

# M-DTS NEWSLETTER July, 2006

## M-DTS HIKE PROGRAM and MEETING Saturday August 12, 2006

9:00 a.m. -- "Long" hike  
10:00 a.m. -- "Short" hike  
2:00 p.m. -- M-DTS Members Meeting

For both the hikes and members meeting, meet at the York Hiking Club cabin. Bring lunch and water.

**Driving Directions:** From north: From PA Rte 74 east of Red Lion turn left on Burkholder Rd to connect to Rte 425 at New Bridgeville. Go south on 425 about 6 miles. Cabin is on left on a curve before the descent to Otter Creek. From south and east: Cross the Norman Wood Bridge on Rte 372. Turn right, north, on Rte 74 to near Airville; turn right on Rte 425 and follow it about 5 miles to Otter Creek. The York Hiking Club cabin is about ¼ mile beyond the bridge on the right side of the road.

### TRAIL UPDATES AND ALERTS

**ALERT re M-DT on Sawmill Rd south of Otter Creek, (Map 5):** Penn Dot will be repairing the bank of Rt 425 on the uphill climb south of Otter Creek. The work will be done July 17 through August 21. The work site lies above the M-DT on Sawmill Rd. **Do not hike on Sawmill Rd while the road crew is working.**

**NOTE:** The following 2 reports were made by M-DTS member & runner Hunt Bartine who recently did a 100K run on the M-DT from Rock Run Mill in Susquehanna St Park to Shanks Mare in Long Level. .

**Peach Bottom area, (Map 5):** The trail around Peach Bottom (permission required to hike this section) is in need of new blazes and is overgrown. Trail section north of Lay Rd almost impassable.

**Peavine Island, (Map 5):** A section of "impassable tall weeds".

**Elk Neck State Forest (Map 8: West to East, Mile 0.8 – 1.4):** Beaver activity has caused flooding of the trail in a new location. Detour upstream to make your way around the flooded area.

### MINUTES OF THE JUNE 10, 2006 MEMBERS' MEETING

The meeting took place at the home of Warren & Vivian Davies. Present were: Jim & Joyce Hooper, Yvonne Blades, Mary Bleecker, Ron Gray, Robert Bennett, Mary Holmes, Jim Neal, Rick Maerker, Turner Darden, Warren & Vivian Davies and Hunt Bartine. The minutes of the April 29, 2006 meeting were approved as circulated.

Mary Bleecker presented the treasurer's report for the period from January 1 to May 30, 2006. Income included: memberships & dues \$1394.00, map/guide sales \$161.00 for a total of \$1556.00. Expenses were: stamps \$30.00, printing & mailing 3 M-DTS Newsletters \$272.39, purchase of tools \$143.95, for a total of \$446.34. The balance in the checking account at 1/1/06 was \$3507.80 and at 5/30/06 was \$4616.46.

Secretary Yvonne Blades has prepared an updated directory of M-DTS members. The membership is currently 185.

### Trail Reports

**Western Section – Western Terminus at Whiskey Springs to Lock 12: Coordinator: Ron Gray**

- Jim Hooper is looking at a further relocation of the M-DT off Rte 624 south of the recent Murphy Hollow relocation. A possible route would continue on quarry land, then cross under Rte 624 through a 6 ft high culvert, and continue to High Point.
- Another possible relocation off Rte 624 is near Wrightsville onto land used by the Water Street Rescue.



- Ron Gray reported that 4 switchbacks have been added to improve the trail to the Urey Overlook (Map 4: East to West, about mile 0.8-1.3).
- Ron reported that the western section is in generally good shape – the maintainers have been active.
- The total volunteer hours spent on trail work on the Pennsylvania section of the M-DT since January 1, 2006 is 519.

**Central section – Lock 12 to Havre de Grace: Coordinator: Pat Yale**

- There have been responses to our notices that have been placed in boxes along the trail regarding the need for trail maintainers. A nearby property owner has volunteered to maintain the section through the Lock 13 area south of Holtwood. And Matt Hoffman, who lives nearby, will maintain the upper end of the trail along Muddy Creek.
- Jim Fuhrmanek will refresh blazes in the Glen Cove area.
- We need an improved route for the M-DT upslope from Stafford Rd in Susquehanna State Park. Jim Hooper recommends that we wait until winter to survey for a route.

**Eastern Section – Perryville to Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford: Coordinator: Cecil Co.: Kevin Jones. New Castle & Chester Co. Yvonne Blades**

- Yvonne Blades reported that beaver activity in a new location in Elk Neck State Forest has resulted in a large pond submerging the M-DT where there had been an easy stream crossing on rocks. The hiker will have to detour upstream to cross the stream and make his way back to the trail through a low-lying wet area.
- Bob Bennett reports that a considerable amount of the M-DT could be relocated off road through the development planned for the Newark Country Club property.

**Other Business**

**Iron Hill Museum** – Bob Bennett introduced M-DTS member Jim Neal who is a director of the Delaware Academy of Science. The Academy operates the Iron Hill Museum which is housed in an historic school house on Old Baltimore Pike. The Mason-Dixon Trail passes by the Museum at the base of Iron Hill. The Academy provides science education for the young and serves about 8000 kids a year. Jim says the Museum would like to sell M-DT maps and have our brochures available. They could publicize our events in the DAS Newsletter which has a mailing list of 200-300. The Academy is raising money to build a new Learning Center at Iron Hill.

**The Conservation Fund** – Ron Gray moved, seconded by Mary Bleecker that M-DTS donate \$50 to the Conservation Fund. Carried. The Conservation Fund is the program manager for power company lands along the Susquehanna.

**Trail signage** – It was suggested that signs indicating no bikes, no horses, etc be placed in appropriate places along the M-DT; locations to be chosen in consultation with the land owners. Suitable signs are made by the company that makes carsonite posts.

**Other Items**

- Consider purchase of AT trail maintainer handbooks for MDT trail maintainers. Jim Hooper will look into the cost.
- Send the 2004 edition of M-DT maps to map makers Delorme and ADC.
- Compile a list of M-DT trail maintainers
- Appoint a publicity person for each area the trail traverses. Bob Bennett will serve for Delaware.
- Revitalize the T-shirt committee. Joyce Hooper volunteered.

**Next Meeting**

The next M-DTS meeting will be held at the York Hiking Club cabin near Otter Creek and again will be preceded by a hiking program. A long hike will start at 9:00 am and a short hike at 10:00 am. The M-DTS Members meeting will be at 2:00 pm.