IN THIS ISSUE<br>Trail relocations at Long Level and Elkton - see page 6

## M-DTS WORK PARTY - 9:00 a.m., Sunday, October 26 M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING - 2:00 p.m., Sunday, October 26

Work Party: Meet at the parking area at Apollo Park - we will car pool to a closer site on private property.
We will continue work on the relocaticn north of Apollo Park. There is much rock work still 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 Fiking Club cabin on Route 425 near Otter Creek

Directions: From north: From PA Rte 74 east of Red Lion tam left on Burkholder Red to comenct to Rte 425 at New Bridgeville. Go south on Rte 425 about three and a half miles. Tum 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, morth, on Rev 74 to ncar Airsillec furn right on Rte 425 and follow it about 5 milles to Oter Creck. The York Hilking club cabin is about $\mathrm{y} / \mathrm{m}$ mile beyoud the bridge on the right side of the road. To reach Apollo Park, comtime north on Rowe 425 aboot 3 miles and turn right at Boyd Rd. Follow it to the new parking area.



Eastern Section. $\qquad$

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

The Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. is an allvolunteer, 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 MasonDixon 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


Thereafter, the annual fee is $\$ 5$.
Life membership is available for $\$ 250$.
 Visit the M-DTS weh site at:

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A ballot is enclosed with this newsletter to members for the electio of officers for the Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. for the term from January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2006. Please complete the ballotis and retuim before October 20, 2003.

## TRAIL UPDATES AND ALERTS

Isabel and the M-DT: The extent of damage to the trail by the winds and rain of Isabel was not known at press time. Almost certainly there will be trees down across the trail and a lot of debris to clear up. Probably, flood damage as well. There was a report of a tomado at Glẹn Cove. We encourage maintainers and members to get out and check a section of trail do what you can to clean it up and report any probiems to the trail coordinators.

Trail blockage north of Apollo Park: The trail is still 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). This is a teanporary blockage while M-DTS builds a trail relocation. The work is progressing but 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 th 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.

Trail flooded in Elik 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).

Also, at Elk Neck State Forest, the earthen dam the M-DT traverses by Plum Pond at Mile 4.8 was breached during an earlier storm and there is now a chasm following Isobel which is difficult te cross. A trail relocation will be necessary.

M-DT near Cossart Rd (Map 10: East to West: Mile 2.2) The "makeshift bridge across small stream" has washed away. The stream is muddy, has a soft bottom and is deep. There is no alternate crossing at the present time.

## HELPER NEEDED FOR CHAIN SAW WORK

Ron Gray figures there will be enough chain saw work on the M-DT to keep him busy all winter but he needs a helper - for safety reasons and to assist with the work.

Please contact Ron Gray at $\longrightarrow$ or for more information or to volumteer.

## MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 17, 2003 MEMBERS MEETING

The meeting took place at Iron Hill County Park, Delaware following the work party in Elkton and the Yost memorial dedication at Iron Hill. Those present for the members' meeting and/or the work party were: president Jim Hooper, treasurer Mary Bleecker, secretary Yvonne Blades and Ron Gray, Joyce Miller, Jim McCoy, Tim Schmidt, Turner Darden, Ruth Galantino, Rick Maerker, Vivian and Warren Davies.

The minutes of the June $15^{\text {th }}$ meeting were approved as circulated (Gray, Bleecker).
Mary Bleecker presented the following treasurer's report for the period from June 15 to August 15, 2003: Income: $\$ 120$ from memberships, $\$ 47$ from sale of map/guides, and $\$ 1.40$ interest for a total of $\$ 168.40$. Expenses: July Newsletter costs- $\$ 131.10$; rental of YHC cabin for August meeting- $\$ 10$; balance of cost of Yost monument- $\$ 500$; rental of pavilion at Iron Hill for memorial dedication- $\$ 50$ for a total of $\$ 691.10$. The balance in the M-DTS checking account as of August 15, 2003 is $\$ 4534.81$.

## Trail Reports

Western Section - Western Terminus at Whisky Springs to Lack 12 Coordinator: Ron Gray

- Jim Hooper has completed his "Devil's Hole" relocaticn mear Long Level (Map 4) which replaces 0.6 miles of road walking with 1.5 miles of nice, off-road, trail featuring attractive woods, fields, ridges, a creek, a small old graveyard and the "Devil's Hole" - a spooky spot at the base of a vertical rock face.
- Jim has also relocated a short stretch of the M-DT off Rt. 624 onto Boat House Rd by the Susquehama River. (Map 4).
- Ron Gray has been out on 9 days-working on the relocation north of Apollo Park. 9/10ths of a mile has now been built. The project is about $1 / 3$ completed. The M-DT is presently blocked through this area.
- Ron reports that there has been logging in the area above the York Hiking Club cabin, near Urey Overlook. The MDT through this area (Map 4) will need reblazing. Jim Hooper can provide posts if needed for blazes.
- Ron reports that the M-DT along Furnace Run needs work (Map 5: W to E, beyond Mile 1.0)
- Lopper work is needed along Oakland Run (Map 5).
- There was no sign that the eagles nest above the Susquehanna near the month of Oakland Rum was occupied this year. Thus it was not necessary to close the M-DT and use the bypass route (Map 5).
- Tim Schmidt has done maintenance work on his section of M-DT between Holtwood Dam and Mill Creek.
- Pat Wolf has maintained her section along the tow path from Mill Creek to Lock 12.
- Ron Gray reports that a total of 551 hours of work have been done on the Pennsylvania portion of the Mason-Dixon Trail so far in 2003.


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

- There have been no recent reports of the trail conditions along Muddy Creek. The rest of the central section should be OK.


## Eastern Section - Perryville to Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford Coordinators: Cecil Co-Tony Belfiglio New Castle \& Chester Co. - Yvonne Blades

- Yvonne Blades reported that a huge warehouse has been recently built near the M-DT just east of Belvedere Rd. in Cecil Co. (Map 7: W to E, Mile 5.5t). When she checked the area in mid August there was no trace of the trail. The woods had been cleared right across the telephone cable right of way, which the M-DT follows, and erosion barriers were placed along the edge. The developer is required to leave a passage for the M-DT. Presumably when the landscaping and access roads are completed the route of the M-DT in the area will become more obvious.
- Ron Gray provided on-site consultation for two M-DT relocation projects in Cecil Connty. He improved the alignment for the proposed relocation in Elkton and also looked at the creek crossing on the proposed relocation in the beaver problem area in Elk Neck State Forest which he felt could be "bridged" with 15 foot boards. Getting the materials to the work site could be a challenge.
- At today's work party, one-half mile of new off-road trail was built in the Elkton area as part of a relocation made necessary by new home development. A $4 \times 4$ post with blue blazes was put in to mark the entrance to the trail off Melboume Boulevard. A route was cleared through nice open woods above a stream; then after a right angle turm,
through a stretch of scrubby growth leading to an embankment where a dug-in trail was built down the slope. The relocation joins the existing M-DT at a small pond in the woods just before the descent to the fish propagation ponds. (Map 8: East to West, Mile 2.9). Jim Hooper collected GPS data on the route.
- Chuck Baker reports a problem at the small stream crossing just before Cossart Road (Map 10, East to West, Mile 2.2), the makeshift bridge across the stream has washed away. The stream is muddy and has a soft bottom:


## Old Business

Yost Monument - Tumer Darden reports that the monument has been installed at Iron Hill Courty Park and the final payment made to the monument maker.

Conservation Initiatives - Jim Hooper reported that the Conservation Fund has been negotiating with Safe Harbor Power Co. regarding acquisition and preservation of land along the Susquehanna River but, as yet, no agreement has been reached.

Endangered Trails - Jim Hooper reported that will be presenting a resolution at the KTA meeting regarding hiring an executive director for find raising, creating a trail priority land trust, - plus other responsibilities aimed at assisting hiking clubs in protecting their trails.

## New Business

Equipment Purchase - Ron Gray attended a cable workshop at the recent ATC in New Hampshire and, as a result, recommends the purchase of straps and pulleys for moving rocks; the cost of $\$ 500$ to be split evenly between M DTS and the York Hiking Chb. It was moved by Tumer Darden, seconded by Rick Maerker that M-DTS approve the purchase of the straps and palleys, the cost to be shared between MDTS and YHC. Carried.

Nominating Committee - The nominating commuittee consisting of Pat Wolf, Ted Sanderson and Tumer Darden presented the following slate of nominees for M-DTS officers for the term from Iamuary 1,2004 to December 30, 2006 President: Anthony Belfiglio, Vice-President: James Hooper, Secretary. Ywome Blades, Treasurer: Mary Bleecker, and Directors: PA - James McCoy, MD - Alan Roland, DE - Robert Bennett.

Ron Gray moved that the slate of nominees be accepted, seconded by Tumer Darden. Carried. A ballot will be mailed to all members with the next M-DTS Newsletter.

Next Meeting and Work Party - Sunday, October 26. Work party at Apollo Park; members' meeting at YHC cabin at Otter Creek.

Couple in their 80 s adopt a trail. They hike together to spruce up path

Editor's note: This header and photo is from a recent edition of the Philadelphia Inquirer, Chester Co. edition which featured a nice spread about long time M-DTS members, Warren and Vivian Davies. The Davies, of Landenburg, PA, have maintained a 10 mile section of the M-DT through White Clay Creek Preserve for umpteen years.
's. The article included two photos (one shown here) of the Davies on the M-DT. It was well deserved recognition of their contribution to M-DTS and the White Clay Creek Preserve.


Bob Yost Memorial Dedication


Rick Maerker \& Turner Darden tell tales of Bob's exploits

August 17 at iron Hill County Park


Attendees include M-DTS and Wilmington Trail Clab members

Turner and his daughter Lee Reynolds unveil the monument

The Yost Memorial - gray granite with a M-DT blue blaze
 -


Turner dispenses "champagne" for the toast


Tamer and Lee by the memorial The M-DT goes through the gated lane beyond

## M-DT MAP 4- Relocation at Long Level

## WEST TO EAST

0.0 mi Cross Knights View Road to Trinity Church Road
0.3 mi Pass Trinity North Road on right
1.0 mi Go straight ahead at "T" intersection onto Klines Run Rd which comes from the right and turns toward the river.
1.5 mi Follow Klines Run Rd diagonally across Rt 624 down to the Susquehanna River. Tum right on Boat House Rd
1.7 mi Junction with Rt 624 . Go left on Rt. 624 down river.
2.9 mi Pass Calvery Church Rd on the right.
3.0 mi Immediately after crossing bridge at Cabin Creek, turn right off Rte 624 onto the road that goes straight back. When road turns to the left, continue straight ahead acroes fickd and along grassy swath beside Cabin Creek
3.4 mir Reach clearinge turn left on trail that climbs up through woods. Exit woods, turn right and follow edge orf field around a left hand comer and a right head comer.
3.6 mi Near the far end of the field, tum right and enter woods. Follow a ridge high abowe Cabin Branch then descend steeply into the "Devil's Hole".
3.9 mi Pass through a scrubby saca as trail follows arunod the base of a vertical rock fare, thams left along the eroelt, and then gradually climbs up another ridge.
4.1 mi Great wintertime views of Cabin Branch valley. Tum left, descend through woods, pass through a weedy anea.
4.3 mi Cross the upper edge of a grassy slope, reenter woods Pass a small overgrown old graveyard.
4.7 mi Leave woods, cross stream, pass throngh a grove of trees and go diagonally across the intersection where Rt. 624 comes down the hill and tums to its left up river.
5.0 mi The trail continues along the riverfront on Fishing Creek Road past "Shank's Mare" with hiking gear and ice cream!! etc ete
5.6 mi Reach Fishing Creek Bridge etc,

## EAST TO WEST

12.9 mi Rt 624 comes in from the left and carves to the left, straight ahead from the hiker's perspective. Go diagonally across intersection and throngh a grove of trees Cross a stream and enter woods. Trail climbs gradually as it winds its way through the woods.
13.2 mi Pass sunall overgrown, old graveyard. Cross top edge of grassy slope, pass around edge of fence, contime through weedy area, then reenter woods.
13.5 mi Reach top of ridge with great wintertime views of Cabin Branch valley. Follow ridge to right, then descend gradually to stream level and head downstream
13.7 mi Tum sharp right away from stream, follow trail through scruthby area at bese of vertical rock face, "Devil's Hole" Climb up steculy, then left in woods. Pass by edge of clearing, then reenter woods. Tum right, follow ridge high above Cabin Branch.
14.0 mi Exit woods, trann left, follow edge of field. Go arowed comer to lefit then right. Watch for left ture into woods
14.2 mi Desucad through weods. Reach clearing Twre right and follow grasyy suath aloug Cahin Creek
14.4 min When crook swings to the left, oontimue straight ahead onto field and head for roadway leading to R1 624.
14.6 mi Trrn left on Rt 624 , cross Cabin Creek oa road briuge
14.7 mi Pass Calvary Church Rd on the left.
15.9 mi Trm right onto Boat House Road
16.1 mi Turn lett on Klines Run Rd. Follow it diagonailly across Rt. 624
16.6 mi At "T" intersection continue straight ahead onto Trinity Church Rd. Klines Run Rd turns off to the left.
17.3 mi Trinity North Rd on left. Continue on Trinity Church Rd
17.6 ui Reach Krughts View Raad

## M-DT MAP 8 - Relocation in Elkton

## WEST TO EAST

13.1 mi Leave fish propagation area on opposite side by turning right off access road into small meadow: climb onto earthen dam retaining small pond on left; tura right and watch for dug-in trail on right slabbing up steep embankment.
13.2 mi Pass through scrubby area.
13.3 mi Tum left and go through nice open woods above a small stream. Trail briefly crosses comer of overgrown field, then reenters woods.
13.5 mi Cross small stream on rock dam, climb up bank, exit
${ }^{5}$ woxds into large open area with a retention pond. Turn left and follow edge of open area to roadway in housing development. Watch for blazes on curbs.
13.6 mi Turn left onto Melboume Blwd, cross intersection and contime uphill.
13.9 mi Turn left onto E. Village Road etc

## EAST TO WEST

1.4 mi Turn right on Delancy Road for 250 feet, then turn left onto E . Village Rd. Watch for blazes on curbs.
2.0 mi Turn right on Melbourne Blvd.
2.3 mi At large open clearing just beyond first house after an intersection, turn right along edge of clearing and watch for right turn into woods. Descend to right and cross rock dam, furn left and follow trail through woods above the stream. The trail briefly crosses the comer of an overgrown field then continues through nice open woods.
2.6 mi Tura right and pass throngh scrubby area then descend on dug-in trail to edge of a small pond.
2.8 mi Turn left along edge of pond then descend to a small meadow. Turn left and go around fish propagation ponds, aiming for the far left diagonal comer. etc

