

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.



M-DTS NEWSLETTER

May, 2003

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

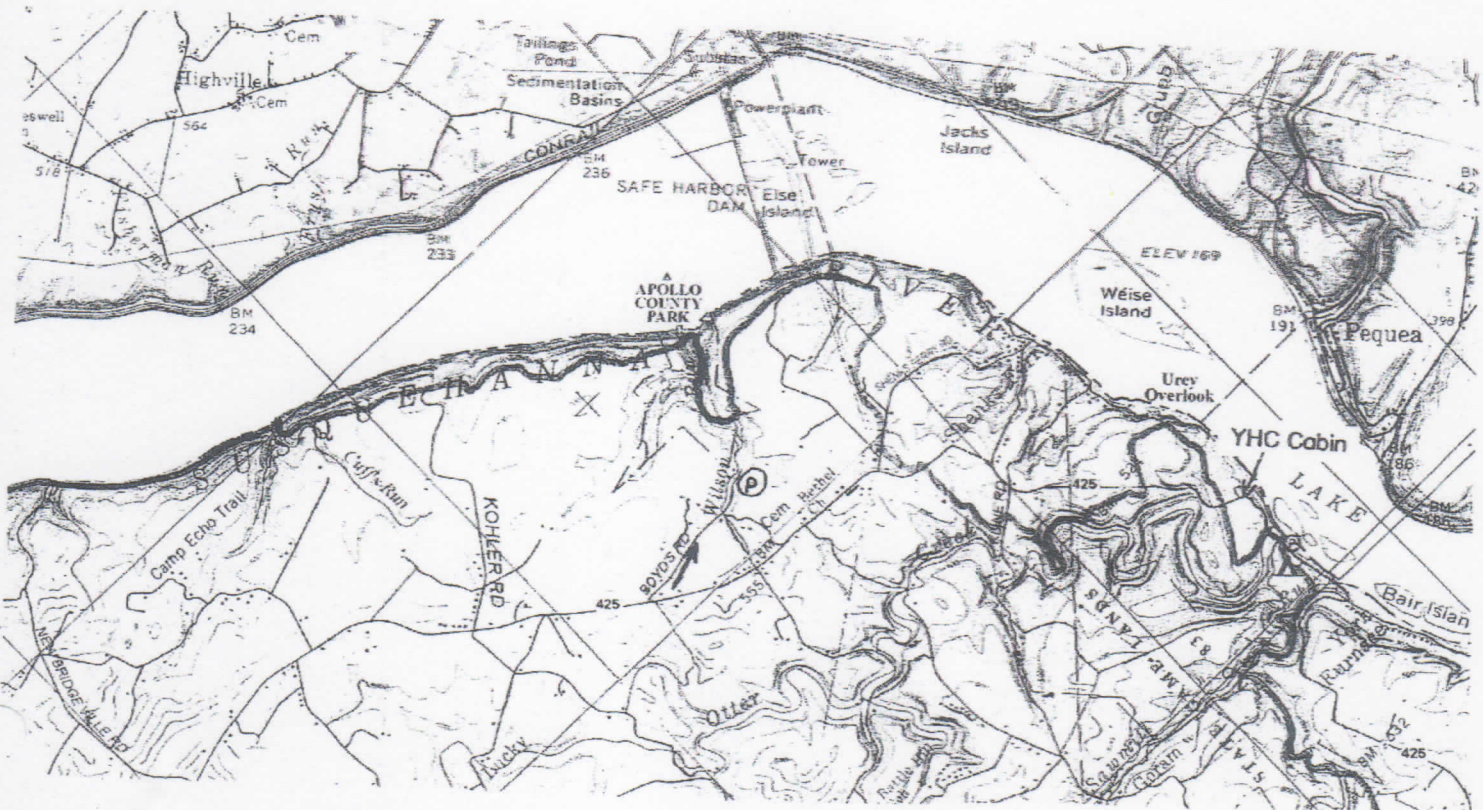
Work Party: Meet at the new parking area at Apollo Park.

We will continue work relocating the trail off private property north of Apollo Park. There is much rock work to be done plus brush clearing. Equipment needed: mattocks, digging bars, chain saw, small saws, loppers. 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: From PA Rte 74 east of Red Lion turn left on Burkholder Rd to connect to Rte 425 at New Bridgeville. Go south on Rte 425 about three and a half miles. Turn left on Boyd's Rd and follow it to the new 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 a bend on the descent to Otter Creek.

From south and east: Cross the Norman Wood bridge on Rte 372. Turn right, north, on Rte 74 to near Airville; turn right on Rte 425 and follow it about 5 miles to Otter Creek. The York Hiking club cabin is about 1/4 mile beyond the bridge on the right side of the road. To reach Apollo Park, continue north on Route 425 about 3 miles and turn right at Boyd Rd. Follow it to the new parking area.



MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM INC

President Jim Hooper
[REDACTED]

Vice President Jim Denny
[REDACTED]

Secretary & Newsletter Editor Yvonne Blades
[REDACTED]

Treasurer Mary Blecker
[REDACTED]

Director - Pennsylvania Timothy Schmidt
[REDACTED]

Director - Maryland Anthony Belfiglio
[REDACTED]

Director - Delaware Robert Bennett
[REDACTED]

Trail Coordinators:
Western Section Ron Gray
[REDACTED]

Central Section Pat Wolf
[REDACTED]

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 Blecker
[REDACTED]

Thereafter, the annual fee is \$5.
Life membership is available for \$250.

Visit the M-DTS web site at:
[REDACTED]

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

Your year 2003 Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc membership dues are now due. A dues form is included with this mailing to those who have not yet renewed their membership for 2003. We hope you will continue to support M-DTS.

TRAIL ALERTS

M-DT BLOCKED NORTH OF APOLLO PARK

The M-DT is blocked between the rocky promontory, south of Cuff's Run, and Apollo County Park (Map 4: West to East - Mile 7.6 to 9.7) due to new land ownership. M-DTS is building a 2.5 mile relocation on a rocky slope below the old trail. The work will not be completed this year.

M-DT at Stony Creek (Map 7: West to East: Mile 9.2) There is a metal gate across the telephone cable right of way that M-DT follows through this area. It is on the west side of the creek and the ROW there has become overgrown with brambles. We suggest walking around the brambles and gate to cross the creek. *Note: This is a wet foot crossing on slippery rocks.*

Townhouse development near North East Creek (Map 7 relocation: West to East: Mile 10.6 to 10.8) The M-DT follows the cable ROW through the completed parts of this development - a route for the trail was included in the plans. Construction is underway on the last stage of the development - nearer to North East Creek. Make your way down towards the creek and pick up the trail again as it heads downstream along the creek.

Trail flooded in Elk Neck State Forest: High water levels plus beaver activity have necessitated a lengthy detour marked with blue ribbons (Map 8: West to East - Mile 5.9)

Access to woods near Elkton (Map 8: East to West: Mile 2.1) The route for the M-DT from Continental Dr into the woods has been cut off by new home development. A new route will be developed from the pond on Melbourne Boulevard.

Recreation Area construction south of Newark (Map 9: West to East: Mile 4.4) Turn left onto roadway leading to Cobblefield Recreation Area now under construction. M-DT will follow a paved walkway (now a dirt road) around left side of recreation area. There are few, if any, blazes now.

TRAIL MAINTAINER NEEDED

One or two volunteers are needed to maintain the M-DT from the east gate of Elk Neck State Forest in Cecil Co, MD to the top of Iron Hill in Delaware (Map 8: West to East: Mile 8.2 to 16.0; Map 9: West to East: Mile 0.0 to 3.5).

Please contact Yvonne Blades at [REDACTED] for more information or to volunteer.

MINUTES OF THE MAY 11, 2003 MEMBER'S MEETING

The meeting took place at the York Hiking Club cabin at Otter Creek following the work party at Apollo Park. Those present were: president Jim Hooper, secretary Yvonne Blades and Ron Gray, Jim McCoy, Joyce Miller, Turner Darden, Tim Schmidt, Diane Anderson, Alan, Tim and Jesse Roland. Charlie Ament attended the work party.

The minutes of the November 10, 2002 Members' Meeting were approved as circulated (Gray, Schmidt). The secretary reported that the work hike and meeting scheduled for March 16, 2003 had to be cancelled as the heavy snow fall prevented access to the meeting and work sites in Elk Neck State Forest. The meeting and work party were rescheduled for May 11; the work party location was changed to Apollo Park because of the urgent need to work on a relocation around the trail blockage north of the park.

Financial Report for 2002

Rick Maerker reviewed the treasurer's records and submitted the following summary of the year 2002 financial activity of Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc.

	2002	1993-2002 (average)
Income		
Dues/Donations (126 renew, 33 new)	\$2282.00	\$2336.75
Sale of map/guides (42)	462.00	548.06
Sale of patches	43.00	51.73
Interest	<u>10.94</u>	<u>36.55</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$2797.94	\$2973.09
Expenses		
Administration	98.40	377.79
Newsletter	736.46*	378.48
Patches	0.00	74.20
Map/Guides	0.00	739.84
Trail Maintenance	98.34	268.93
Capital expense	0.00	112.00
Donations/dues	<u>50.00</u>	<u>62.50</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$983.20	\$2013.73
Opening balance in checking account as of 1/1/02		\$2853.71
Income minus expenses in 2002		<u>\$1814.74</u>
Ending balance in checking account as of 12/12/02		\$4668.45
CD - 30-month @ 6.06%, due 2/12/03		\$3026.19
CD - 24-month @ 6.81%, due 6/22/04		\$4207.55
CD - 6-month @ 1.99%, due 4/26/03		<u>\$3302.48</u>
TOTAL ASSETS OF M-DTS, Inc. as of 12/31/02		\$15204.67

Acceptance of the financial report was moved by Gray, seconded by Schmidt - Approved

Trail Reports

Eastern Section - Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford to Perryville Coordinators: Chester and New Castle Co. - Yvonne Blades [REDACTED], Cecil Co. - Tony Belfiglio [REDACTED]

- Bob Bennett and a group of students have done trail maintenance on the M-DT along Christina Creek
- Yvonne Blades walked a 3-mile section of the M-DT in Elk Neck State Forest with Rick Smith, the new manager of Elk Neck State Park & Forest and Margit Pruett, the Maryland Conservation Corp manager at ENSF, plus her crew. The section included a lengthy detour flagged by Yvonne around an area flooded by beaver activity. A relocation around the beaver problem area was approved. Margit and her MCC crew have been marking the boundaries of the Forest and will refresh the M-DT blue and white blazes in the forest.

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

- There is now a bridge for the trail over Lily Run in North Park at Havre de Grace. It was built by a crew from Aberdeen Proving Ground headed by Joe Kochendorfer of the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway. Joe and his crew have also finished laying quarry dust between the old rails on the route of the LSHG and MDT heading north from Havre de Grace. They have done up to the CSX bridge. Joe reports that someone is scraping our blazes off the trees along this section of trail. Alan Roland will refresh the blazes.
- The LSHG project manager and a small group including Yvonne Blades walked around the south part of Arundel Quarry to investigate a potential route for the Greenway and M-DT.

Western Section - Lock 12 to Western Terminus at Whiskey Springs Coordinator: Ron Gray

- Tim Schmidt has spent 3 hours on trail work clearing his section between Mill Creek and Holtwood Dam.
- Maintainer needed for section from Posey Rd to Otter Creek. May be a lack of blazes due to logging on the hill above Furnace Run.
- Hikers have reported blow downs in Otter Creek.
- There has been logging south of Apollo Park. ATV problem there also
- Today's work party built 700-800 feet of new trail north of Apollo Park - the first part of a 2½ mile long relocation necessary because of new land ownership. This section on the M-DT will not be open this year.
- Jim Hooper got permission from Safe Harbor Power Co. to relocate a section of the M-DT off Rte 624, south of Cabin Branch onto their land up slope from the community of Long Level. Map 4: West to East, Mile 3.0-3.6. The relocation passes through an area called Devil's Hole and will be 1.5 miles long. Jim has completed 1/3rd of it.

Other Business

Yost Monument - Turner Darden reported that New Castle Co. Parks Dept has approved a nice location for the monument at the top of Iron Hill in Iron Hill County Park, DE. The M-DT passes by it. The quote for the monument is \$925. Placement on a concrete pad is recommended to protect from damage by lawn mowers and also an anchor to help prevent vandalism. A motion to approve the additional costs was moved by Hooper, seconded by Gray. Carried.

Lower Susquehanna River Pedestrian/Bicycle Crossing - Feasibility Study - Yvonne Blades reported the LSHG consultants, Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, have presented the results of their study. A public briefing was held on May 8. Alternatives considered were:

- A. New bridge between Havre de Grace & Perryville (1) using existing piers (2) new bridge with new piers
- B. Attach facility to existing bridge (1) US 40 bridge (2) I-95 bridge
- C. New bridge between Pt Deposit & Susquehanna St Park (1) single crossing (2) separate crossings between islands
- D. Non-bridge alternatives (1) water taxi or ferry (2) van or bus service (3) gondola or suspended cable car

Potential solutions over time were identified as: short-term D (1) or (2); mid-term C; long-term A (2)

Pennsylvania Greenway and Conservation Initiatives - Jim Hooper reported on two meetings he had attended. The first was the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership in Columbia where conservation planning along the lower Susquehanna River was discussed. The vision is a Greenway on both sides of the river from Maryland to New York..

The second meeting was the York County Planning Commission. The power companies who own much of the riverside land now wish to divest themselves of the excess to lower their tax burden. The Conservation Fund is working for DCNR to acquire the land and protect other land along the river.

It is important that local residents make their township's Board of Supervisors aware of existing trails, such as the M-DT, so they can be protected. It is more effective than if outsiders talk to them. If people need help, contact Jim Hooper

Endangered Hiking Trails - Ron Gray moved, seconded by Joyce Miller that M-DTS join the KTA Endangered Hiking Trails committee. Approved.

Next Meeting: Sunday June 15, Work party 9:00 am at Apollo Park. Meeting at 2:00 pm