



M-DTS NEWSLETTER January, 1998

M-DTS WORK PARTY - 10:00 a.m., Sunday, March 1
M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING - 1:30 p.m., Sunday, March 1

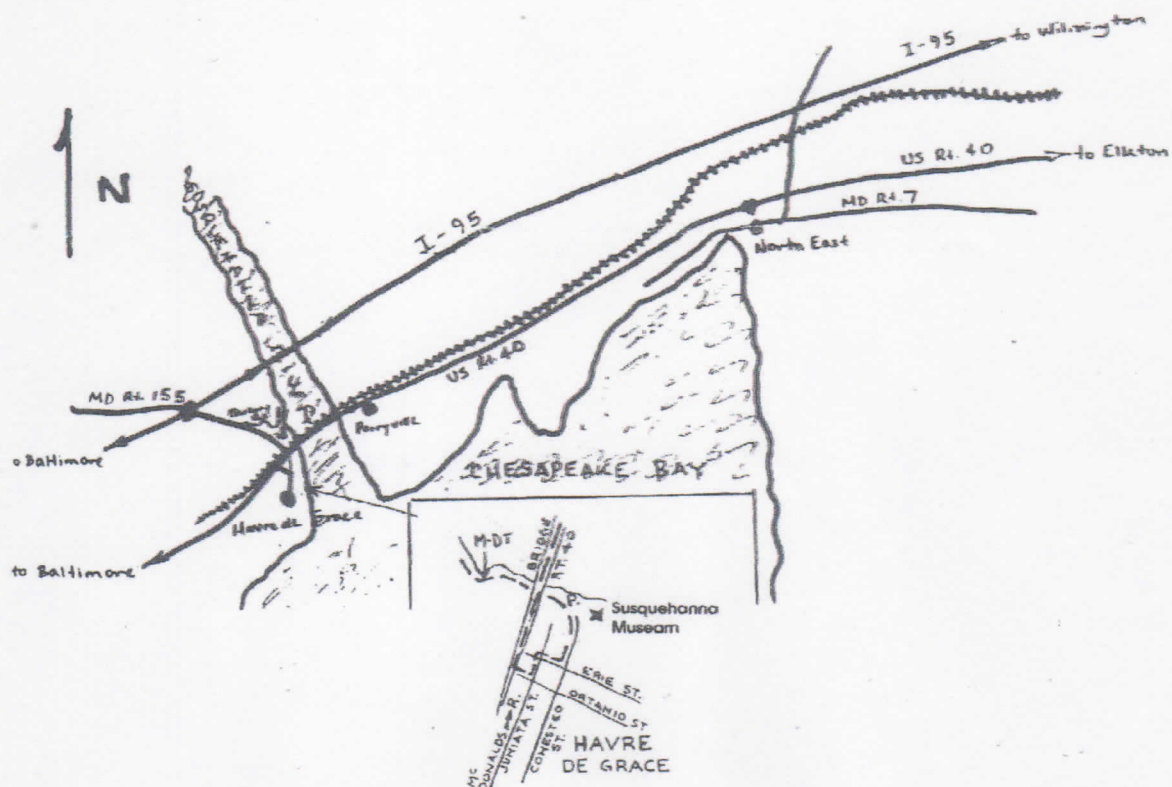
For both the work party and members' meeting, meet in Havre de Grace in the parking lot on Conestogo Street near the Susquehanna Museum (see map and detailed directions below). The meeting will be held in the museum, a former lockhouse.

We will work on the M-DT north from Havre de Grace- on the relocation on the old railroad bed and on the existing trail to Arundel Quarry. Work to be done includes clearing fallen trees, brush, briars, vines etc, grubbing roots, painting blazes. Equipment needed includes chain saws, small saws, loppers, brush cutters, clippers, grub hoes, paint set-up and briar proof gloves and clothing. Bring lunch and water.

Directions:

From U.S. Route 40: In Havre de Grace, turn east off U.S. Route 40 at MacDonalds restaurant onto Ontario Street. After one block, turn left on Juniata Street. You will note the M-DT blue blazes. Follow the blazes. Go one block and turn right on Erie Street. Then go two blocks to Conestogo Street and turn left. We will meet in the parking area at the end of the street. A park and playground are to the left, the brick building over to the right is the Susquehanna Museum.

From I-95: Exit at the Havre de Grace interchange onto 155 south. Stay on 155 into Havre de Grace. Do not turn right after the railway underpass but continue straight ahead - the road passes under Rte 40. Turn right onto Juniata Street, then left on Erie Street. Go two blocks to Conestogo Street and turn left. We will meet in the parking area at the end of the street.



\$\$ 1998 M-DTS MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE \$\$

Your 1998 Mason-Dixon Trail System Inc. membership dues are now due. The 1998 dues form is included in this mailing. An addressed, return envelope is also included for your convenience. We hope you will continue to support M-DTS.

THE NEW MASON-DIXON TRAIL MAPS ARE HERE

The elegant, new, completely revised, set of 10 maps covering the entire 190-mile Mason-Dixon Trail is now available. The 2 color maps, printed on waterproof, tear-proof paper, show contours, roads, parking and other features. Each map is 20 x 8.5 inches and folds to a 4 x 8.5 inch format. A detailed trail description, both west to east and east to west, is printed on the reverse side of each map. The set of 10 maps includes a cover sheet and is enclosed in a plastic bag.

The cost of the map set is \$12 which includes the cost of postage. Checks should be made out to Mason-Dixon Trail System Inc. and mailed to: Mary Bleecker, Treasurer M-DTS

M-DTS members may renew their membership and receive the new set of maps for a total of \$15. See enclosed dues form for details.

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MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 2, 1997 M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING

The meeting was held at the home of Jim Hooper, [REDACTED]. Those present were: Warren & Vivian Davies, Clair Piersol, Turner Darden, Jim Denny, Mary Bleecker, Yvonne Blades, Pat O'Dell, Richard Winemiller, Rick Maerker, Ron Gray, Jim Hooper and Jim McCoy.

The minutes of the August 17th meeting were approved as circulated.

Treasurer's Report

Mary Bleecker presented the treasurer's report for the period from Aug. 17, 1997 to November 1, 1997.

| <u>Income</u> | | <u>Expenses</u> | |
|----------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Membersip dues | \$ 42.00 | Trail maintenance | \$33.79 |
| Sale of maps | 22.50 | Newsletter printing | 84.36 |
| Interest | 8.57 | Newsletter postage | 64.00 |
| CD redeemed | <u>6186.70</u> | KTA dues | <u>25.00</u> |
| | 6259.77 | | 207.15 |

Balance in checking account as of 8/17/97 \$3425.33

Income minus expenses 8/18/97-10/30/97 6048.62

Balance in checking account as of 10/30/97 \$9477.96

Note: As of Nov. 1/97, the bill for the new trail maps had not yet been received from the printer.

Expenditure of up to \$60 was approved for a gift to Walter Steuber for his invaluable assistance in the creation of the new maps.

M-DT Maps

Yvonne Blades picked up the finished maps from Blyler Offset of Lebanon on October 26 and brought them to the meeting. A production line, consisting of Warren & Vivian Davies, Mary Bleecker, Clair Piersol, Jim Denny, Turner Darden and Yvonne Blades, assembled the 10 maps that cover the trail into sets, added the cover sheet and placed each set in a plastic bag. There were 750 complete sets plus extra copies of some of the maps. We were very pleased with the quality of the maps.

We will sell the map sets for \$12.00 including cost of postage. M-DTS members who renew their membership at a level of \$15 or more are entitled to a complimentary copy. The suggested wholesale rate for 10 or more maps was \$10.50 per map set.

M-DTS Membership Dues

It was decided to raise the annual M-DTS membership dues to \$5.00 from the current \$4.00. New members will pay \$5.00 plus a one-time application fee of \$10 which includes a map set and patch. Yvonne Blades will revise and print up new M-DTS membership brochures

Election of Officers

Turner Darden, chairman of the nominating committee, presented the results of the mail-in ballot for officers of M-DTS. The following were elected to serve for the term from January 1, 1998 to December 30, 2000.

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| President | Jim Hooper |
| Vice President | Pat O'Dell |
| Vice President | Jim Denny |
| Secretary | Yvonne Blades |
| Treasurer | Mary Bleecker |

M-DT Trail Reports

Eastern Section - Eastern Terminus to Perryville Coordinator: Turner Darden

- Warren and Vivian Davies have reblazed their section of the M-DT in the White Clay Creek Preserve.
- Yvonne Blades checked the section through Elk Neck State Forest on October 30. There is clipping needed and some trees to cut. Also stumps to be removed on the new 1-mile section that Herb & Yvonne built last year. The Wilmington Trail Club will hold a work hike there on Sunday, November 16.
- Jim Denny suggested a relocation to avoid the Amtrak crossing at North East, MD and noted that there was a garden on the cable right of way used by the trail near Rte 273.

Central Section - Havre de Grace to Mill Creek Coordinator: Pat O'Dell

- Re: North Park relocation north of Havre de Grace: Yvonne Blades took part in a walk-through with representatives from Susquehanna Greenway, Corps of Engineers, Maryland Critical Areas Program etc. in September. They foresaw no problem with the new route. The Greenway has received a small grant for the project to help cover cost of materials.

Yvonne recommends another M-DTS work party there to finish clearing the route along the old railroad bed. There are two extensive sections yet to be cleared plus grubbing out roots of briars, etc and cutting back encroaching growth on the parts worked on last March. The remainder of the trail up to Arundel also needs work. The whole route needs blazing.

Western Section - Mill Creek to Western Terminus Coordinator: Ron Gray

At today's work party, Pat O'Dell, Richard Winemiller, Rick Maerker, Ron Gray, Jim Hooper and Jim McCoy worked on the M-DT above Fishing Creek. They built two lengthy switchbacks at the top, did some sidehill construction and moved a big rock off the trail.

Ron Gray presented a comprehensive list of areas in the western section needing work:

- Proposed relocations onto State Game Lands on the western part of the M-DT. Ron has asked the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club to accept responsibility for this section
- Greenbranch to Cuff's Run section: - several blowdowns to be cleared and lots of rock work to be done. This is heavy trail construction.
- Cuff's Run to Apollo Park section: -clipping needed There is a bad blowdown at Cuff's Run. Descent to Apollo Park needs work.
- Apollo Park to Boyd's Run section: -there are several blowdowns near the river, rock work is needed. ATV's are destroying the trail in the south half. There is a bad blowdown on the descent into Boyd's Run.
- Better trail delineation needed between Shenks Ferry Road and north crossing of Rte 425. The climb from Kline Road needs reconstruction. Clipping needed from Kline Road south to Rte 425.
- Rte 425 to Otter Creek section: Refresh blazes, weed whack in lower section.
- Otter Creek to Rte 425 at Bare Rd: Refresh blazes through Otter Creek Campground. Once new campsites are completed, relocate descent from campground to Sawmill Creek. Sawmill Creek bridge needs some repair work.

Ron announced that Jack and Marion Schultz have resigned as maintainers of the McCalls Ferry to Mill Creek section. We thank them for their many years of dedicated work. Tim Schmidt will take over as maintainer. A boy scout project built new switchbacks up the southbound slope.

Ron reported that a total of 265 hours were spent on maintenance work on the M-DT western section in 1997.

Other Business

M-DT Trail Information in Pennsylvania Hiking Trails - Ron Gray has revised the description of the Mason-Dixon Trail for the next edition of *Pennsylvania Hiking Trails*. The present description as "ideal for the flatlander" is not appropriate for certain sections along the Susquehanna River which provide some of the most challenging hiking around.

Save Our Steps Campaign - Ron Gray reported on the KTA campaign to purchase and save the "1000 Steps" on Jack's Mountain, a key feature of the Link trail.

M-DTS Bylaws - A committee, consisting of Ron Gray, Chairman, Jim Hooper and Turner Darden, was formed to revise the M-DTS Bylaws.

Next Meeting - Sunday, March 1, at Havre de Grace. Work party to meet at 10:00 a.m. to continue work on trail relocation and clear existing trail to Arundel. The meeting will follow at 1:30 p.m.

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MESSAGE FROM NEW M-DTS PRESIDENT, JIM HOOPER

First, I want to thank Rick Macrker for the excellent job that he has done as president. His enthusiasm has helped revitalize the M-DTS.

Yvonne should be given a big hand for the wonderful job she did on the new maps. She put in many long hours and struggled to make sure that there were no errors. I am getting a lot of favorable comments on the maps. Let us know when there are changes so that we can put the corrections in the next set. Also, check with your local hiking store to find if they carry the maps. If they don't, have them contact Mary Bleecker to get some.

Our top priority for the next few years should be to try to get more of the trail off roads. This requires a lot of work talking to landowners, then building new trail. We need help from members of the M-DTS that live in the various areas and know the local people. Experience shows that when someone from outside of the area comes in they have a much harder time getting permission. Also, people post areas to keep hunters out. Sometimes they are willing to have a hiking trail on their land but do not want hunters.

As I hike various sections of the trail, I see a mixture in the quality of the maintenance. People are working hard but do not always get to their sections on a regular basis. Maintenance requires regular "walk-thru's". Conditions change due to storms. Blazes have to be refreshed every couple of years. The original paint that we used fades slowly to white. Trees fall down. On the roads, power companies replace poles. Also, creosote leaches through the paint. If anyone has projects that are too hard for them to do alone, please contact us. We will schedule a M-DTS work trip to do the project.

If you are not active in the M-DTS, please volunteer. There is always work for people to do. Come to our next meeting or contact one of the members of the board. Please let us know if you have an e-mail address. When problems occur about the trail, I would like to have a method to rapidly notify people.

Jim's phone number: [REDACTED] His e-mail address: [REDACTED]

In Memoriam: Robert V. Yost 1927-1997

Robert Yost, one of the founders of the Mason-Dixon Trail System, died December 3, 1997 of heart failure. Turner Darden recalls that in 1974 Bob Yost called a meeting of seven members of the Wilmington Trail Club to introduce an idea for a new 200-mile hiking trail later to be known as the Mason-Dixon Trail. As president of the newly formed organization, he assigned sections of the route to various members and pushed the job to completion.

Shortly after the initial meeting the group was expanded to include members of the York Hiking Club. The Mason-Dixon Trail System was incorporated in 1979, at which time the trail was blazed from end to end. Many changes in the routing have been made since.

M-DTS MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

Anyone wishing a copy of the M-DTS Membership Directory, which includes all members in good standing as of December 1997, add a note to that effect on your dues renewal form or write to Yvonne Blades, M-DTS Secretary.