



## M-DTS NEWSLETTER

June, 1994

### IMPORTANT ITEMS IN THIS ISSUE

- **ELECTION OF OFFICEIRS** --please complete and send in ballot on page 3.
- **TRAIL RELOCATIONS** - pages 5, 6 and 7. Detach and insert in your M-DTS map/guide.

**M-DTS WORK PARTY - 9:00 am, Sunday, August 21**  
**M-DTS MEMBER'S MEETING - 2:00 pm, Sunday, August 21**

**Meet at Dorsey Park (see map) for both the members meeting and work party.**

The workparty will continue work on the Muddy Run section of the Mason-Dixon Trail.

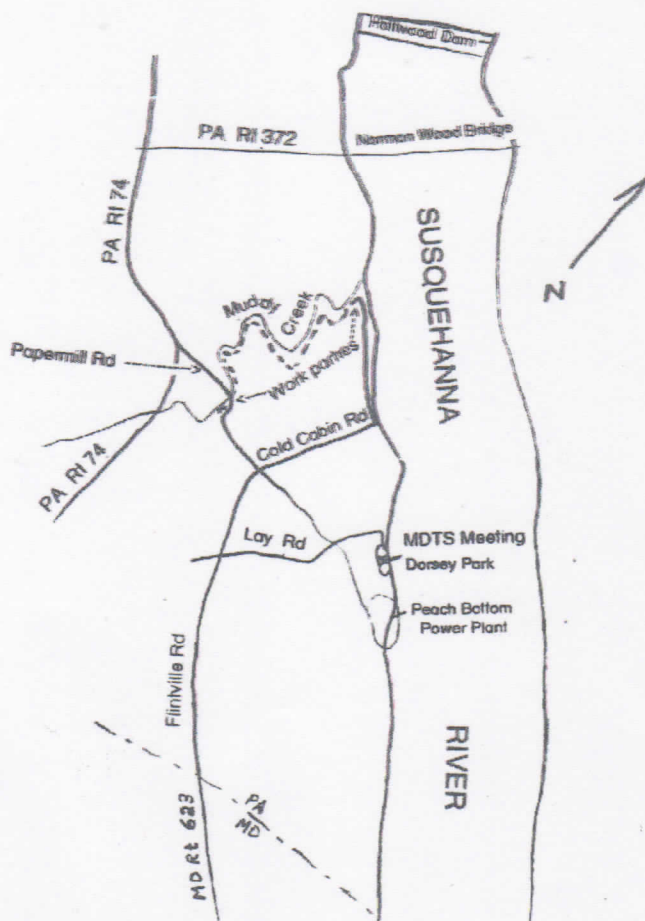
There are two projects to be completed: (1) The trail up the embankment near the mouth of Muddy Creek. This is heavy duty work! Ron Gray will supply the maddocks. (2) Clearing blowdowns, cutting a relocation through rhododendrun thicket to avoid eroded stream bank and clearing encroaching growth on the western end of this section. Chain saws and strong backs needed plus those able to wield clippers and loppers.

Bring a trail lunch, plenty of water, work gloves and the appropriate tools.

### Directions

**From north:** come down PA Rt 74; about 2 miles south of PA Rt 372, at a sharp bend to the right, leave Rt 74 by going straight on Papermill Rd. Stay on Papermill Rd for 3 or 4 miles until turning left at intersection with Lay Rd. Follow Lay Rd to the river and the Fish Commission Boat Launch parking lot at Dorsey Park.

**From south:** take Rt 1 about 1 mile south of Conowingo Power Plant and turn right (north) on MD Rt 623. Stay on Rt 623 across Broad Creek and cross into PA after about 7 miles. Continue about 3 more miles into PA on the continuation of Rt 623 (Flintville Rd) until stop sign at intersection at Lay Road. Turn right (east) on Lay Rd and go 2 miles to the river and the Fish Commission Boat Launch parking lot.





## **Minutes of the May 8, 1994 M-DTS Members Meeting**

The meeting was held at Dorsey Park and was attended by: Robert Bennett, Jim Hooper, Ron Gray, Douglas Brahmer (York Hiking Club), Warren Davies, Yvonne Blades, Hank and Peggy Drummond, Rick Maerker, Mary Bleecker, Clair Piersol, Ken Power, Karma Scullin and Duane Hyson.

The minutes of the February 6, 1994 members meeting were approved with the following correction: Jane Sutton is the name of the maintainer assisting Mary Lou Stein.

Mary Bleecker reviewed the financial activity of M-DTS from January 1 through April, 1994. The income from 117 membership renewals, 13 new memberships, sale of map/guides and bank interest was \$2116.59. The expenses for administration, January and April newsletters and the members directory, postage, and trail maintenance were \$307.14. There are about 250 map/guides left. Rick Maerker will prepare an insert for the remaining guides to show the two major relocations that have been made since the guides were printed.

### **Trail Reports**

**Western Section** - Ron Gray has checked with the land owner in the Accomac Inn area; the M-DT may continue to use North River Road south of the Inn.

- Reblazing is needed at the Route 30 bridge.
- Jim Hooper reports his section is OK except for the washout at Green Branch. Trail relocation to avoid the washout is a possible Eagle Scout project.
- Jim Bare is the new maintainer for the Green Branch to Cuffs Run section
- Ron Gray noted a "no trespassing" sign at Cuffs Run - he will contact the owner.
- John Schetky who maintains south of Cuffs Run will be in Maine for two years. A replacement maintainer is needed.
- Apollo Park and Oakland Run sections are in good shape. Maintainers have been working on the Otter Creek section.
- Ron Gray gave an update on the Sawmill Run bridge project. The pier on the road side of the bridge is completed. The second pier, a box structure made of cut utility poles spiked together and filled with gravel, is partly completed. PP&L will deliver 70' poles when Ron is ready for them. Then 2x6s, decking and railing will be added. Ron hopes to have the bridge finished by the end of June. The approach trail is completed on the campground side; the other approach needs more work.

**Central Section** - Kay Way reports that Clair Piersol is the new maintainer for the section from Lock 12 south to Muddy Creek.

- The trail along Muddy Creek was the site of the May 8th work party. Much progress was made but more work is needed (see separate account).
- Yvonne Blades reported the M-DT through Susquehanna State Park was in good shape. The Susquehanna River flooded sections of the M-DT again this spring but the high water route flagged last year was still intact and passable. There is no sign yet of work on the greenway project south of Conowingo.

**Eastern Section** - Yvonne Blades has started painting a 3 inch white strip on the M-DT blue blazes in Elk Neck State Forest as per the agreement with the Maryland Forest Service.

- Bob Bennett suggested a possible rerouting for the M-DT between Rittenhouse Park and Iron Hill through Villa Belmont. He will show the route to John Wilds.
- Bob Bennett and John Wristen plan to have the entire 7-mile relocation of the M-DT from the B&O tracks to Hopkins Road blazed by the inaugural hike on National Trails Day, June 4th.
- Warren Davies reports the M-DT from the White Clay Creek Preserve Visitors Center to Chambers Rock Road has damage due to storms and floods but is passable.



### **Trail Markers**

Rick Maerker reported on discussions with Susan LaPorte of the Division of Parks & Recreation, Delaware. Apparently money may be available from the highway-alternate transport funds towards the cost of decals and carsonite posts for marking the M-DT in Delaware. The state sign/decals shop in Dover may be able to make the decals but we are also to get quotes from outside providers. Blue on white decals are cheaper and easier to make than white on blue.

Ron Gray displayed an attractive 6.5 x 9.5 inch wood sign engraved with "MASON-DIXON TRAIL" and the outline of a fir tree. The sign was made at York County VoTech and can be purchased for 75 ¢ each. Ron will order 200 for use in Pennsylvania and Maryland.

### **Election of Officers**

The nominating committee presented the following slate of candidates:

President	- Rick Maerker
1st Vice President	- Clair Piersol
2nd Vice President	- Jim Hooper
Secretary	- Yvonne Blades
Treasurer	- Mary Bleecker

A mail-in ballot will be included in the next M-DTS newsletter.

### **M-DTS Brochures**

Rick Maerker and Mary Bleecker will update the Mason-Dixon Trail System brochures.

### **Next Meeting**

The next M-DTS members meeting will be held on Sunday, August 21, 1994 at 2:00 pm at Dorsey Park. The meeting will follow a work party on Muddy Run. The work party will meet at Dorsey Park at 9:00 am.

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## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The nominating committee presented the following slate of candidates for M-DTS officers for January 1, 1995 through December 31, 1997 at the May 8 members meeting. Per the M-DTS Constitution, a ballot should be completed and returned in a sealed envelope marked "BALLOT" to the nominating committee chairman, Turner Darden, [REDACTED] no later than August 15, 1994.

(cut off on line and send to Turner Darden)

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## New Members

We welcome the following new members who have joined M-DTS since March 1994:

Beverly Barnett

Marvin Caine

Stephen C. Davis

Fred L. Jones

Lisa Keiths

Bruce Ryder

Lisa Tellup

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## News From the Trail

**Sawmill Run Bridge Nears Completion** - The bridge for the Mason-Dixon Trail over Sawmill Run, just south of Otter Creek campground, is almost finished. At press time, only the railings and some approach work were yet to be done. Ron Gray, with assistance from members of the York Hiking Club, has worked diligently on this challenging project. A recent challenge was easing the two 70-foot utility poles, provided by PP&L, into place across the piers using cables.

**Work Party Tackles Muddy Creek Section** - At the May 8th work party, Ron Gray, Duane Hyson, Rick Maerker and Doug Brahmer were involved in trail digging on the slope up from Cold Cabin Road. Using matlocks they dug the trail into the side of the embankment to make the trail wider and more stable. In at least one spot the grade was so steep that a switchback was put in to lessen the incline (and the erosion). Two chain saw crews, Jim Hooper and Hank Drummond, and Ken Power and Karma Scullin cleared many of the blowdowns along the creek bank that had come down over the winter. Warren Davies and Yvonne Blades worked with loppers and clippers and a lot of bending to remove fallen branches and cut back encroaching growth on the trail. The accomplishments of all the volunteers is certainly appreciated.

**New Deck for Deer Creek Trestle** - The first stage of the Lower Susquehanna Greenway project in Susquehanna State Park will be construction of a new deck for the Deer Creek trestle. The old rails have been removed from the bridge, the deck built by M-DTS in 1985 will be taken up, rotten ties will be replaced and an 8-foot wide walkway with railings will be built on top. According to Rick Smith, manager of Susquehanna State Park, the bridge will remain useable by hikers during the construction.

Work on the Greenway south from Conowingo is expected to start in July.

**Blue and White Blazes Now Mark the M-DT in Elk Neck State Forest.** - The M-DT through Elk Neck State Forest is now marked with 2x6 inch blazes with the top half blue and the bottom white. This was a requirement by the Maryland Forest Service to avoid confusion with the 2X8 inch blue point stripe that landowners may use on their boundary trees to post their property as "no trespassing". The blue blazes of the M-DT had been mistaken for these boundary markers by hunters in Elk Neck State Forest.

**National Trails Day Hike Inaugurates M-DT Relocation Along Christina Creek** - The new 7-mile relocation of the M-DT between the B&O tracks and Hopkins road was part of an 11 mile hike enjoyed by 34 participants



## MAP #5 6/94 RELOCATION

(replaces current description of mile 23.0 up to mile 24.6)

### WEST TO EAST

- 23.0 mi Turn left on Johnson Road for about 100 feet and then turn right on Lay Road. Enter woods on left side of road and parallel road for about 300 feet. Turn left and follow trail slabbing up hill to a nice beech woods.
- 23.2 mi Turn right and continue uphill through woods.
- 23.3 mi Enter open area (part of Peach Bottom Power Plant complex). Continue straight ahead, passing to the right of a communications tower, to reach a service road. Turn left and follow the road for about a third of a mile as it passes by the fenced substation.
- 23.6 mi Turn left on cleared cable right-of-way and then turn left again in about 500 feet at intersection with another cleared right-of-way. Turn right along the edge of the scrubby vegetation, cross a roadway, and pass to the right of a large pile of steelwork.
- 23.9 mi Turn right on woods road and follow it as it descends through woods. Straight ahead is a view of the Peach Bottom plant.
- 24.3 mi Turn right when the road levels out (watch carefully for this turn) and in 200 feet turn right again onto ballast of abandoned RR bed.
- 24.4 mi Turn left off RR bed onto trail that drops down to Atom Road.
- 24.5 mi Cross Atom Road, . . . .

. . . . . = relocation



- 2.1 mi Turn right and slab up hillside Johnson Road for about 100 feet. turn right and then left onto Road. In 300 feet exit onto Lay Road. and follow trail as it parallels Lay the bottom of the slope turn right descending, now more steeply. At 1.9 mi Turn left and continue gradually to a nice beech woods. Follow the trail as it descends opening into the thick vegetation. blaze straight ahead marking an left of the lower, and look for a 1.8 mi Turn right, pass to the communication tower. until it ends near a continue on the road fenced substation, and service road, pass the 1.5 mi Turn right on the way. another cable right-of-foot turn right on right-of-way and in 200 left at a cleared cable vegetation. Then turn edge of the scrubby following along the straight ahead roadway and continue pile of steelwork. Cross a and pass to the left of a large Bottom Power Plant). Turn left To the right is a view of the Peach road reaches the open area on top. 1.2 mi Watch for a left turn blaze as the road climbs through woods. Follow the road as it gradually turn left again onto an old woods 0.8 mi Turn left off RR bed (watch carefully for this turn) and in 200 feet right and follow the RR bed. 0.7 mi Reach an abandoned RR bed; turn right and follow the RR bed. EAST TO WEST up to mile 2.2, second sentence) (replaces current description of mile 0.7

## MAP #5 6/94 RELOCATION



# MAP #8 6/94 RELOCATION

(replaces current description of mile 1.5 up to mile 2.4)

## WEST TO EAST

0.0 mi After crossing MD Rt.7 in North East, MD, jog left then right, and follow Cemetery Road; just before cemetery, turn and enter woods. (Note: Because of dogs and difficult stream crossing, hikers might "unofficially" continue on Cemetery Road across small stream, turn left, and slip into Cemetery grounds at gated roadway. Keep to left edge of grounds and watch for opening in hedgerow in about 100 feet. Turn left into opening to pick up blue-blazed trail again which leads to right on path through brambles.) Follow blazes carefully over next 1.5 miles as trail makes numerous turns through this pretty wooded section.

1.5 mi Turn right onto paved road leading to Cecil County Landfill (watch out for trucks) and in 300 feet watch for blue and white blazes on left leading into woods. (In Elk Neck State Forest the M-DT is marked with blue and white blazes. This is a requirement by the Maryland Forest Service to avoid confusion by hunters with the 2" x 8" blue paint stripe landowners may place on their boundary trees to post their property as "No trespassing.") Follow a well worn trail, eroded in places, that passes behind several houses.

1.8 mi Turn right on narrow trail which in 100 feet joins another well-worn trail.

1.9 mi Veer right on narrow trail.

2.1 mi Turn left. Trail follows boundary between county and State Forest lands.

2.4 mi Trail turns sharply left and continues to follow boundary. Passes through low-lying area which may be muddy.

3.0 mi Turn right on dirt/gravel road.

3.2 mi Turn left off road and enter woods.

4.0 mi Turn left at trail intersection.

4.8 mi After passing Plum Creek Pond, turn right on dirt/gravel road and cross the earthen dam. Stay on road for about 1000 feet.

5.0 mi Turn left off road and into woods.

5.8 mi Reach beaver pond and cross on beaver dam.

6.7 mi Turn left on dirt/gravel road.

6.8 mi Road passes clearing on left which may be used as a camping area (no water).

6.9 mi Turn right onto another dirt/gravel road.

8.4 mi Emerge from Elk Neck State Forest onto Harminski Road....

..... = relocation



7.6 mi Enter Elk Neck State Forest; follow dirt/gravel roadway. (In Elk Neck State Forest the M-DT is marked with blue and white blazes. This is a requirement by the Maryland Forest Service to avoid confusion by hunters with the 2" x 8" blue paint stripe landowners may place on their boundary trees to post their property as "No Trespassing").

9.1 mi Turn left at intersection onto dirt/gravel road.

9.2 mi Road passes primitive camping area on right (no water).

9.3 mi Watch for right turn entering woods on indistinct roadway.

10.1 mi Reach beaver pond and cross dam or outlet stream.

11.0 mi Turn right on dirt/gravel road.

11.2 mi Just beyond earthen dam turn left and follow trail by Plum Creek Pond.

12.0 mi Turn right at trail intersection.

12.8 mi Turn right on dirt/gravel road; be alert for turn off roadway in about 500 feet.

12.9 mi Turn left and enter woods. Descend through scrub to low-lying area (horse use can make trail muddy) and follow boundary between State Forest and county lands.

13.6 mi Trail turn sharply left and continues to follow boundary.

13.9 mi Turn right.

14.1 mi Veer left onto well-worn trail.

14.2 mi Watch for blaze.

14.5 mi Turn right on paved road from Cecil County Landfill (watch for trucks) and in 300 feet, just beyond gate, turn left off of paved road into woods; follow blazes carefully over next 1.5 mile stretch.

MAP #8 6/94 RELOCATION

(replaces current description of mile 12.9 up to mile 14.5)

## EAST TO WEST



## EAST TO WEST

- 4.6 mi . . . Turn left and continue down Creek Road.
- 4.8 mi Cross Hopkins Road.
- 4.9 mi Turn right off of Creek Road up steep trail into White Clay Creek State Park.
- 5.0 mi Bear right and down hill where trail forks.
- 5.3 mi Emerge into clearing at Arc Corner Stone Memorial marking end of arc defining circular border between PA and DE; turn left up rough dirt road.
- 5.5 mi Cross clearing and turn left into woods in 100 feet.
- 5.6 mi Turn right and down hill following Park's "dark blue" trail circuitously for next 1.3 miles.
- 6.3 mi Turn right along former road.
- 6.6 mi Turn left off former road along hillside with forested ravine to left.
- 7.0 mi Turn left on service road for 150 feet; turn right on trail leading up hill.
- 7.2 mi Stay straight at trail intersection.
- 7.4 mi Descend into ravine, cross stream, and proceed up.
- 7.6 mi Emerge into field; bear left to near hedgerow break and another large, open field; angle left across field to tree.
- 7.7 mi At tree go straight across field to next hedgerow.
- 7.8 mi Angle left to southwest corner of park, keeping pavilion and lavatory facilities on right.
- 7.9 mi Cross Rt. 896 at Wedgewood Road; proceed down Wedgewood Road.
- 8.8 mi Cross Christina Creek.
- 8.9 mi Turn left onto footpath into woods alongside creek. Follow on footpath along creek.
- 9.3 mi Turn right on unpaved access road for 200 feet.
- 9.4 mi Cross first of three footbridges across creek. (Please stay on trail through private property along creek that is deeded public access down to Delrem Road).
- 9.9 mi Turn right after crossing last of three bridges and continue along sewer access trail on east side of creek.
- 10.1 mi Turn right on Delrem Road.
- 10.2 mi Cross Rt. 273 where Delrem becomes Casho Mill Road; turn right in one block onto Church Road.
- 10.3 mi Cross creek on road bridge and turn left into woods on left side of creek.
- 10.5 mi Turn right across tributary on cement blocks; turn left to cross wooden-railed footbridge.
- 10.7 mi Cross over asphalt crossway, staying along west side of creek.
- 2 mi Cross over Barksdale Road.
- 11.4 mi Jog right then left on and off wood-chipped access road.
- 11.5 mi Pass under B & O RR trestle. On far side of trestle follow through floodplain . . . .

## MAP # 9

### 6/94 RELOCATION

(replaces current description of mile 4.6 up to mile 9.5)

..... = relocation



(replaces current description of mile 6.8 up to mile 14.0)

### 6/94 RELOCATION

## MAP # 9

- 6.8 mi . . . and then turn sharp right into floodplain woods to RR trestle.
- 9.3 mi Pass under B & O Railroad bridge.
- 9.5 mi Turn left on wood chip access road and in 100 feet bear left into woods.
- 9.6 mi Cross over Barksdale Road.
- 10.1 mi Cross over asphalt crossway continuing on trail along west side of Christina Creek.
- 10.3 mi Cross hand-railed footbridge, turn right across tributary on cement blocks, and turn left.
- 10.5 mi Turn right on Church Road, crossing creek.
- 10.6 mi Turn left on Casho Mill Road; cross Rt. 273 in one block; Casho Mill Road becomes Delrem Road
- 10.8 mi Veer left off Delrem Road onto sewer access trail with creek on left and house on right.
- 11.0 mi Turn left to cross first of three footbridges over west branch of Christina Creek. (Please stay on trail through private property along creek that is deeded public access up to Wedgewood Road). Turn right after crossing bridge through scrub growth. Cross two more bridges as trail follows sewer access path along stream and edge of backyards.
- 12.0 mi Turn right on Wedgewood Road. 12.9 mi Cross Rt. 896 and enter White Clay Creek State Park. Proceed along southern boundary of park.
- 13.1 mi Pass through small grove of trees and angle across field staying to right of pavilion and lavatory facility.
- 13.2 mi Bear right past end of hedgerow and cross long field, keeping volleyball area to left.
- 13.3 mi Pass through break in hedgerow, bear right along edge of field, and turn right on trail into woods, crossing ravine and up other side.
- 13.5 mi Bend left with trail, staying in woods.
- 13.7 mi Continue straight at trail intersection.
- 13.9 mi Turn left on service road for 150 feet and then turn right on trail into woods.
- 14.3 mi Turn right, downhill, on former road.
- 14.6 mi Turn left at bottom of hill and follow circuitous route through woods.
- 15.1 mi Cross footbridge and turn left.
- 15.3 mi After steep rise turn left and pass open area used for group camping in 200 feet; cut right across clearing to trail leading down to Arc Corner Stone memorial, marking end of arc defining circular border between PA and DE.
- 15.5 mi Turn right at clearing of memorial stone, crossing small footbridge.
- 15.8 mi Turn left at trail junction where Park trail turns 300° to right and descend to Creek Road.
- 15.9 mi Turn left on Creek Road.
- 16.0 mi Cross over Hopkins Road. Stay straight on gravel roadway into White Clay Creek Preserve (WCPCP).

## WEST TO EAST