



M-D-TS NEWSLETTER May 1999

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M-D-TS WORK PARTY -- 8:30 a.m., Sunday, June 13 **M-D-TS MEMBERS' MEETING -- 1:00 p.m., Sunday, June 13**

Work Party: Meet at parking lot on Paddrick Road, off Rte 623, just south of the Broad Creek Bridge. Work will continue on the trail descending from Bald Hill including heavy rock work. Tools needed include mattocks, pulaskis, hand saws, loppers. Bring work gloves, lunch and a beverage.

Members Meeting: Will take place in the parking lot on Paddrick Road.

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 toward the top of the hill for the work party and meeting.

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 for 1.8 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 toward the top of the hill.



HIKER ALERT

MASON-DIXON TRAIL CLOSURE NORTH OF HOLTWOOD DAM

The Pennsylvania Game Commission has closed the M-DT along the Susquehanna River north of Holtwood Dam from McCalls Ferry Road to Oakland Run (M-DT Map 5: Mile 22.4 to 23.5 East to West) because of nesting eagles. It will be closed until late July.

The closed section can be avoided by using McCalls Ferry Road and Blaine Road.

TEMPORARY DETOUR OF M-DT DUE TO BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION NEAR ELKTON, MD

A new bridge is under construction over Little Elk Creek on Oldfield Point Road in Cecil County. Expected completion date is December 1, 1999. The temporary M-DT relocation follows the detour posted for motorists which goes along busy US Route 40. There is no sidewalk but there is a wide shoulder.

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 25, 1999 M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING

The meeting was held at the Broad Creek Scout Reservation following the work party. Members present were: president Jim Hooper, secretary Yvonne Blades, and Ron Gray, John Sallade, Richard Winemiller, Tim Schmidt, Rick Maerker, Charles Albin, and Ted Brower. Ron Zeigler and Rick Lund joined us for the work party.

The minutes of the January 31, 1999 members' meeting were approved as circulated.

Treasurer's Report

Mary Bleecker submitted the following treasurer's report which covers the period from January 1 to April 25, 1999.

Income		Expenses	
New memberships	\$106.50	January newsletter (printing)	\$66.60
Renewals	1819.00	March newsletter (printing)	58.35
Map sales	88.50	Postage	74.14
Interest	7.56	M-DTS brochures	30.00
	\$2021.56	Administrative costs	28.58
		Memberships (AHS. LSHG)	50.00
			\$307.67
Balance as of 1/1/99	\$5068.99		
Income minus expenses (1/1-4/25/99)	1713.89		
Balance as of 4/25/99	\$6782.88		

Trail Reports

Eastern Section - Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford, PA to Perryville, MD

Coordinator: Rick Maerker (), ()

- There is still a break in the M-DT because of bridge construction on Oldfield Point Road, across Little Elk Creek, south of Elkton, MD. Hikers will have to follow the detour posted by the Highways Department.
- In Elk Neck State Forest, the log bridge (M-DT Map 8: Mile 5.5 West to East), has been repaired by Herb Blades and Wilmington Trail Club member, Anthony Belfiglio. Two logs were added to replace rotting logs. Yvonne Blades reported that the interior road in the forest has been gated beyond the rifle range on two recent visits she made - thus making access to do trail work more difficult.

Central Section - Havre De Grace, MD to Lock 12, PA

Coordinator: Pat O'Dell

- Yvonne Blades reported that 12 members of the Wilmington Trail Club picked up litter along the M-DT and the river front in Susquehanna State Park on April 14th.
- At today's work party, Ron Gray and a crew of "excellent workers" completed a further 500 feet of side hill construction to improve the descent south bound from Bald Hill, south of Broad Creek. Ron reports there is still 500-600 feet to be done which includes rock work. One more work party should finish the job.
- The potential relocation north of Broad Creek is still in limbo because of possible sale of the property we would like to cross.
- The "paved access road to Peach Bottom Substation" off Burk Road (M-DT Map 5: Mile 3.5 East to West) is now gated so can not be used for parking. There are also "No Parking" signs at the road junction.
- At today's work party, Yvonne Blades refreshed the blazes on a 1.5 mile stretch of the M-DT heading north from Atom Road.

Western Section - Lock 12 to Western Terminus at Whisky Springs

Coordinator: Ron Gray

- Ron Gray reported that there was major structural damage to the bridge across Sawmill Run due to a large blowdown. Both hand rails and eight of the deck pieces were broken however the stringers were not damaged. Ron has repaired the bridge. A truck went off the road in the same vicinity and, although it has been removed, there is a lot of rubble left behind.
- Ron Gray was notified by the PA Game Commission on April 1st that a section of the M-DT would be closed north of McCall's Ferry Road because of nesting bald eagles. There is a "closed" sign just beyond the last cottage north of McCall's Ferry Road. Another sign (southbound) at the State Game Land at Posey Road states that the trail is closed 1 mile ahead. This is one of the loveliest sections of the M-DT and gets quite frequent use. The secretary notified all M-DTS members who have provided an e-mail address and also sent a notice for the KTA Newsletter.
- Ron Gray reported that 3 switchbacks were constructed on the M-DT up the slope south bound from Kline Road as an Eagle Scout project.
- Jesse Taylor is the new park manager at Gifford Pinchot State Park. The former manager, Larry Adams, has retired.
- Ron Gray has scouted a route for an off-road relocation of the M-DT through State Game Land # 242. We need to find maintainers for this proposed relocation.
- The new sign for the Western Terminus of the M-DT has not yet been installed.

Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway Update

Pedestrian Bridge - The old bridge piers at the mouth of the Susquehanna (considered to be a potential site for a pedestrian bridge) have now been examined and found to be in poor shape. A feasibility study will look at other possibilities for a pedestrian river crossing including use of the present bridges, a water taxi or ferry.

National Trails Day Trail Dedication - The Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway will be officially extended along the Mason-Dixon Trail in Susquehanna State Park on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 5th. Yvonne Blades will represent M-DTS at the ribbon cutting ceremony to take place in the Deer Creek Picnic area at 10:00 am. There will also be displays, trail hikes and other events. Mary Bleecker will help man the M-DTS display.

Other Business

Work Tool Purchase - Ron Gray noted that there were used pulaskis for sale at \$25 each and moved that M-DTS purchase 4. Seconded by Rick Maerker. Approved.

Brochure Distribution - Packets of M-DTS membership brochures have been sent or delivered to: Donna & Rich Gerner to place in local libraries in the Broad Creek area, Glen Cove Marina, Eastern Mountain Sports store in Wilmington, White Clay Creek State Park Visitor Center and, via John Wilds, to the Iron Hill Museum.

Next Meeting - The work party will meet at 8:30 am at the Paddrick Road parking area to finish side hill construction and rock work on the descent from Bald Hill. The members' meeting will be held at 1:00 pm in the Paddrick Road parking area.

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TRAIL MAINTAINERS NEEDED

Ron Gray, the Western Section Trail Coordinator, wants to line up maintainers before we go ahead with the M-DT relocation off road in State Game Land #242 (north west of Gifford Pinchot State Park). We would have about 5 miles in the game lands that would need annual attention. This could easily 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 at [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED] if you are willing to become a trail maintainer.

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CAMPING IN GIFFORD PINCHOT STATE PARK

The manager of Gifford Pinchot State Park has provided the following clarification of the camping information included in the March 1999, M-DTS Newsletter.

Gifford Pinchot State Park (York County, PA) campground is open from the second Saturday in April untill the third Sunday in October. Reservations can be made by calling 1-888-PA-PARKS up to 11 months in advance. Walk up registration is also available. The Mason-Dixon Trail passes close by the campground. Campground phone number is [REDACTED]

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.

Yvonne Blades
[REDACTED]



R. Ronald Gray
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

