closed where it leaves McCalls Ferry Road at Mile 22.6. To follow the temporary route, continue along McCalls Ferry Road and watch for white blazes that lead off to the right, cross a small stream, then switchback up the slope. Cross the cable line clearing, then enter the woods and follow the trail along the ridge high above the Susquehanna River. Rejoin the M-DT above Oakland Run, near the rock outcrop (about Mile 23.3 on Map 5).

Aggressive Dog at Stony Run: A hiker has reported an unpleasant encounter with an aggressive dog as he waded across Stony Run following the M-DT (Map 7, West to East, Mile 9.2). The dog came from a nearby home. This is northwest of the town of North East in Maryland. An alternate route, west to east, (which avoids the stream crossing and the dog) would be: at mile 8.4 turn right on Red Toad Road, then left on Razor Strap Rd, which crosses Stony Run on a bridge, then turn left onto the dirt road just after the bridge and rejoin the M-DT.

Beaver Activity in Elk Neck State Forest: Beaver activity has caused a difficult stream crossing on the M-DT in Elk Neck State Forest, Maryland: Map 8 (West to East - Mile 5.9). A detour route, about 300 yards long, has been cleared and flagged to avoid the crossing. Watch for blue ribbons marking the detour which is on the east side of the current route and starts about 30 yards before the beaver dam.

Fee at Otter Creek Parking Lot : PP&L will charge a fee for parking in the parking lot at the mouth of Otter Creek (Map 4 :West to East - mile 16.2) as of May 1, 2000.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 12, 2000 MEMBERS' MEETING

The meeting was held at the Broad Creek Boy Scout Reservation headquarters following the work party. Members present were president Jim Hooper, secretary Yvonne Blades, and Rick Maerker, Jim Trautman, Ron Gray, Tim Schmidt, Paul Szatmary and guest, H. Szatmary. Richard Winemiller, Mike Calabrese and Ted Sandeison joined us for the work party.

The minutes of the November 7, 1999 members' meeting were approved as circulated.

Financial Report

Rick Maerker has reviewed the treasurer's records and presented a summary of the 1999 financial activity of the Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc.

	1999	1989-98 (average)
Income		
Dues/Donations	\$2308.27	\$2146.11
(129 renew, 18 new)		
Sale of maps (~50 sold)	542.50	461.83
Sale of patches	22.00	44.20
Interest	<u>24.65</u>	<u>39.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$2897.42	\$2691.13
Expenses		
Newsletter	427.95	355.44
Administration	172.36	382.71
Trail Maintenance	202.55	223.93
Map/Guide	0.00	1064.19
Patches	0.00	70.20
Capital Expense	0.00	71.00
Donations/Dues	<u>75.00</u>	<u>70.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$877.86	\$2237.46
Opening balance in checking account as of 1/1/99		\$5068.99
Income minus expenses in 1999		2019.56
Minus purchase of CD		<u>-3500.00</u>
Ending Balance in checking account as of 12/31/99		3588.55
CD - 30-month @ 5.735, due 8/12/00		2788.74
CD - 24-month @ , due 6/22/01		<u>3589.59</u>
TOTAL ASSETS OF M-DTS, Inc as of 12/31/99		\$9966.88

Treasurer's Report

Mary Bleecker submitted the following treasurer's report for the period from Jan. 1/2000 to March 10/00:

Balance in checking account 1/01/2000 \$3588.55

Income		Expenses	
Dues (new & renewals)	\$1260.00	Feb. Newsletter -printing	\$ 69.45
Sale of M-DTS maps	118.50	500 stamped envelopes	176.50
Interest	<u>3.01</u>	Administration - phone calls	<u>5.30</u>
	\$1381.51		\$251.25

Balance in checking account 3/10/2000 \$4718.81

Trail Reports

Western section - Western Terminus at Whisky Springs to Lock 12

Coordinator: Ron Gray

- Ron Gray will be meeting with Gamelands personnel regarding the relocation in SGL 242. Ron has scouted a potential route using abandoned roads mainly, but building a trail up Nell's Hill which has a nice view from the top. Rock work would be needed on the hill section. A power line maintenance road could be followed downhill. Dave Toland has volunteered to maintain this new section.
- Ron reports that the Game Commission will again be closing the M-DT along the Susquehanna River north of Holtwood dam because of nesting eagles near Oakland Run. Ron has scouted a possible bypass route along the ridge above the nest and proposes to build a "temporary" trail, marked with white blazes. From the south, it will switch back up to the ridge from McCalls Ferry Road and rejoin the M-DT near the rock outcrop above Oakland Run. Another eagle's nest is on a transmission tower just south and uphill from the dam. The M-DT has not been closed in this area but an old road/trail that runs uphill by the towers, and crosses the M-DT, has been posted.

Central Section - Lock 12 to Havre de Grace Coordinator: Pat Wolf

- On a section of the M-DT along Muddy Creek, there are new "No Trespassing, Sylvan Shade Hunting Club, Delta" signs, above the trail, but some signs cross over the trail onto the downhill side. The former landowners signs were all on the uphill side. The M-DT follows a long established trail, with permission from PECO, which we believed to be all on PECO land.
- Paul Szatmary has volunteered to maintain the lower section of the M-DT along Muddy Creek to Coal Cabin.
- At today's work party, Yvonne Blades freshened the blazes on the M-DT from Robinson Run to Lay Road and reblazed and removed debris along the stretch heading south from Lay Road up the hill to the Peach Bottom Complex.
- Also today, Ron Gray's "Rockhounds" completed 100 yards of heavy rock work south of Bald Hill, to reroute the M-DT off private property. There is more work needed to finish the project.
- Yvonne Blades reports the M-DT along the old RR track north from Havre de Grace to the boulders below the police firing range is in good shape. The old M-DT route along the waterfront has also been cleared and a bridge consisting of two utility poles with cross boards has been placed over the tidal stream. The work on the waterfront route has been done by Joe Korchendorfer of Havre de Grace and a crew from Aberdeen Proving Ground as part of the Lower Susquehanna Greenway. Both routes have blue blazes.

Eastern Section - Perryville to Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford

Coordinator: Rick Maerker

- The report of an aggressive dog encounter on the M-DT at Stony Creek (see page 2) was put on the M-DTS web site in early March.
- As reported in the "Trail Updates" of the February 2000 M-DTS Newsletter, beaver activity in Elk Neck State Forest has resulted in a difficult stream crossing on the M-DT. (Map 8: West to East - Mile 5.9). In November, a Wilmington Trail Club work party, cleared and flagged a detour route, about 300 yards long to avoid the crossing. (See details on page 2). The two log bridges on the trail through the forest were knocked out of place by the hurricane and have been repaired by Herb and Yvonne Blades.
- Also in Elk Neck State Forest, somebody has painted over some of the M-DT blue and white blazes with white paint. Reblazing is needed. The internal roads of the forest were gated during the winter months making access for trail maintenance work difficult. Yvonne and Herb Blades have flagged a nice route in the forest to avoid a badly eroded section of the trail. We now await approval for this relocation.
- Bob Bennett has pursued the problem of stream bank erosion along Christina Creek. Some land owners, in violation of their deed restrictions, have mowed right up to the bank eliminating the previous buffer that existed between the M-DT and the houses. Clearing of the floodplain is a violation of the deed restrictions and leads to degradation of the stream habitat. The City of Newark has arranged a workshop on the topic of streambank protection for the residents of the two communities concerned, Christianstead and West Branch.