

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.



M-DTS Newsletter July 2004

M-DTS WORK PARTY -- 9:00 a.m., Sunday, August 15
M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING -- 2:00 p.m., Sunday, August 15

Work Party: Meet at Apollo Park parking lot. Be on time! We hope to car pool closer to the work site. Work will continue on the trail relocation between Apollo Park and Cuffs Run. There is still much rock work to be done; and some blow downs to be cleared. Equipment needed: mattocks, digging bars, chain saw. All workers should bring: work gloves, eye protection, lunch and water.

Members Meeting: Meet at York Hiking Club cabin on Route 425 near Otter Creek.

Directions: From north: Go south on Rte 425 about three and a half miles from New Bridgeville. Turn left on Boyd's Rd and follow it to the parking area for Apollo Park. To reach the York Hiking Club cabin, continue south on Rte 425 for 3 miles. Cabin is on the left on the descent to Otter Creek.

From south and east: Cross Norman Wood bridge on Rte 372. Turn right, north, on Rte 74 to near Airville; turn right on Rte 425, follow it about 5 miles to Otter Creek. The YHC cabin is about ¼ mile beyond the bridge on the right side of the road. To reach Apollo Park, continue north on Rte 425 about 3 miles, turn right at Boyd Rd. Follow it to the parking area.

Editor's Note

This will be an abbreviated newsletter due to the timing of the next work party/meeting in mid August. Apparently the York Hiking Club members that we depend upon so much for our trail work are heading en masse in September to hike in the Olympic Mountains in Washington.

Work Party Report

There were a grand total of three participants (a record low turn-out!) at the July 11th M-DTS work party: Ron Gray, Tony Belfiglio and Yvonne Blades. Work continued on the M-DT relocation north of Apollo Park along the Susquehanna River made necessary due to change in land ownership. The trail is being relocated onto power company land. The work has reached the point where the new trail has to descend 250 feet, cross a stream and then ascend again - all on very rocky terrain. The plus is that there will be a nice spot for a camp site by the stream. Ron and Tony worked with mattock and digging bar building switchbacks down the slope. Yvonne painted blazes.

Ron has worked many hours on this relocation in addition to the official work parties. He would appreciate help - give him a call at [REDACTED]. There is 0.9 mile left to do.

Parking Problem at Muddy Creek

Régan Strausbaugh of the Conawago Canoe Club and Ronald Heuston of Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited joined Tony, Ron and Yvonne at the M-DTS meeting to discuss the

parking problem at Muddy Creek (Map 5: West to East, Mile 17.3). The Gaging Station bridge area is now posted and parked cars are being towed away due to complaints by the family who own land to the north of the creek including the meadow by the bridge. The area is popular with hikers, kayakers, fishermen. It was suggested that a meeting be arranged of all interested parties and the state representative from the area [REDACTED] plus Penn DOT, the State Police and the PECO representative. Ron Gray reports that M-DTS has access on PECO property on the south side of the creek and within 50 feet of the road on the north side. He feels that the long term solution is to buy the meadow. Ron will contact Rodney Stark of PECO.

"Incredible Floods" at North East, MD

According to news reports "the normally docile waterways that lace North East rose quickly Monday afternoon (July 12) as storms dumped up to 8 inches of rain on the region in just a few hours. More than 100 trees were downed in Elk Neck State Park and Elk Neck State Forest was closed after its entrance road was washed away". The heavy rain produced "incredible floods" according to [REDACTED] of the Maryland Conservation Corp program at Elk Neck. The new M-DTS-built bridge and a second bridge built by MCC are both "sound but relocated".

Herb & Yvonne Blades checked the bridge sites and have done channeling work at the stream crossings to help make the M-DT passable at both locations at the present time.

MINUTES OF THE JULY 11, 2004 M-DTS MEMBERS MEETING

The meeting took place at the YHC Cabin at Otter Creek following the work party. Those present were: president Anthony Belfiglio, secretary Yvonne Blades and Ron Gray.

The minutes of the March 28 M-DTS meeting were approved as circulated.

The secretary reported that 33 names had been deleted from the membership roles due to non-payment of 2004 dues leaving present M-DTS membership at 175.

Treasurer's Report (submitted by Mary Bleecker)

Balance in checkbook 1/1/04 \$4235.93

Income

Interest	\$2.41
Dues	1382.50
Sale of Map/guides	<u>190.00</u>
	\$1574.91

Income minus expenses \$945.78

Balance in checkbook 6/30/04 \$5181.71

Expenses

Envelopes, address labels	23.19
Feb/04 Newsletter (220)	80.82
Membership - LSHG	25.00
Map making expenses (Topo PA)	89.99
Trail Maintenance: paint, nails	106.49
500 Stamped envelopes	199.00
May Newsletter (225)	88.64
Treasurer expenses	<u>16.00</u>
	\$629.13

Trail Reports

Western Section - Whiskey Springs to Lock 12 Coordinator: [REDACTED]

- Jim Hooper has maintained his section from Rte 30 to Greenbranch.
- Ron reports that logging will be taking place west of Rte 425 near Otter Creek.
- The M-DT from Furnace Creek to Rte 425 needs maintenance.
- Tim Schmidt cleared the blowdown and filled the hole on his section between Holtwood Dam and Mill Creek
- We don't know if eagles nested near Oakland Run this year. A bypass route is available if the main M-DT route is closed by Wildlife personnel.

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

- See front page for report on Muddy Creek parking problem

Eastern Section - Cecil Co. Coordinator: Tony Belfiglio [REDACTED]

- Map 7: West to East Mile 8.9 + Land is being cleared for another new development east of the North Woods development. The route of the M-DT was obliterated by downed trees, shrubs etc. Tony has spent a total of 8 hours with his chain saw in two sessions attempting to keep the trail clear through this area.
- [REDACTED] of Stewart Associates, York, PA met with Tony regarding relocation of the M-DT on the proposed Principio Business Park Campus north of Rte 40 and between ½ and 1½ miles east of Belvedere Rd (Map 7: W to E, Mile 6 to 7.5. The revised easement would be relocated to the north following the edge of the CSX Railroad property (and away from the one nice viewpoint on that section of the M-DT near the top of Foys Hill!). [REDACTED] stated that he looks forward to working with our organization "as we plan and build a Trail System through the business park".

Next Meeting and Work Party

The next M-DTS Members' Meeting and Work Party will be held on August 15, 2004. The Work party will gather at 9:00 am at Apollo Park and the M-DTS Members meeting will be held at 2:00 pm at the York Hiking Club Cabin near Otter Creek.