



## M-DTS NEWSLETTER July, 2000

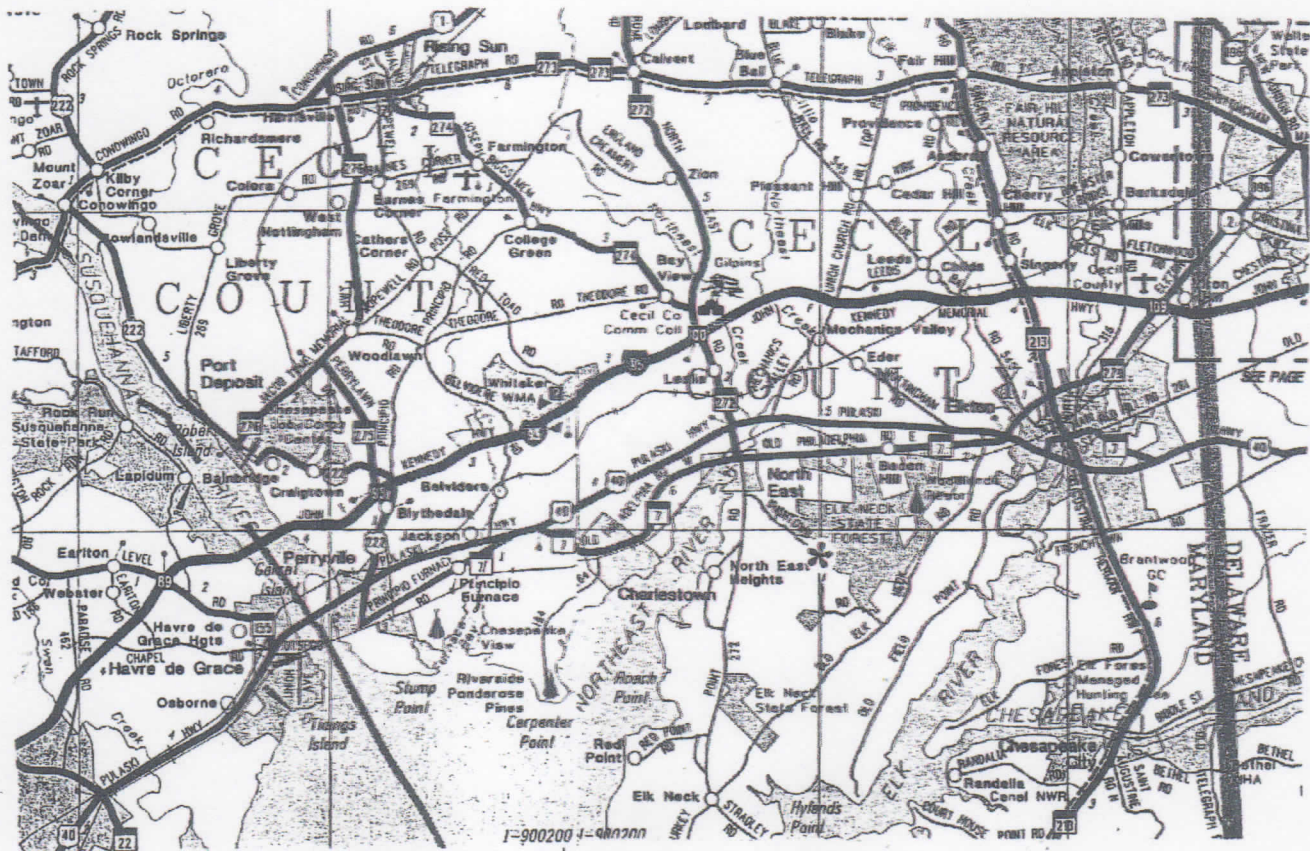
**M-DTS WORK PARTY – 9:00 a.m., Sunday, August 20**  
**M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING – 1:00 p.m., Sunday, August 20**

**Work Party:** Meet in parking area by the maintenance building just inside and to the left of the entrance to Elk Neck State Forest on Irishtown Road, 1.5 miles east of the town of North East, Maryland.

There are several work projects: clear and blaze a 0.3 mile trail relocation and brown out blazes on the old route, cut trees that are across the trail, rehabilitate log bridges, blaze the beaver pond detour route and refresh lots of blazes. *Note: blazes in ENSF are blue and white which makes it even more of a challenge.* Equipment needed: clippers, loppers, a chain saw, small saw, several paint set-ups (blue, white). All workers should bring: work gloves, eye protection, lunch and plenty of water. There will be opportunities to hike parts of this pleasant section of the M-DT as we work.

**Members Meeting:** We will assemble in the parking area as above at 12:55 pm and drive to an appropriate location.

**Directions:** The town of North East, is in Cecil County, Maryland and can be easily accessed from I-95 or US Route 40. Exit to the south on MD Rte 272. 1.3 miles south of Rte 40, turn left on Irishtown Road. Proceed 1.7 miles to the entrance to Elk Neck State Forest on the left. A map of the forest showing the interior roads and work areas is on page 4.





## 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 Bleecker  
[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 Bleecker  
[REDACTED]

Thereafter, the annual fee is \$5.

Life membership is available for \$250.

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

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A ballot is enclosed with this newsletter to members for the election of officers for the Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. for the term from January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2003. Please complete the ballot and return before August 12, 2000.

## TRAIL UPDATES AND ALERTS

**Bypass trail constructed 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 bypass route, marked with yellow blazes, has been constructed to avoid the closed section. Northbound (Map 5, East to West), the M-DT is closed where it leaves McCalls Ferry Road at Mile 22.6. To follow the bypass route, continue along McCalls Ferry Road and watch for yellow 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). The regular route (when it is open) plus the bypass route make a nice 2 mile circle hike.

**Aggressive Dog at Stony Run:** A hiker has reported an unpleasant encounter with an aggressive dog as he waded across Stony Run while 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.

**Trail Closure in Newark, DE:** A short section of the M-DT, south of Church Road (Map 9, East to West - Mile 10.3) has been closed by the Newark Public Works Department because of a gabion project on the banks of Christina Creek. The work should be completed by about July 15. To bypass the closed section: instead of turning right onto Church Rd (Map 9, East to West - Mile 10.2) continue along Cashio Mill Rd about 0.3 miles, turn right at Downes School, pick up the asphalt path that leads to a bridge over Christina Creek. Cross the creek and access the M-DT on the west bank.



## MINUTES OF THE APRIL 30, 2000 MEMBER'S 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, Ron Gray and Rick Maerker. Ted Sanderson and Tim Schmidt joined us for the work party.

The minutes of the March 12, 2000 member's meeting were approved as circulated.

### Treasurer's Report

Mary Bleecker submitted the following treasurer's report which covers the period from March 10 to April 29, 2000.

Income		Expenses	
Memberships (2 new + renewals)	\$375.00	April Newsletter (includes postage)	\$155.02
Sale of M-DT map	10.50	Purchase of address labels	12.95
Sale of M-DT patches	10.00	Contributions & memberships	50.00
Interest	3.94	Purchase of CD	3000.00
	\$399.44		\$3217.97

Balance as of March 10, 2000	\$4718.81
Income minus expenses 3/10-4/19/00	-2818.53
Balance in checking acct as of 4/30/00	\$1900.28

### Trail Reports

#### Eastern Section - Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford to Perryville

Coordinator: Rick Maerker

- Near its eastern terminus, the M-DT follows Cossart Road for 1.4 miles. (Map 10: East to West, Mile 2.3 to 3.7). This road has been posted as closed to through vehicular traffic for several months now, however the M-DT is not affected by this closure except to make this pleasant stretch of road even more pleasant to walk along.

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

- Dave Linthicum reports he will be working on his section (Conowingo Dam to north end of Broad Creek Scout reservation) in May.
- Ron Gray reported that today's work party (5 participants) completed the rock work on the relocation to move the trail off private property south of Bald Hill. Some side hill digging is still needed. He estimates the remaining work can be done by 2 people on 2 trips. The relocation has been blazed.
- Also today, Yvonne Blades refreshed blazes and cut back encroaching growth on the upper section of the M-DT along Muddy Creek - heading downstream from Gaging Station Bridge.
- New maintainer, Paul Szatmary, reports he spent 3 hours on March 17 doing maintenance work on the lower end of the Muddy Creek section- heading upstream from Coal Cabin.
- The section through Peavine Island is reported to be "OK"

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

Coordinator: Ron Gray

- One step is missing from the set of steps at the bottom of the climb from Mill Creek heading north towards Holtwood dam. Tim Schmidt will replace the step.
- Ron Gray reports the bypass trail to avoid the eagles nest at Oakland Run has been completed and blazed with yellow blazes. Horses have already been on the new trail. The bypass trail is one mile long and together with the regular M-DT route makes a nice 2-mile loop trail.
- The Red Lion Water Co. has put up a "No Trespassing" sign at Greenbranch to keep kids out of this area by the river. M-DTS has written permission from the landowner, Safe Harbor Power Co. for the trail to go



through this area. Ron Gray suggests a sign be put up to inform trail users that we have this permission and that they must stay on the trail.

- Jim Hooper reports that his section, from Route 30 to Green Branch is OK. There is a log across the trail that he will cut.
- The section of the M-DT that passes through Gifford Pinchot State Park is in good shape. The Park is utilizing prisoners for trail work and is upgrading some of the trails to make them suitable for bikers.
- Ron Gray reports he has been unsuccessful in his negotiations with the PA Game Commission to come up with a suitable route for the M-DT through State Game Land 242 that is acceptable to both parties. This is a major disappointment for M-DTS as we had looked forward to rerouting about 5 miles of the M-DT off roads and through the game land.

### Other Business

**Election of Officers:** Rick Maerker, chairman of the nominating committee, is working on drawing up a slate of candidates for election as M-DTS officers for the term from January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2003. The election ballot will be included with the next M-DTS Newsletter.

**Donations, memberships:** Acknowledgment with thanks has been received for the recent M-DTS contribution to the Delaware Open Space, Parks and Farmland Coalition and for renewal of membership and our support for the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway.

**Next Meeting:** The next M-DTS Members' Meeting and work party will be held August 20, 2000 in Elk Neck State Forest, near North East, MD.

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### MAP OF ELK NECK STATE FOREST

Route of M-DT -----

Work Areas: A - relocation B - chain saw work & blazing C - blaze beaver dam detour  
Most sections of trail - refresh blazing

