

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.



M-DTS NEWSLETTER April, 2005

M-DTS WORK PARTY -- 9:30 a.m., Saturday, May 7
M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING -- 2:00 p.m., Saturday, May 7

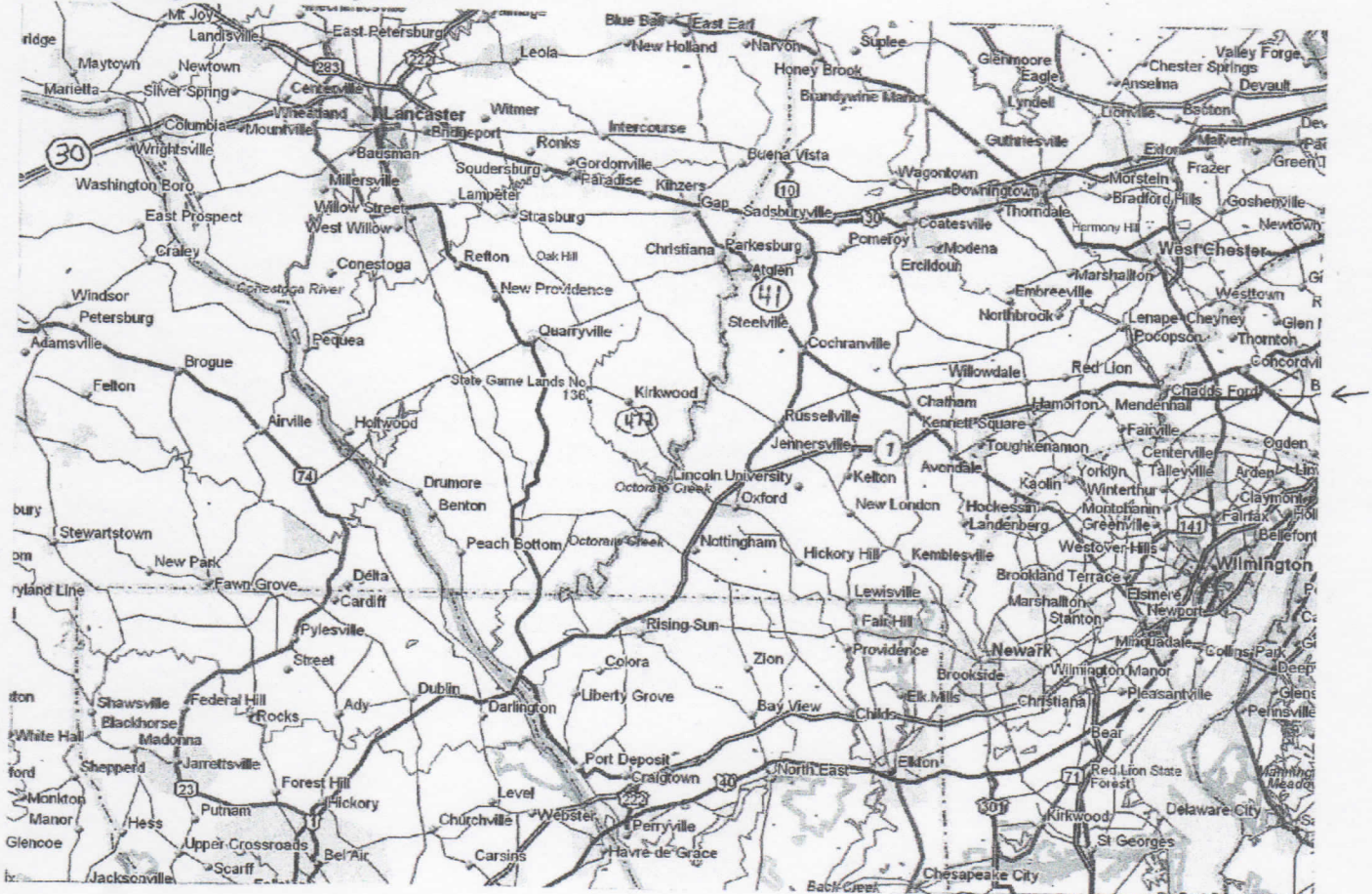
Work Party: Meet in the parking lot of the Brandywine River Museum in Chadds Ford (at the far corner near Rte 1 and the river). We will car pool to a closer access point to the work site.

The work party will build 200 feet of bog bridging on the trail to cross an extensive wet area in the floodplain of the Brandywine River. Equipment needed: sledge hammer, battery-powered drills and screw drivers, wrenches, wood saws, a chain saw, loppers, a mattock. All workers should bring: work gloves, eye protection, lunch and water.

Members Meeting: Meet in the parking lot as above.

Directions: From Wrightsville area: Merge onto US Rte 30 heading east across the Susquehanna and follow it for 28 miles. Turn slight right at Gap onto PA Rte 41 for 16.4 miles. Merge onto US-1 N via ramp on left for 11.6 miles. Turn right at first road after crossing bridge over the Brandywine. Enter parking lot for the Brandywine River Museum and park at far corner to the right near Rte 1 and the river.

From south and west: Cross the Norman Wood bridge on Rte 372, continue on 372 for 10 miles to Quarryville. Turn right on Rte 472 and follow it for 12 miles to Rte 1. Turn north (left) on Rte 1 for about 23 miles. Turn right at first road after crossing bridge over the Brandywine. Continue as above.



MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM INC

President Anthony Belfiglio

Vice President.....Jim Hooper

Secretary & Newsletter Editor...Yvonne Blades

Treasurer.....Mary Bleecker

Director - PennsylvaniaJames McCoy

Director - Maryland..... Alan Roland

Director - Delaware.....Robert Bennett

Trail Coordinators:

Western Section.....Ron Gray

Central Section.....Pat Yale

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 Bleecker

Thereafter, the annual fee is \$5.

Life membership is available for \$250.

Visit the M-DTS web site at:

Membership dues reminder

A dues form is enclosed for those who have not yet sent in their 2005 M-DTS membership dues. We hope you will continue to support the Mason-Dixon Trail System.

New Mason-Dixon Trail Maps are here

The 2004 edition of the M-DT maps is now available. The maps have been updated; GPS data has enabled more accurate delineation of the M-DT, there have been many relocations, other trails have been added. Each map, printed on water-proof paper, is 20 x 8.5 inches and folds to a 4 x 8.5 inch format. A detailed trail description, is printed on the reverse side of each map. The set of 10 maps includes a cover sheet and is enclosed in a plastic bag. The new maps include side trails and park trails. The cost of the map set to members is \$12 which includes the cost of postage. Checks should be made out to Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc and mailed to:

Mary Bleecker, Treasurer M-DTS

TRAIL UPDATES AND ALERTS

Trail closed north of Apollo Park: The trail is still closed between the rocky promontory south of Cuff's Run and Apollo County Park. (Map 4: West to East - Mile 7.6 to 9.7). Less than 1/2 mile of new trail construction is needed to complete the relocation.

No parking at Gaging Station Bridge on Muddy Creek: The area by the bridge has been posted as "No Parking" and parked cars have been towed away. (Map 5: West to East, Mile 17.3).

Access at Peach Bottom: At present, there is no answer at the phone number hikers are to call to get permission to hike on the M-DT through the Peach Bottom area and the designated contact person is no longer employed at the power station. Hikers should not attempt to hike through this area until the situation there is clarified.

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Floods and Flowers along the Susquehanna River

Early April showers (deluges) especially in the upper reaches of the Susquehanna River caused extensive flooding downstream. Over 30 floodgates were open at Conowingo Dam on April 3 & 4 -- a very powerful, impressive sight. The main street of Port Deposit, downstream from the dam, was under water.

An inspection on April 9 revealed that flood waters had covered sections of the Mason-Dixon Trail where it runs along the bank of the river in Susquehanna State Park (Map 6: West to East, Mile 12.8-13.9) and left behind some patches of wet, slippery mud. However the wildflower display along the trail will still be spectacular. On April 12, the bluebells were about to burst forth in full glory. Also noted: trout lily, Dutchmans breeches, spring beauty, toothwort and trillium. Osprey were active.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, 2005 M-DTS MEMBER'S MEETING

The meeting took place at the Hooper residence near Wrightsville, PA following the work party. Those present for the meeting were: president Tony Belgiglio, vice president Jim Hooper, secretary Yvonne Blades and Ron Gray, Joyce Hooper and Frank Harvey. Participants in the work party were; Ron Gray, Jim & Joyce Hooper, Lou & Sarah Tateosian, Richard Winemiller, Sandy Grove, Jim Rhullaugh, Jim McCoy, Bernie Frick, Charlie Ament, Yvonne Blades.

The minutes of the October 24, 2004 meeting were approved as circulated. The treasurer has reported that there have been 82 M-DTS membership renewals to date for 2005 plus 28 life members giving the current paid-up membership at 110. A second dues reminder will be sent out to those who have not renewed with the next newsletter.

Financial Report for 2004

Rick Maerker has reviewed the treasurer's records and submitted the following summary of the year 2004 financial activity of Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc.

	2004	1995-2004 (average)
Income		
Dues/Donations (104 renew, 15 new)	\$1713.50	\$2234.94
Sale of map/guides	972.00	589.51
Sale of patches	14.00	55.93
Interest	5.28	23.78
CD transfer (to pay for maps)	<u>3370.67</u>	<u>1034.35</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$6075.45	\$3938.50
Expenses		
Newsletters	\$510.94	\$454.12
Map production expenses	231.50	
Map printing (900 sets)	6215.88	1361.43
Administration	195.39	472.73
Trail maintenance	186.10	206.09
Patches	0.00	55.93
Donations	105.00	80.50
Capital expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>125.16</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$7444.81	\$2811.23

Opening balance in checking account as of 1/1/04	\$4235.93
Total income minus expenses in 2004	<u>-1369.36</u>
Ending balance in checking account 12/31/04	\$2866.57

CD - 30-month	\$3122.12
CD - 24-month	\$4529.33

TOTAL ASSETS OF M-DTS, INC. AS OF 12/31/04 \$10518.02

Trail Reports

Eastern Section - Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford to Perryville Coordinators: Chester and New Castle Co. - Yvonne Blades Cecil Co. - Tony Belgiglio

- Yvonne Blades reported that a Wilmington Trail club work party in November worked on the shared M-DT/Brandywine Trail south of Chadds Ford. The section through woods was well cleared. Deadfall was gathered to provide a somewhat dry route across the wet meadow. This remains a problem area we hope to improve at the next M-DT work party.
- Rick Maerker is working on a solution to the stream crossing problem near Cossart Rd.
- Yvonne Blades reported extensive ATV damage to the M-DT in Elk Neck State Forest (Map 8: E to W: Mile 13.3 - 14.0). The ATVs access the trail from private land along the forest boundary. They have been on the trail when it was wet and soft and have created huge mud puddles. A trail relocation will be necessary.

- Management of Elk Neck State Forest which is now under Elk Neck State Park may be transferred back to the Forestry Division in July. If so, Margit Pruett and her Maryland Conservation Corp Crew would move to the Park and no longer be doing any work in the Forest. Margit and her crews have been a tremendous help to us in maintaining and improving the route of the M-DT through ENSF. (Yvonne Blades has given Margit a list of projects (chain saw work, trail hardening, bridge building) she hopes the crew could do before the possible move).

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

- Yvonne Blades reported that access to the M-DT and the Lower Susquehanna Greenway from Shures Landing Rd at Conowingo was closed due to a maintenance project on the pipeline that crosses the Susquehanna River at that point. Colonial Pipeline hoped to have the project completed by mid March.
- Dave Linthicum reports ATV incursions onto PECO lands that the M-DT passes through. Dave has freshened up blazes through his section from Conowingo to Broad Creek. The Sandersons helped clear the trail after the storms last September to December. There is still a very large tree across the trail just north of the radio tower at Conowingo.
- Ted Sanderson reported that he was unable to make contact with the person to call for permission to hike on the M-DT through Peach Bottom land. Apparently, Fran Reining no longer works at Peach Bottom and no one answers the phone at the number we were told to call. Ron Grey called Rodney Stark of PECO who also had difficulty contacting security at Peach Bottom. Rodney had indicated that we would have to move the trail at some point in time.
- With regard to the parking problem at Muddy Creek, Jim Hooper has met with the supervisor of Lower Chanceford County and has talked to the Williams Pipeline Co. who own property at the intersection of Rte 74 and Paper Mill Rd. Jim is suggesting that a parking lot be built on the property for about 15 cars; the entrance to be off Paper Mill Rd (the M-DT passes by the intersection). Jim has written to the board of Williams for permission to create the parking lot.

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

- Ron Gray, Jim Hooper and Lou Tateosian took part in the York County Conservation District clean-up at Lock 12 on January 15. There was a huge amount of trash collected - enough to fill a tractor trailer.
- Ron and Jim have cleared, including chain saw work, on the M-DT thorough Peavine Island.
- With regard to the target practice site along the power line right of way north of Bare Rd: the power company does not own the land and thus cannot restrict use. The land owner lives in Maryland.
- Ron Gray announced that Tom Morley is the new maintainer for the section from Otter Creek to Safe Harbor.
- Ron reported that 400 feet of new trail was built on today's work party on the relocation north of Kohler Rd. It was all mattock/digging bar type work. There is less than a ½ mile to build. The group that hiked in from Apollo Park reported 4 step-over blowdowns and another blowdown they were able to cut. They reported ATV damage to the trail.
- Ron & Jim contacted Ed Kline of Countyline Quarry and have flagged a 1-mile route between Murphys Hollow and Wrightsville which can be connected to the proposed park. Safe Harbor Power Co. approval will also be needed.
- Ron reports that the M-DT in Pinchot Park from the campground to Squire Gratz Road is very wet.

Other Business

Mower: Ron Gray cannot store the M-DT mower at his new location. Moved by Yvonne Blades, seconded by Joyce Hooper: Transfer mower to the York Hiking Club where it will be available to M-DT if we need it. Carried

Sale of maps: Jim Hooper reports that most retail outdoor sports stores prefer to deal with a distributor for purchase of maps to sell to the public. Jim has been in discussion with Equinox of Williamsport, a map distributor. To aid in the negotiations, the following motion was made: Moved by Ron Gray, seconded by Frank Harvey: M-DTS will not have a list price for the maps. Carried.

Consultant for York County Park Plans: Jim Hooper reported that York County has hired [redacted] as a consultant for planning the proposed parks along the Susquehanna River. Jim has met with [redacted] with regard to relocating the M-DT. Mike suggests contacting the power companies for funds for the relocations.

Web Site: Jim Hooper moved, Joyce Hooper seconded: A committee be formed to study the M-DTS website. Carried. York Hiking club has also formed a committee to redesign their website.

Proposed parking lot: Jim Hooper moved: he be allowed to proceed in negotiations to build a parking lot at the intersection of Rt 74 & Paper Mill Rd. If funds are needed, he will come back to the board for approval. Seconded by Tony Belfiglio. Carried.

Next Meeting: Saturday, May 7 at Chadds Ford, PA.