

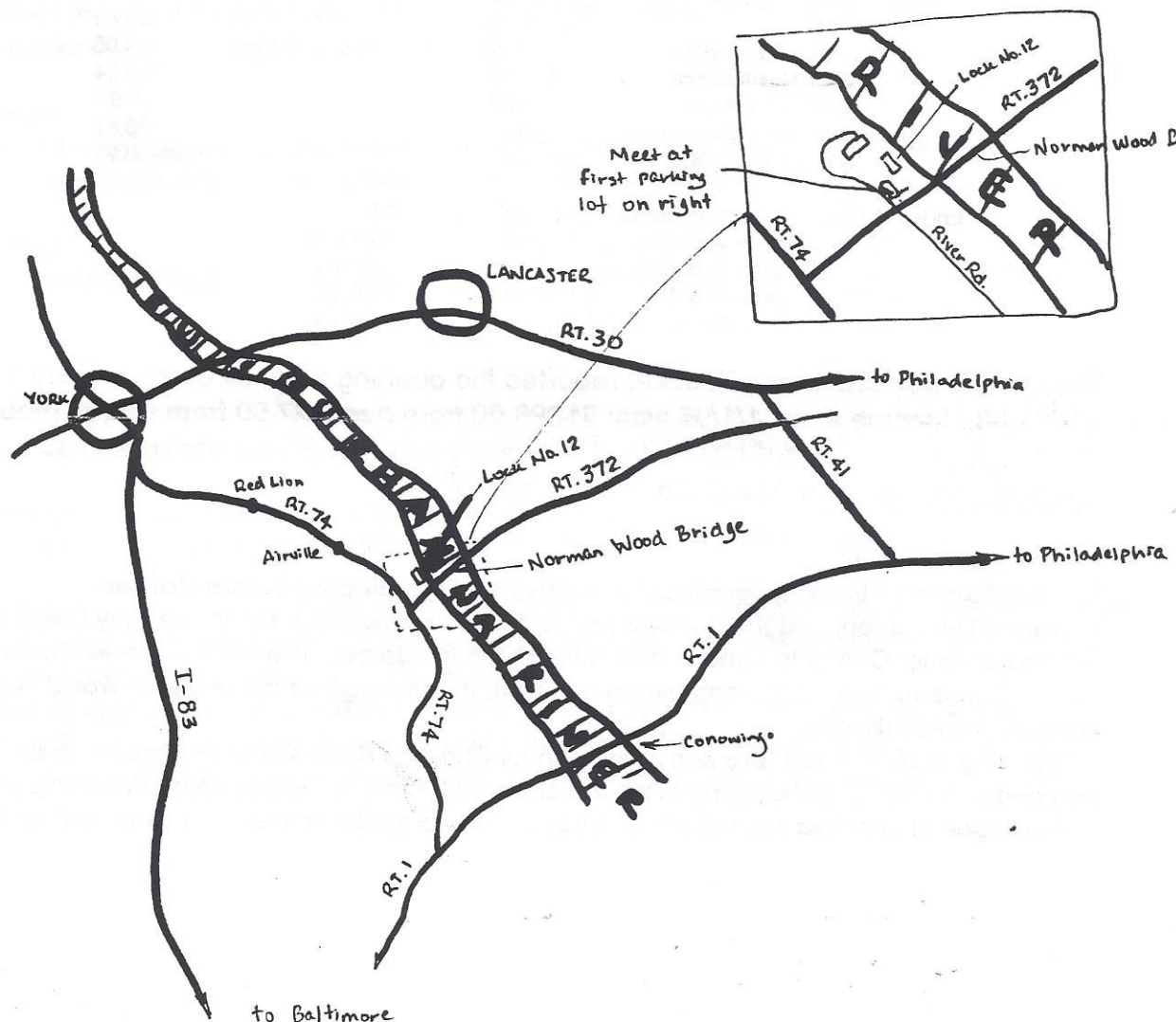
## M-DTS NEWSLETTER May 1996

M-DTS WORK PARTY -- 10:00 a.m., Sunday, June 9  
M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING -- 1:30 p.m. Sunday, June 9

For both the work party and members' meeting, meet in the Lock 12 historic area in the first parking lot north of the Norman Wood Bridge off PA Route 372. See map.

The work party will rehabilitate the Mason-Dixon Trail along the Susquehanna River from McCall's Ferry Crossing to the mouth of Oakland Run (Mile 18.2 to 18.8 on Map 5, East To West). Sections of the trail in this area were inundated during the floods of January and are now covered with logs and other debris. Trail clearing and some trail rerouting will be necessary. There was also a lot of litter (plastic, aluminum cans etc.) deposited on the trail and river bank by the flood. We hope to clean this up.

For the work party bring work gloves, lunch, water, trash bags, and the appropriate tools eg. chain saw, small saw, loppers, paint set-up (including black-out paint).



## Minutes of the March 17, 1996 M-DTS Members' Meeting

The meeting was held near the gaging station bridge at Muddy Creek. There were 16 members present: Rick Maerker, Jim Hooper, Richard Winemiller, Jim McCoy, George Hobbs, Ron Gray, Pat O'Dell, Vivian and Warren Davies, Clair Piersol, Bill Tinney, Louise and Richard Sis, Karen Stough, John Schetky, Mary Bleecker and Yvonne Blades.

The minutes of the December 10, 1995 meeting were approved as circulated. It was noted that the name of Tim Schmuck was omitted from the list of participants in the December 10th workparty at Greenbranch. *Schmidt*

**Financial report:** Rick Maerker provided a summary of the 1995 financial activity of the Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. as well as a comparison with the previous eight years.

	1995	1987-1995 (Average)
<b>Income</b>		
Dues/Donations (126 renew, 13 new)	\$2068.00	\$1665.70
Sale of map/guides	229.45	358.87
Sale of patches	0.00	57.78
Interest	<u>26.40</u>	<u>28.26</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$2323.85</b>	<b>\$ 2117.61</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Newsletter printing	261.77	351.53
Administrative	493.28	300.97
Patches	0.00	98.82
Guidebooks/Maps	0.00	414.05
Trail Maintenance	536.60	194.24
Capital Expense	0.00	78.89
Donations/Memberships	<u>25.00</u>	<u>63.67</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1316.65</b>	<b>\$1493.21</b>
Ending balance in checking account as of 12/31/95	\$1101.03	
CD -- 30-month @ 5.73%, due 2/12/98	2263.24	
CD -- 12-month @ 5.45%, due 10/31/96	733.38	
CD -- 24-month @ 5.92%, due 11/18/96	<u>3500.00</u>	
Total assets of M-DTS, INC as of 12/31/95	<b>\$7597.65</b>	

**Treasurer's Report:** Mary Bleecker reported the opening balance as of January 1, 1996 was \$1101.03. Income since 1/1/96 was: \$1386.00 from dues, \$7.50 from sale of map/guide and \$2.56 interest. Expenses were \$139.70 for the January Newsletter and postage. The balance in the checking account as of March 15, 1996 is \$2357.39.

### Trail Reports

#### Eastern Section - Eastern Terminus to Perryville Coordinator: Turner Darden

- Warren Davies reported that a major trail relocation is needed in the White Clay Creek Preserve near the Delaware Visitor Center to remove the trail from the floodplain. The DNREC Trails Committee has to approve new trail construction. Once approval is received, the manager of the preserve would like the help of M-DTS with the trail construction.
- Members of M-DTS will take part in the annual Christina River Watershed clean-up on April 20. M-DTS is included in the list of participating organizations on the back of T-shirts given to participants.
- Rick Maerker checked into reports of spray paint and graffiti on trees along the trail on Cossart Road.



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

- Pat O'Dell has agreed to be the central section coordinator to replace Kay Way.
- Yvonne Blades reported on the M-DT in Susquehanna State Park:

Park personnel have constructed a new trail through the woods above Stafford Road from Lapidum to Rock Run and have made improvements in the steep uphill approach from Lapidum Road. Yvonne received permission to relocate the M-DT along this new trail and blazed this relocation in February. The old route is retained as a park trail with white blazes. The new route shortens the M-DT by about 1 mile.

The peninsula section of the M-DT (between Deer Creek trestle and the old rail road bed) was hard hit by the January flood. Trees were down and the trail was covered with mud and blocks of ice.

The trail along the old rail road bed north to Conowingo (which coincides with the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway) was officially closed due to downed trees and mud.

- Today's workparty on the Muddy Creek section of the M-DT cut through several trees across the trail, made two relocations off eroding stream banks, improved the dug-in trail up the slope near the mouth of Muddy Creek, and did general trail clearing. Those participating were: Jim Hooper and Jim McCoy with chain saws, Rick Maerker, Richard Winemiller, George Hobbs, Ron Gray, Pat O'Dell, Vivian and Warren Davies, Clair Piersol, Bill Tinney, Richard and Louise Sis, Karen Stough, John Schetky, Mary Bleecker and Yvonne Blades. Rick, Clair and Mary also reblazed the trail above the Peach Bottom Power plant.

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

- Ron Gray stated that posts are needed to mark the trail through the logged area north of Otter Creek.
- In the Greenbranch section, the trees across the trail, that were cut through by the December 1995 work party, floated back onto the trail during the flood. Jim McCoy has recut some of these trees. More work is needed.
- Lorriane Sis reported a problem with an irate land owner on her section of the M-DT. This section is entirely on public roads. The landowner does not want a blaze on the telephone pole next to her property. This is a critical blaze as it marks a turn at a road intersection.

### **New Business**

- Ron Gray reported it was possible that the Mason-Dixon Trail could become an official side trail of the Appalachian Trail. He will look into the implications and report back at the next meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

- The next M-DTS Members' Meeting and workparty will be held on Sunday, June 9th. Location to be determined.

---

### **M-DT Trail Relocation in Susquehanna State Park, Maryland**

The Mason-Dixon Trail has been relocated in Susquehanna State Park between Rock Run Mill and Lapidum. A map and detailed trail measurements will be included in the next Newsletter.

**Southbound:** From the mill continue south on Stafford Road and watch for the M-DT blue blazes that will veer off to the right uphill along an old roadbed. The trail continues through the woods above Stafford Road and eventually rejoins the old route and descends to Lapidum Road.

**Northbound:** Heading east down Lapidum Road watch for a turn blaze to the left about 300 feet before the junction with Stafford Road. The trail switchbacks steeply uphill into woods. Follow the M-DT blue blazes through woods above Stafford Road. The trail eventually descends to join Stafford Road and the old route at Rock Run Mill.