

# MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.



## M-DTS NEWSLETTER January 2002

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Trail closed at Conowingo; Restrictions at Peach Bottom  
See page 2 for details

**M-DTS WORK PARTY – 9:00 a.m., Sunday, March 17**  
**M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING – 2:00 p.m., Sunday, March 17**

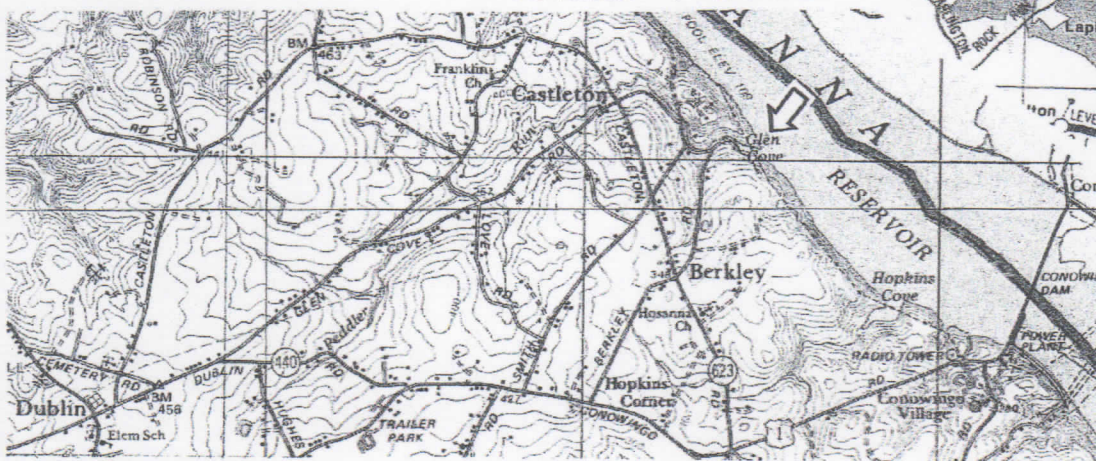
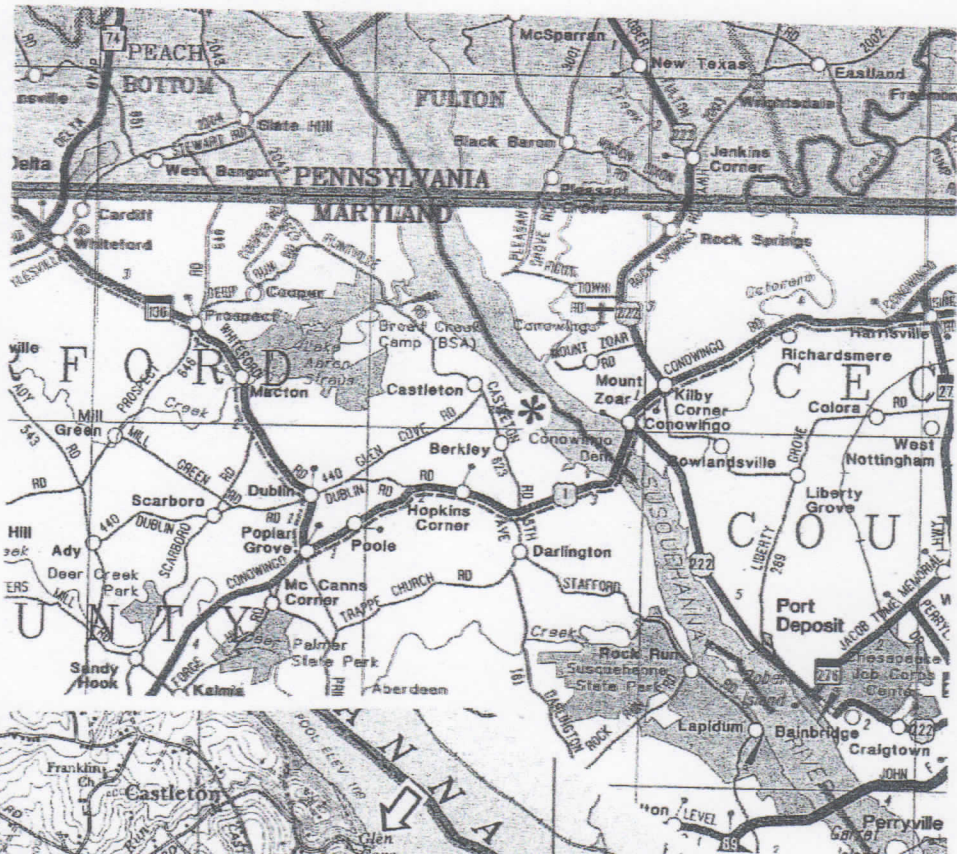
**Work Party: Meet at the parking lot at Glen Cove Marina.**

We will work on a mile-long, off-road relocation of the M-DT north from Glen Cove. There will be rock work, brush clearing, clipping and blaze painting to be done. Equipment needed: mattocks, chain saw, small saws, loppers, clippers, paint set-ups. All workers should bring: work gloves, eye protection, lunch and a beverage.

**Members Meeting: Meet at the reserved picnic table at Glen Cove.**

**Directions: From north:** come down PA Rte 74. About a mile after crossing into Maryland, turn left on Rte 136. In 5 miles, turn left on Dublin Road, then left on Glen Cove Road and follow it to its terminus at the marina

**From south:** From Rte 1, west of Conowingo Dam turn north on MD Rte 623. In just over a mile turn right at the 4-way junction onto Berkley Road. Follow it to its terminus at the marina.



← Detail of roads in Glen Cove area



## MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM INC

President ..... Jim Hooper

Vice President ..... Jim Denny

Secretary & Newsletter Editor ..... Yvonne Blades

Treasurer ..... Mary Bleecker

Director - Pennsylvania ..... Timothy Schmidt

Director - Maryland ..... Anthony Bellfiglio

Director - Delaware ..... Robert Bennett

Trail Coordinators:

Western Section ..... Ron Gray

Central Section ..... Pat Wolf

Eastern Section ..... volunteer needed

The M-DTS Newsletter is published about four weeks in advance of each of the four M-DTS members' meetings/work parties held annually. Submissions are welcomed. Mail or email to editor. (See address under secretary above).

The Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. is an all-volunteer, service-oriented association of trail clubs and individual hikers that has as its purpose the use and conservation of the backcountry through the development of new trails in the mid-Atlantic states. The nucleus of M-DTS is the 190-mile Mason-Dixon Trail which passes through historic and scenic areas of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware.

New members are welcome. To join send \$15 (which includes cost of M-DT maps and patch) to

Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc  
Mary Bleecker

Thereafter, the annual fee is \$5.

Life membership is available for \$250.

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Visit the M-DTS web site at:

[www.angelfire.com/pa2/yorkhikingclub/mdts.html](http://www.angelfire.com/pa2/yorkhikingclub/mdts.html)

## TRAIL CLOSURE AND RESTRICTIONS DUE TO SECURITY CONCERNS

1) At present the M-DT is closed at Conowingo dam. (Map 6: West to East: Mile 9.4-10.2). No access is allowed to the Fisherman's Park area below the dam. The closure is expected to last until after the spring big water flow. We have not yet been able to negotiate an acceptable detour. Check the KTA Hiker Alert web page ([www.kta-hike.org/alert.htm](http://www.kta-hike.org/alert.htm)) or the M-DT web site (see bottom of first column) for any updates on the situation.

2) Restrictions in Peach Bottom area - between Lay Rd and Burk Rd (Map 5: West to East: Mile 24.9-Mile 26.4). Those wishing to hike in this area must call ahead to Fran Reining, 8-5 pm weekdays, at [REDACTED] state time you are going to be there and the number and names of individuals. Hikers must carry photo ID and may be stopped by armed guards or state police.

## TRAIL MAINTAINER'S HELPER NEEDED

A helper is needed to assist master blaze painter, Turner Darden, who has volunteered to refresh blazes on the 7-mile stretch of the M-DT between H B Dupont School near Hockessin and Parking Lot #1 at the White Clay Creek Preserve. This stretch is all on roads. Turner needs someone to drive a car so he can hop out to paint the blazes. Call Turner at [REDACTED]

## TRAIL UPDATES AND ALERTS

**Old wooden plank bridge at Broad Creek unsafe: Map 6: West to East: Mile 3.2** Avoid the bridge by cutting around to the right through the rhododendron.

**Trail near North East in Cecil County, MD: Map 7: East to West - Mile 3.7.** There is a problem here again because of new development. The builder is supposed to provide a route for us but nothing has been marked yet. For now, go north on Red Toad Rd, turn left into Whitaker Woods. Take lefts on their roads to reach a road leading to a cul de sac. Before reaching the end of the cul de sac, watch for a way to go south through construction site or woods to reach the M-DT on the cleared, east-west telephone cable right of way.

**Those #!?!& Beaver at Elk Neck State Forest, MD:** The sturdy, two-log bridge put in place on the M-DT just a year ago is now underwater thanks to the busy beaver who have built a new dam downstream from the bridge. A lengthy detour route around the problem area has been marked with blue ribbons. (Map 8: West to East - Mile 5.9)

## PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON SUSQUEHANNA RIVER PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE CROSSING STUDY

The Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway, Inc has announced that there will be a public workshop to present the preliminary findings of the feasibility study of providing a pedestrian/bicycle crossing of the Susquehanna River. Alternatives reviewed include using existing bridges, constructing independent structures and utilizing a van shuttle or water ferry.

The workshop will be held on March 4<sup>th</sup> between 3 and 8 p.m. at the Conowingo Visitor Center, on the north side of Rte 1 just beyond the west end of Conowingo Dam.



**\$\$ 2002 M-DTS MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE \$\$**

Your 2002 Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. membership dues are now due. The 2002 dues form is included with this mailing. Please include your email address, if you have one, for quick communication in case of trail problems or work site changes. An addressed, return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

We hope you will continue to support MDTs

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 4, 2001 MEMBERS' MEETING**

The meeting took place in the Lock 12 historic area following the work party. Those present were: president Jim Hooper, secretary Yvonne Blades, and Turner Darden, Neal Watson, Ted Sanderson, Pat Wolf, Joyce Miller, Ron Gray, Richard Winemiller, Tony Belfiglio, Tim Schmidt, Jim McCoy, Ted Brower, Jim Denny, Duane Hyson, and Warren and Vivian Davies.

The minutes of the August 19, 2001 members' meeting were approved, with the following correction of a typographical error: "Ron Gray moved, Yvonne Blades seconded, the motion that the Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. is against Sunday hunting".

**Treasurer's Report**

Mary Bleecker submitted the following report for the period from August 18 to October 31, 2001:

Adjusted balance in checking account 8/18/01: \$3350.82

Income	
Dues (6 new, 1 renewal)	\$116.50
Sale of M-DT maps	496.50
Interest	1.92
	<u>\$614.92</u>

Expenses	
Trail maintenance: paint	\$ 22.95
saw sharpening	13.56
grip hoist, pulleys & cable	1031.15
Postage for maps	11.00
October newsletter	113.44
Secretary expenses	14.00
Dues: KTA, LSHG	<u>50.00</u>
	<u>\$1256.10</u>

Balance in checking account 10/31/01: \$2709.64

**Trail Reports**

**Eastern Section - Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford to Perryville**

Acting Coordinators: Cecil County - Anthony Belfiglio

Chester & New Castle Counties - Yvonne Blades

- Four carsonite posts with M-DT decals have now been installed on the relocation in White Clay Creek State Park. The posts mark the route around a large field. Special thanks to Wendel Cassel, a volunteer at White Clay Creek State Park, for his help with this project.
- Yvonne Blades reports that the beaver have been active again at Elk Neck State Forest. They have built a new dam downstream from the sturdy two-log bridge that was put in a year ago thus flooding the bridge. We will have to go back to the old detour route. There are also numerous trees down across the trail. Yvonne has refreshed blazes along two miles of the trail.

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

- Yvonne Blades reported that the M-DT is closed at Conowingo. The power plant is on "lockdown" - only employees are allowed in the area.
- Yvonne and Herb Blades hiked and did trail work from Gaging Station Bridge to Burk Rd on Oct 7. They did lots of clipping and sawed several small trees across the trail. The post is missing that marked the trail at the top of the climb above Peach Bottom. There is a big tree across the trail near Burk Rd.
- Pat Wolf repainted blazes from Slab Rd to Muddy Creek. She noted lots of trash at camping spots on Muddy Creek



- At today's work party, Turner Darden with paint and brush, Ted Brower with chain saw and Yvonne Blades with clippers, cleared, and refreshed blazes on the M-DT through Peavine Island. A 70 foot section of the trail was relocated.

#### **Western Section - Lock 12 to Western Terminus at Whiskey Springs**

**Coordinator:** [REDACTED]

- Another work party today removed a large boulder, cut through a big blowdown and put in three step on the switchback trail climbing up from Mill Creek. Ron Gray made good use of the new Grip Hoist to remove the boulder.
- A third work party built a 300 foot relocation of the M-DT below the power line towers near Holtwood.
- There is a large tree across the trail upstream from the rock outcrop on Oakland Run
- There is a small blowdown and a large blowdown on the section between Apollo Park and Cuff's Run.
- Jim Hooper has done maintenance work on his section between Cuffs Run and Greenbranch
- Ron Gray reports that the M-DT through Pinchot State Park is in good shape. The park has built a new trail by the dam breast. We might consider relocating the M-DT onto their trail.

#### **Other Business**

**Trail Restrictions due to Security Concerns:** Ted Brower reported he had been in contact with Peach Bottom regarding permission to do maintenance work on the section of trail through their property. The suggested procedure was that hikers or maintainers should call ahead and state the time they were going to be there and the number and names of individuals. Jim Hooper will call Peach Bottom to confirm the arrangement and work out the details. The information will be posted on the KTA and M-DTS websites. Jim will try to arrange a similar procedure at Conowingo.

**Proposed Relocation North of Glen Cove:** Dave Linthicum has created a map of his proposed 0.9 mile relocation heading north from Glen Cove. The route passes through power company land by the Susquehanna River and a section of the Indian Lake Christian Service Camp. Dave has written a letter outlining the proposed relocation which Ted Brower will deliver, along with the map, to the Church Camp caretaker for consideration at the next meeting of the church representatives. The relocation is all off road and would replace 0.7 mile of road walking.

**Maryland Conservation Corp Project at Elk Neck State Forest:** Margit Pruett, the MCC supervisor at Elk Neck State Forest, has written a grant to the Maryland Recreational Trail Advisory Committee for funds and equipment to rebuild 8 miles of the M-DT in the Forest. Projects include: rebuilding existing stream crossings, correcting erosion sites, installing water bars and installing mileage markers. Yvonne Blades has provided a letter of support from M-DTS for the grant.

**New Museum Proposed for Iron Hill:** The Delaware Academy of Science plans to build a new museum at Iron Hill. The M-DT passes through the proposed site in Iron Hill County Park south of Newark, DE. The present museum is in an old, historic school house near the trail at Iron Hill.

**East Coast Greenway:** The consultants have now presented their recommendations for the route of the ECG through Cecil County, MD. The recommended route is alongside Route 7 from Perryville to North East, then on existing forest roads through Elk Neck State Forest as it head towards Elkton.

**Trail Information Board:** Ron Gray has looked into the costs of Appalachian Trail information boards. Those on the AT cost about \$800 each.

**Next Meeting:** March 17, 2002. Location to be determined- either Glen Cove if approval granted for proposed relocation or Otter Creek for work in Apollo Park. Work party meets at 9:00 am. Meeting at 2:00 pm.

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#### **M-DTS MEMBER LOOKING FOR E-MAIL BUDDY WHO HAS "THRU-HIKED" THE AT**

Jeff Short is an M-DTS life member who has recently moved from Delaware to Georgia. He has made a decision to hike the Appalachian Trail by his 35<sup>th</sup> birthday which means a "thru-hike" within the next three years. He is looking for any M-DTS member who has "thru-hiked" the AT to be an e-mail buddy.

Jeff can be contacted at [REDACTED]