



M-DTS NEWSLETTER September 1999

M-DTS WORK PARTY – 9:00 a.m., Sunday, November 7
M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING – 2:00 p.m., Sunday, November 7

Work Party: Meet at parking lot on Paddrick Road, off Rte 623, just south of the Broad Creek Bridge. There are two work projects: 1) to finish the heavy rock work on the trail rebuilding project south of Bald Hill. Mattocks, and pulaskis will be provided. 2) to do much needed trail maintenance on the Muddy Creek section of M-DT. Bring clippers, loppers, small saws. One or two chain saws will also be needed. All work party participants should bring: work gloves, eye protection, lunch and a beverage.

Members Meeting: Will be held in the Reservation Headquarters building at Broad Creek Scout Reservation.

Directions: From South or East: From US Rt 1, at traffic light 1.7 mi southwest of Conowingo Dam, turn north on MD Rt 623 for 4.1 mi to just before Broad Creek bridge. Turn left onto Paddrick Rd and park on right for the workparty. For the meeting, continue on 623 (across Broad Creek) for 1 mile. Turn left on Susquehanna Hall Rd (gravel) for 1.1 mi.; turn left at the scout sign into Broad Creek Scout reservation and park on the right at the headquarters building, our meeting site.

From York area: Go south on I-83. Get off at exit 1 (Shrewsbury) and go east on Rt 851 for about 3.5 mi to Stewartstown. Turn south on Rt 24 (becomes 23 in Md). About 5 miles south of Stewartstown, turn left on Rt 136. Follow Rt 136 for 15.5 miles. Turn left on Prospect Rd for 0.2 miles then right on Deep Run Road for 1.0 mi. Turn right on Susquehanna Hall Rd and after 0.7 mile, turn right into the Scout Reservation and park on the right for the meeting. For the worksite, continue on Susquehanna Hall Rd 1.1 mile. Turn right on Md Rt 623, and just south of the Broad Creek bridge turn right onto Paddrick Rd and park on the right.



M-DTS WEB PAGE

Check out the new M-DTS web page. It can be accessed via the Keystone Trails Association web site at www.kta-hike.org. Click on "Affiliated Clubs" then choose "Mason-Dixon Trail Website". The web page can also be accessed directly at [REDACTED]. The webmaster is [REDACTED] who has produced an interesting and attractive web page. Through the web page we can provide up to date information on trail conditions and alerts. [REDACTED] would welcome photos of the trail or of members at work hikes. Just email them to him at [REDACTED] or mail to him at [REDACTED].

TRAIL UPDATES



The eagles have fledged: The Pennsylvania Game Commission reopened the Mason-Dixon Trail north of Holtwood on July 24th. The Commission had closed the M-DT on April 1, 1999 because of nesting eagles near the mouth of Oakland Run. Reports are that the eagles nested successfully and produced two eaglets. The eagles will very likely use the same nest in future years thus a bypass route around the nest site is warranted. Ron Gray, along with Mark Arbogast of PP&L, will investigate a possible route. Constructing a bypass in this area will be a challenging project because of steep slopes and rocky terrain.



The temporary detour of M-DT due to bridge construction near Elkton, MD is still in effect. Expected completion date of the bridge across Little Elk Creek is December 1, 1999. The temporary relocation follows the detour posted for motorists.

Recent reports indicate the M-DT along Muddy Creek is in poor shape due to blowdowns and overgrowth.

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MINUTES OF THE JUNE 13, 1999 M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING

The meeting was held in the Paddock Road parking lot following the work party. Members present were: president Jim Hooper, secretary Yvonne Blades, and Ron Gray, John Sallade, Dave Toland and new member, Anthony Belfiglio. Ted Sanderson and Pat O'Dell joined us for the work party.

The minutes of the April 25, 1999 members' meeting were approved as circulated.

Treasurer's Report

Mary Bleecker submitted the following treasurer's report which covers the period from April 25, to June 12, 1999

Income		Expenses	
Memberships (new & renewals)	\$115.00	Printing (May Newsletter, labels)	\$38.26
Map sales	129.00	Postage (Newsletter, etc)	68.20
Sale of patches	20.00	M-DTS Brochures	30.50
Interest	5.81	M-DTS return address labels	9.95
	\$269.81	Trail maintenance costs	
		(purchase of Pulaskis, lumber)	122.04
			268.95
Balance as of 4/25/99	\$6782.88		
Income minus expenses 4/25-6/12/99	0.86		
Balance as of 6/12/99	\$6783.74		

The treasurer recommended putting up to \$3000 into a CD unless a major expenditure was anticipated. Approved.

The secretary distributed a list of those in arrears after the dues notice in the January M-DTS Newsletter and a "final notice" included with the May Newsletter. The removal of 18 names from the membership rolls was approved.

Trail Reports

Western Section - Western Terminus at Whisky Springs to Lock 12

Coordinator: Ron Gray [REDACTED]

- Dave Toland has volunteered to maintain the proposed M-DT relocation in State Game Land #242. Ron Gray will now negotiate with Game Land personnel to work out a suitable route for the M-DT.
- There is on-going road construction on the overpass over I-83 and Rte 295 and Cloverleaf Road near Strinestown, PA.. The M-DT crosses over I-83 on this overpass. Caution is advised when hiking through this area.
- The new park manager at Gifford Pinchot State Park is [REDACTED] the assistant manager is [REDACTED]
- Ron Gray and Jim Hooper have put in new switch backs on the climb from Otter Creek to Rte 425. One more switchback is needed.
- A blowdown was reported on the trail near Otter Creek campground. Ron and Jim will take care of it following the meeting today.

Central Section - Lock 12 to Havre de Grace

Coordinator: Pat O'Dell [REDACTED]

- At today's work party, Ron Gray and his work crew completed another 400 feet of side hill construction and rock work on the trail descending south bound from Bald Hill, south of Broad Creek. About 400 feet of rock work remains to finish the project.
- Also at the work party today, Yvonne Blades cut back overgrowth along the M-DT through the Broad Creek Scout Reservation.
- The Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway was officially extended along the route of the Mason-Dixon Trail in Susquehanna State Park on National Trails Day, June 5th. Posts with the LSHG logo and M-DT decal have been placed at ½ mile intervals along the trail. The combined route now runs from Conowingo Dam to Lapidum Road, a distance of 6.2 miles. M-DTS mounted a display at the NTD event, gave out brochures and sold a map. We had the opportunity to talk enthusiastically with Harford County executive, James Harkins, and with Peter Johnston, the consultant working on the LSHG management plan, about the need and desirability now to extend the greenway and M-D T south from Lapidum along the old railroad bed by the Susquehanna River.

Eastern Section - Perryville to Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford

Coordinator: Rick Maerker [REDACTED]

- The 2-mile section along Christina Creek from Elkton Road to Church Road in the Newark, DE area was cleared and reblazed by Yvonne Blades.
- Bob Bennett reports he checked the Christianstad-Westbranch section of M-DT and found at the north end, beyond the third bridge, that some homeowners, in violation of their deeds, have mowed right up to the bank of the creek, eliminating the previous buffer that existed between the trail and the houses. Since it creates a lot of lawn walking, there are several places where blazes will be difficult. Overall, the M-DT from Rittenhouse Park to White Clay Creek State Park through to Broad Run is in usable and mostly good-to-very-good shape. He will check on the Rittenhouse to Iron Hill section.
- Bob also reports that there are several large fallen trees currently in Christina Creek and erosion is occurring at a very noticeable rate in a number of places.
- Blazes along the M-DT in Hockessin from the soccer fields on Valley Road through to Southwood Road have been refreshed. The trail passes through the development of Southwood. The previous blazes on lamp posts had been obliterated. The new blazes are painted on the pavement at the edge of the roadways through the development.

Other Business

M-DTS Web Page - Jim Trautman has created a Mason-Dixon Trail System web page with access from the York Hiking Club website. We hope to get a link to the KTA website.

Next Meeting - Scheduled for November 7 with work to continue on the trail reconstruction south from Bald Hill. Work Party to meet at 9:00 am. The members meeting to follow at 2:00 pm at the Broad Creek Boy Scout Reservation Headquarters.

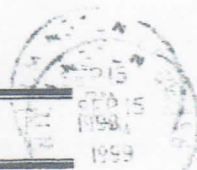
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Magic Merc Hits the Trail Again

The intrepid Rick Maerker, (alias magic.merc), M-DTS past president and present Eastern Section Trail Coordinator, is "through-hiking" the Appalachian Trail again. In 1997, Rick and Sam Beyer of Chester County Trail Club, hiked the AT from Georgia to Maine. This year Rick and Sam headed north to south. They stepped off Mt Katahdin at 10:40 am on June 17th. Unfortunately, Sam hurt his right knee and had to bail out on July 18. But Rick continues on and, from his reports, is having a grand time. He met up with Jim Hooper and Ron Gray in Maine and with various other friends and relations en route. The vertical struts of his backpack, a well known and respected brand, collapsed recently. A cousin ferried him to Campmor in Paramus, NJ, where they replaced his pack free of charge. Rick has reached Pennsylvania now and plans to "pick up the pace" south of PA. Happy trails Rick.

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.

Yvonne Blades
[REDACTED]



R. Ronald Gray
[REDACTED]

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