



M-DTS NEWSLETTER January 1997

M-DTS WORK PARTY -- 9:00 a.m., Sunday, March 2
M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING -- 1:30 p.m., Sunday, March 2

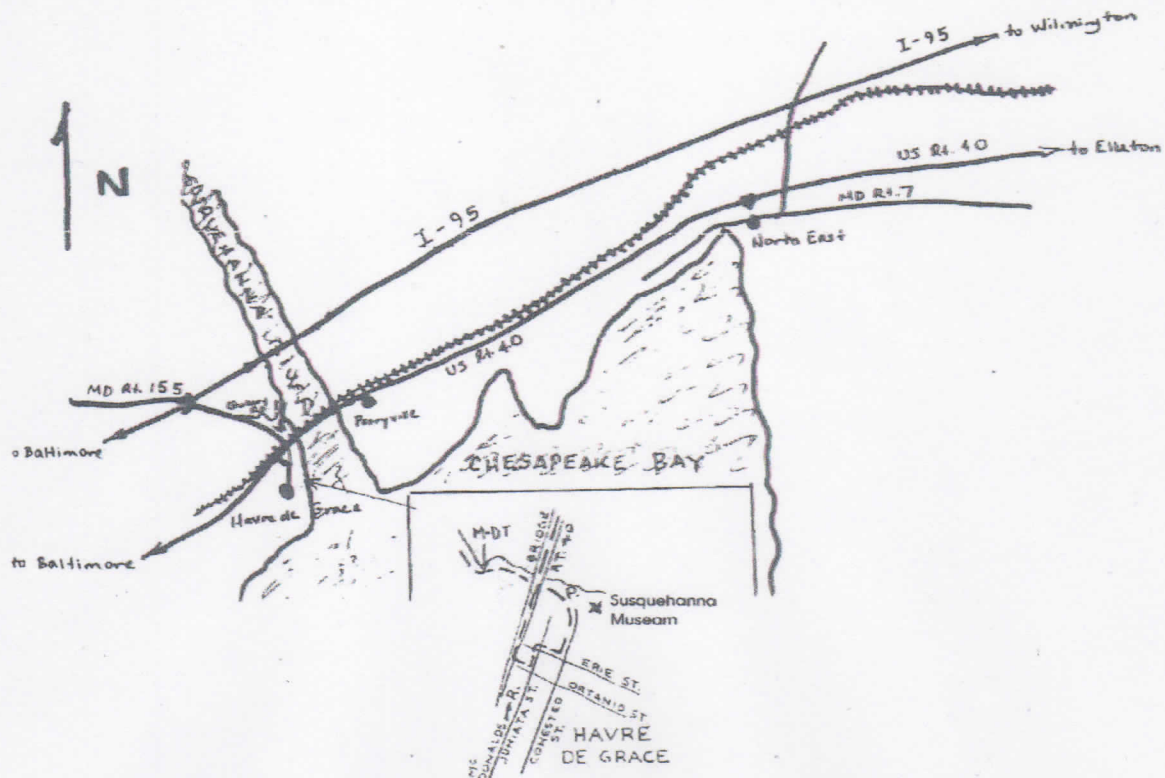
For both the work party and members' meeting, meet in Havre de Grace in the parking lot on Conestogo Street near the Susquehanna Museum (see map and detailed directions below). The meeting will be held in the museum, a former lockhouse. There will be a short tour of the museum.

The work party will clear the route for a one-mile relocation of the M-DT in the area north of Havre de Grace. This relocation will also become the route for the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway. The new route is on an abandoned railway bed which is now overgrown with small trees, brush and briars. Equipment needed includes chain saws, small saws, loppers, pruning shears, brush cutters, paint set-up(?) and briar-proof work 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 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.



Please Note: All changes for the next edition of the M-DTS map/guide must be submitted as soon as possible to: Rick Maerker, [REDACTED]

\$ \$ 1997 M-DTS MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE \$ \$

Your 1997 Mason-Dixon Trail System Inc. membership dues are now due. The 1997 dues form is included in this mailing. An addressed, return envelope is also enclosed for your convenience. There is no dues form or envelope enclosed if you joined after July 1, 1996 or are a life member.

We hope you will continue to support M-DTS. This year we will be publishing a new edition of the Mason-Dixon Trail Guide thus your financial support is especially important at this time.

Minutes of the November 14, 1996 M-DTS Members' Meeting

The meeting was held at the York Hiking Club's John Paul Jones cabin at Otter Creek. Those in attendance were: Rick Maerker, Ron Gray, Jim Hooper, Yvonne Blades, Hank and Peg Drummond, John Schetky, Ed Yalisove, Turner Darden, Richard Winemiller, Charles Albin, Morgan Baker, Linda Hynds, Chuck Bramhall and Mike Calabrese. All of the above plus Jim McCoy took part in the work party before the meeting. President Rick Maerker welcomed Mike who came all the way from Manassas, Virginia for the work hike/meeting and also Linda and Chuck from New Jersey.

The minutes of the September 14, 1996 meeting were approved as circulated with a correction of the name of the printing firm "Byler" in Lebanon, Pa.

Treasurer's Report

Rick Maerker presented the treasurer's report for the period since September 13, 1996. The balance in the checking account as of September 13 was \$2916.21. Income for the period from September 13 to November 8, 1996 was: interest \$7.31, sale of map/guides \$52.00, membership dues (new and renewals) \$95.00. Expenses were: paint and supplies \$44.51, printing costs for October newsletter \$42.75, and postage (for map/guides and October newsletter) \$87.40. The balance in the checking account as of November 8, 1996 is \$2882.09. A matured CD was rolled over for a short term so the funds would be available in the spring for printing the new map/guides.

Trail Reports

Eastern Section - Eastern Terminus to Perryville Coordinator: Turner Darden

- Turner Darden reported he has two new maintainers, Ed Roder and Melvin Drake, for the 12 mile section from **Cossart Road to London Tract Road**. The section is now all on roads. The 0.9 mile that was off-road, between Nine Gates Road and Rt 82, followed a pipeline and was difficult to maintain because of high grass and muddy sections. It has been rerouted on roads through Yorklyn.
- Bob Bennett reports bad news regarding the proposed acquisition of land along **Wedgewood Road**, on which the MDT lies, as open space by the State of Delaware. The realtor-owner turned down the offer made by the State and suggests that the trail be moved. Bob plans to investigate other possible routes.
- Ed Yalisove reported he had made and blazed another relocation in the **Gray's Hill** area where

ongoing development is presenting such a challenge to maintaining the integrity of the M-DT.

- Yvonne Blades reported on the M-DT in **Elk Neck State Forest**: A Wilmington Trail Club work-hike on November 3, with 24 participants, cleared the trail, picked up litter and repaired a log bridge. A large blowdown was cut through. There is leakage on to the trail from the septic system of a private campground outside the Forest land. The Forest Ranger has spoken to the owners about it.

Plum Creek dam was breached by spring floods; the road across the dam is closed but it is still passable on foot. The M-DT crosses the dam. The Forestry Service plans to repair the dam.

There is now a fence along both sides of the road leading to the landfill. The trees with our blazes were removed. The M-DT has been rerouted off the road. From the west, the trail now goes directly across the road outside the gate at the entrance to the landfill, and then crosses diagonally through the woods to intersect with the existing trail. The route has been cleared and blazed. There is a "No Trespassing" sign on the westbound trail from the landfill road. The Forest Ranger said he will check into it.

According to the Ranger, Elk Neck State Forest is to become part of Elk Neck State Park and will no longer be administered by the Maryland Forestry Department.

- Turner Darden reported he has been unable to make contact with the listed maintainer for the **Rte 272 to Perryville** section. A new maintainer is needed for this section.

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

- Yvonne Blades wants to arrange a work party in the spring to clear the old railroad bed north of **Havre de Grace** which will serve as both a relocation of the M-DT and the route for the Lower Susquehanna Greenway.

- Dave Linthicum reports that he cleared the **Conowingo to Broad Creek** section in June and October. The logging projects on PECO's lands have created an undergrowth problem. Could a 50 or 75-foot buffer on both sides of the trail be negotiated? There is an electric fence across the trail on the Clark farm property - perhaps due to a misunderstanding.

- It was suggested that more blazes on the Conowingo to Broad Creek section would be helpful.
- Dave Linthicum and Ted Brower are working on a relocation near **Broad Creek**. A change in land ownership may enable the project to go ahead.

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

- At one of today's workparties, the steps leading up the steep slope at **Mill Creek** were replaced. The entire group helped carry in the lumber and supplies for the project as well as carry out the old steps. Ron Gray and Jim Hooper built the steps.

- Ron and Jim replaced the missing post that marked the turn where the southbound M-DT leaves the road near **Holtwood dam** and bears right uphill.

- Some posts are needed to help mark the trail between **Urey Overlook and Route 425**.

- A maintainer is needed for Mile 12.5 to 14.2 (Map #4 West to East). Morgan Baker, a visitor at the work party and meeting, agreed to look after this section. The blazes need freshening.

- The trail from **Safe Harbor Dam to Wilson Run in Apollo Park** was checked by the second work party. Clearing was done and check dams placed on a section of eroding trail. Blazes on a short, overgrown section of the M-DT just north of the abandoned parking lot above Safe Harbor dam, need to be removed and placed on a well used detour around the overgrowth.

- Rock steps are needed up the north slope from Wilson Run.
- Reblazing is needed north of Wrightsville

Other Business

Volunteer Hours Spent on Trail Maintenance- Ron Gray has calculated the hours spent by volunteers, beyond those on M-DTS scheduled work parties, on the Western Section of the M-DT during 1996. The total was 121 hours by 10 volunteers. He will submit the report to Keystone Trails Association. Rick Maerker will report the hours spent on M-DT scheduled work parties.

Keystone Grants Program - Ron Gray mentioned this program which is a source of funds for recreation, park and conservation needs in Pennsylvania. The objectives include: preservation and protection of open space and natural areas and support for planning and development of rails to trails and other linear greenway opportunities.

Next Meeting

March 2, 1997 - at Havre de Grace. The work party will meet at 9:00 am to clear the relocation of the M-DT onto the old railroad bed north of Route 40. Members' meeting at 1:30 pm. We may be able to hold the meeting in the Susquehanna Museum if the weather is inclement.

New Members

We welcome the following new members who have joined M-DTS since October 1996:

George Asimos
[REDACTED]

Fred Kirch
[REDACTED]

Betty A. Smith
[REDACTED]

M-DTS Membership Directory Available

A membership directory of the Mason-Dixon Trail System Inc. as of December 1996 is available from: M-DTS Secretary, [REDACTED]

1996 FINANCIAL PICTURE OF M-DTS ACTIVITY

OPENING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 1/1/96		\$1101.03
INCOME		
Dues/Donations (122 "old"; 19 "new")	\$2165.08	
Maps/Guides (69 sold)	\$432.00	
Patches	\$220.00	
Interest	\$41.36	
TOTAL INCOME	\$2858.44	
EXPENSES		
Newsletter		
1/16/96	\$63.75	
5/21/96	\$58.80	
8/22/96	\$59.58	
10/13/96	\$42.75	
Sub-Total	\$224.88	
Administration		
1/1/96	\$8.58	
2/16/96	\$69.80	
3/20/96	\$6.15	
4/8/96	\$12.00	
5/13/96	\$57.60	
7/31/96	\$10.00	
8/21/96	\$70.40	
9/19/96	\$23.40	
10/11/96	\$64.00	
11/18/96 Transfer to CD	\$2000.00	
11/23/96	\$8.20	
12/27/96	\$22.42	
Sub-Total	\$2352.55	
Trail Maintenance		
7/11/96	\$28.49	
9/14/96	\$44.51	
10/12/96	\$13.77	
11/10/96	\$25.75	
11/10/96	\$137.40	
Sub-Total	\$249.92	
Patches		
5/31/96	\$372.00	
Sub-Total	\$372.00	
Donations		
8/20/96 KTA Dues	\$25.00	
12/26/96 AHS Membership	\$35.00	
Sub-Total	\$60.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3259.35	
ENDING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 12/31/96		\$700.12
CD -- 30-month @ 5.73%, due 2/12/98		\$2263.24
CD -- 4-month @ 5.1%, due 3/8/97		\$773.37
CD -- 1-month @ 4.51%, due 1/17/97		\$5961.98
TOTAL ASSETS OF M-DTS, INC. AS OF 12/31/96		\$9698.71