



## M-DTS NEWSLETTER February 2000

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Membership renewal form enclosed
- Trail maintainers needed - see page 2

**M-DTS WORK PARTY – 10:00 a.m., Sunday, March 12**  
**M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING – 2:00 p.m., Sunday, March 12**

**Work Party:** Meet at parking lot on Paddrick Road, off Rte 623, just south of the Broad Creek Bridge. There are two work projects: 1) to relocate a section of trail that is on private property - will require heavy rock work. Mattocks, and pulaskis will be provided. 2) blazing and trail maintenance on the Muddy Creek to Lay Road section. Bring clippers, loppers, small saws, paint set-ups. All workers should bring: work gloves, eye protection, lunch and a beverage.

**Members Meeting:** Will be held in the Reservation Headquarters building at Broad Creek Scout Reservation.

**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 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]

## \$\$ 2000 M-DTS MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE \$\$

Your 2000 Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. membership dues are now due. The 2000 dues form is included with this mailing. Please include your email address, if you have one, for quick communication in case of trail problems or work site changes. An addressed, return envelope is enclosed for you convenience. We hope you will continue to support M-DTS.

## TRAIL UPDATES

**Bridge completed:** The new Maryland DOT bridge on Oldfield Point Road across Little Elk Creek near Elkton is now completed and open thus the M-DT detour because of the bridge construction is no longer in effect (Map 8, Mile 10.3, West to East)

**Hurricane Floyd damage:** Hurricane Floyd brought down a lot of trees along the M-DT, especially near the Susquehanna River. These have now been cleared and current reports indicate the trail is in good shape.

**Beaver Activity in Elk Neck State Forest:** Recent 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.

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## TRAIL MAINTAINERS URGENTLY NEEDED

We want to proceed with a relocation of M-DT off road and into State Game Land #242 (north west of Gifford Pinchot State Park, Map 1). A M-DTS work party will clear and blaze the relocation. Thereafter there would be about 7 miles of trail in the game lands that would need annual attention. This could be divided among several people as there are many access points. Most of the trail would be on game lands maintenance roads which would be periodically mowed by their personnel. Some areas are rocky, some wet, some steep; all an improvement over the road walk. Please contact Ron Gray at [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED] if you are willing to become a trail maintainer in this area.

Maintainers are also needed for two very scenic sections of the M-DT south of Holtwood: (1) from Gaging Station Bridge along Muddy Creek to Coal Cabin - about 5 miles, could be divided among two maintainers; and (2) Coal Cabin to Lay Road - about 2 miles. Both of these sections are on Map 5. Please contact Jim Hooper at [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED] to volunteer to maintain either of these sections.



## MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 1999, M-DTS 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, treasurer Mary Bleecker and Ron Gray, Richard Winemiller, and Clair Piersol. Anthony Belfiglio and John Sallade joined us for the work party.

The minutes of the June 13, 1999 were approved as circulated.

### Treasurer's Report

Mary Bleecker presented the following treasurer's report which covers the period from June 12 to November 7, 1999.

Income		Expenses	
Memberships (2 new + renewals)	120.00	National Trails Day expenses	\$29.98
Sale of M-DTS maps	204.00	Printing membership lists	6.00
Sale of M-DTS patch	2.00	Supplies for treasurer	16.97
Interest	8.47	Membership dues (KTA)	25.00
	<u>\$334.47</u>		<u>\$77.95</u>

Balance as of 6/12/99	\$6783.74
Income minus expenses 6/12-11/7/99	+ 256.52
Purchase of First Financial CD	- 3500.00
Balance in checking acct as of 11/7/99	<u>\$3540.26</u>

### Trail Reports

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

Coordinator: Ron Gray

- Louise Sis has reblazed her section from the M-DT western terminus to Pinchot Park
- Ron Gray reported that there were a lot of blowdowns along the M-DT as a result of Hurricane Floyd. He estimates he had cut through about 60 with his chain saw. There were still some sections to be cleared at the time of the meeting but he expected to have them open again soon.
- Permission has been granted to relocate the trail through State Game Land 242. The route will be about 7 miles long. The current agreement between M-DTS and the PA Game Commission will be amended to include this segment.
- Ron Gray reports that East Manchester Township has expressed interest in having a trail segment of M-DT through Brunner Island. This gives the potential (with permission from 3 property owners) for 3½ miles of off road trail from Wago Junction upriver to Conewago Creek and then up the Conewago.
- The section of the trail used & abused by ATVs in Apollo county park is badly eroded; even more so after the deluge. The loose soil was washed away and a ditch remains.
- A "No Trespassing" sign has been put up by the Red Lion Water Co. at Greenbranch, to keep kids out. M-DTS has written permission from the landowner, Safe Water Power Co., for the trail to go through the area.
- The switchbacks have been completed on the climb from Otter Creek to Rt 425.

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

- Ron Gray and Jim Hooper have cleared the blowdowns along Muddy Creek and that section is now in good shape.
- At today's work party, Tony Belfiglio and Yvonne Blades cut through blowdowns and cleared the trail from Robinson Run to Lay Road. A maintainer is needed for this section. Reblazing is needed.
- Also today, the heavy, rock work on the trail rebuilding project south of Bald Hill was completed.
- The manager of Susquehanna State Park reported that as a result of Hurricane Floyd, over 100 trees had fallen across the M-DT/LSGH Greenway trail, south of Conowingo dam. His staff plus Susquehanna State

Park volunteers have worked to clear the trail. The M-DT trail along the peninsula fared well; some trees are down along the M-DT/ridge trail.

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

**Coordinator: Rick Maerker** [REDACTED]

- Yvonne Blades will coordinate a Wilmington Trail Club work hike on the M-DT in Elk Neck State Forest on November 21.
- Warren & Vivian Davies report that their section of the M-DT along White Clay Creek is OK, with some minor reroutings, but the creek bed was altered substantially by hurricane Floyd.

#### **Other Business**

**The Eagle's Nest** - Ron Gray will be talking to the PA Game Commission about the future situation regarding the eagle's nest near the mouth of Oakland Run at the Susquehanna River. Last June, the game commission temporarily closed the trail due to nesting eagles.

**Brighten-up the Blazes** - Jim Hooper emphasized that blazes along the entire trail need refreshing.

**Camping on Mason-Dixon Trail** - Update of camping information for Elk Neck State Forest: "No camping from November 1, 1999 to April 1, 2000".

**Next Meeting** - No decision was made on the date and place of the next meeting. A possible work project would be the proposed relocation in State Game Land 242 once the route has been selected.

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#### **"MAGIC MERC" COMPLETES SECOND "THRU-HIKE" OF AT**

Rick Maerker, (alias magic.merc), M-DTS past president, reached Springer Mountain, Georgia, on November 27, 1999 thus completing his north-south "thru-hike" of the Appalachian Trail after 164 days. Rick described it as a "glorious adventure." He hiked the AT south to north in 1997. Rick now has the task of editing the 39 hours of video tape he shot during the trip.

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#### **FOURTH YEAR OF THE KEYSTONE TRAIL CREW SET/COOK NEEDED**

Keystone Trail Crew, sponsored by KTA, will be having three weeks of TrailCare in June. The work week runs from Thursday through Monday. The dates are June 8 through 12, Quehanna Trail; June 15 through 19, Chuck Keiper Trail and June 22 through 26, Mid State Trail Southern Extension. Meals and lodging will be provided. If you can spare a week, volunteer a weekend, or come for just a day or two, please think about signing up. No volunteer will be turned away. Forward all inquiries to [REDACTED] e-mail [REDACTED] or feel free to call him at [REDACTED]. Detailed information and a map directing you to the respective campsite/campsites will then be forwarded.

A cook is needed for the above time frames. This is a paid position and all pots, pans, etc., will be supplied, although the cook will be responsible for the purchase of the food. Cost of the food can either be reimbursed after purchase or given up front as a lump sum. If you are interested or know of someone who is, please contact Joe.



# 1999 FINANCIAL PICTURE OF M-DTS ACTIVITY

OPENING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 1/1/99		\$5068.99
<b>INCOME</b>		
Dues/Donations (129 "old"; 18 "new")	\$2308.27	
Maps/Guides (~50 sold)	\$542.50	
Patches	\$22.00	
Interest	\$24.65	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$2897.42</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Newsletter</b>		
3/26/99	\$123.49	
5/25/99	\$106.46	
11/1/99	\$122.40	
Sub-Total		\$352.35
<b>Administration</b>		
1/15/99	\$75.60	
1/15/99	\$7.30	
1/15/99	\$4.42	
2/2/99	\$16.86	
2/16/99	\$30.00	
6/9/99	\$30.50	
6/9/99	\$9.95	
6/14/99	\$29.98	
6/22/99	\$3500.00	
7/30/99	\$6.00	
10/18/99	\$16.97	
12/21/99	\$73.18	
12/21/99	\$10.44	
Sub-Total		\$3811.20
<b>Trail Maintenance</b>		
4/29/99	\$33.67	
5/30/99	\$88.37	
10/20/99	\$17.27	
Sub-Total		\$139.31
<b>Donations/Dues</b>		
KTA Dues	\$25.00	
American Hiking Society	\$25.00	
Lower Susquehanna Greenway	\$25.00	
Sub-Total		\$75.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$4377.86</b>	
ENDING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 12/31/99		\$3588.55
CD — 30-month @ 5.73%, due 8/12/00		\$2788.74
CD — 24-month @ , due 6/22/01		\$3589.59
<b>TOTAL ASSETS OF M-DTS, INC. AS OF 12/31/99</b>		<b>\$9966.88</b>