

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.



M-DTS NEWSLETTER July, 2001

M-DTS WORK PARTY – 9:00 a.m., Sunday, August 19
M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING – 2:00 p.m., Sunday, August 19

Work Party: Meet at the parking lot of Glen Cove Marina.

There are two major projects. (1) Continue work on improving the treadway on the rocky 0.2 mile stretch of the M-DT above the house and boat storage area. (2) Complete the rock work on the descent from Bald Hill. Equipment needed: pulaskis, mattocks, digging bars. For those not in to major construction projects, there is always blaze freshening and clipping to be done. All workers should bring: work gloves, eye protection, lunch and a beverage.

Members Meeting: Meet at the reserved picnic table at Glen Cove.

Directions: From north: come down PA Rte 74. About a mile after crossing into Maryland, turn left on Rte 136. In 5 miles, turn left on Dublin Road, then left on Glen Cove Road and follow it to its terminus at the marina

From south: From Rte 1, west of Conowingo Dam turn north on MD Rte 623. In just over a mile turn right at the 4-way junction onto Berkley Road. Follow it to its terminus at the marina.



← Detail of roads in Glen Cove area

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM INC

President Jim Hooper
[REDACTED]
Vice President Jim Denny
[REDACTED]
Secretary & Newsletter Editor Yvonne Blades
[REDACTED]
Treasurer Mary Bleecker
[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 Bleecker
[REDACTED]

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

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

TRAIL MAINTAINERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to maintain two sections of the M-DT in southern York County, PA.

Coal Cabin to Lay Rd - 2.2 mile stretch of the M-DT, near the Susquehanna River south of Muddy Creek. (Map 5: West to East, Mile 22.7-24.9). One mile on roads, one mile on trail through woods above river.

Lay Road to Atom Road - 1.5 miles near Peach Bottom. (Map 5: West to East, Mile 24.9 to 26.4). Trail climbs through woods, passes on roads or cleared right of ways through open area with good views, then descends on old woods road.

Please contact Yvonne Blades at [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED] for more information or to volunteer to maintain either of these sections. Trail maintainers are expected to check their sections at least once a year and clear and reblaze as necessary. If there is a lot of work to be done, notify your coordinator and a M-DTS work party can be scheduled for the area.

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TRAIL UPDATES AND ALERTS

Recent logging operation north of Otter Creek, PA: Map 4: West to East should now read: At 12.9 mi. Turn right across Rte 425 and onto a maintenance road, it jogs left then right. Follow it across the clear cut area to the bottom of the hill. Blazes are on six inch high stumps. At the bottom of the hill follow the original trail "left across the stream etc...."

East to West at 3.0 mi. In the middle of the paragraph a sentence begins "Cross a small stream to a logging road" The remainder of the paragraph should now read: Turn right and follow the road up the hill and through the clear cut area to Rte 425. Blazes are on six inch high stumps.

Damage to trail by horse activity south of Otter Creek, PA: Map 5: West to East - Mile 0.8 to 1.9. Severe degradation of the trail and stream banks have been reported. See page 4 for more information.

Stile installed where trail crosses electric fence south of Glen Cove, MD: Map 6: West to East - Mile 12.2. A handsome wood stile has replaced the plastic tubing at the place where the M-DT crosses an electric fence.

Trail rerouting near North East in Cecil County, MD: Map 7: East to West - Mile 3.7 Go straight across Red Toad Rd and follow blue-blazed path through woods. Turn left at cable ROW, cross cul de sac of new development and pick up cleared ROW again in the woods beyond. West to East - Mile 8.2, Cross cul de sac of new development and as ROW approaches Red Toad Rd, watch for blue-blazed trail leading off to the right to avoid private house and driveway.

Trail relocation in Newark area, DE: About 3 miles of the Mason-Dixon Trail, between Rte 273 and White Clay Creek State Park, have been relocated. (Map 9: West to East, Mile 10.8-13.7). The relocation turns right off Delrem Rd, then follows Country Club Rd, crosses Rte 896 and descends through University of Delaware property to Creek Road. It follows Creek Rd for about 1 mile then ascends up a nice wooded valley, reaches a field, turns right and follows the perimeter of the field on a well defined footpath. The trail turns right at a clearing to Wedgewood Rd, jogs left then right and rejoins the existing M-DT in White Clay Creek State Park. The relocation along roads is marked with blue blazes; through the park areas with plastic M-DT decals nailed to trees. Posts with decals are to be placed along the trail through the fields. (See Feb. 2001 M-DTS Newsletter for details of trail relocation)

ROCKS AND STILES

Rocks and stiles sums up the very successful and strenuous work parties held in conjunction with the June 24th M-DTS members' meeting. The indefatigable Ron Gray led the pulaski and mattock crew (Mike Calbrese, Ted Brower, Tim Schmidt). Their object was to improve the very rocky 0.2 mile route of the M-DT as it crosses the slope above the house and boat storage area at Glen Cove Marina. This stretch of trail has to follow a strict property line between the Marina, operated by a good friend of the trail, Butch Young, and the adjacent land owner who is concerned about preservation of some endangered native plant species on his large wooded land holding. Lots of rocks had to be shifted to make a decent treadway in the limited space. About two thirds of the project was completed.

The second work project was to build a stile over the electric fence on the John E. Clark property at Mile 12.2 of the M-DT (Map 6: East to West). The stile building crew was led by Jim Hooper and consisted of his son Adam plus Yvonne Blades. Paul Szatmary had gone to the site beforehand and provided all the measurements needed. Jim bought the lumber and precut all the boards for the stile. Jim and Adam then assembled the stile on site. It is a sturdy, handsome structure. Yvonne freshened up the nearby blazes. Special thanks to Mr Clark for allowing us to put in the stile and drive through his fields to get the materials to the work site.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 24, 2001 MEMBER'S MEETING

The meeting took place at Glen Cove following the work parties on the Mason-Dixon Trail. Those present were: president Jim Hooper, secretary Yvonne Blades, treasurer Mary Bleecker and Tim Schmidt, Ron Gray, Turner Darden, Ted Brower and Adam Hooper. Mike Calabrese was present for the work party. The refreshments brought along by Mary were greatly appreciated.

The minutes of the March 25, 2001 member's meeting were approved as circulated. The secretary reported that she had sent out 28 "final notices" to those in arrears with their 2001 M-DTS membership dues. She will be preparing an updated 2001 M-DTS membership list for distribution to members of the board.

Treasurer's Report

Mary Bleecker presented the treasurer's report which covered the period from January 1 to June 23, 2001. The income was \$1587.00 from membership renewals, \$161.50 from 12 new memberships, \$200.22 from sale of map/guides, \$71.00 from sale of patches and \$5.82 interest for a total of \$2025.54. Expenses totaled \$529.28 which included: \$179.90 for printing the March and May Newsletters, \$292.10 for postage and/or purchase of stamped envelopes for the newsletters, \$31.36 for trail maintenance supplies and \$25.92 for administrative expenses. The balance in the checking account as of June 23, 2001 is \$3549.77.

Trail Reports

Eastern Section - Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford to Perryville

Acting Coordinators: Cecil County - Anthony Belfiglio

Chester & New Castle Counties - Yvonne Blades

- On the recent relocation in White Clay Creek State Park (Map 9, East to West; Mile 7.2), posts are still needed to mark the route through fields south from Wedgewood Road. Bob Bennett contacted the park personnel again and was told they would put in carsonite posts as an interim measure.
- The Pennsbury Lands Trust is working on an easement arrangement for the M-DT on the Haskell property near Chadds Ford.

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

- Yvonne Blades refreshed the blazes on the M-DT in the Havre de Grace area between North Park and the rock climb south of Arundel quarry. The official opening of this stretch of trail as part of the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway was to take place at National Trails Day, June 2.
- Someone has reported difficulty finding the trail heading north from Conowingo Dam.
- At today's work party, a stile was built over the electric fence on the Clark property and most of the tread way of a 0.2 mile stretch of very rocky trail above the Glen Cove Marina was improved. See above report.

- Re-blazing is needed on the M-DT along the roads north from Muddy Creek and along River Road. The stretch through Peavine Island probably needs work.

Western Section - Lock 12 to Western Terminus at Whiskey Springs

Coordinator: Ron Gray

- The following email was received from [redacted] of the KTA on April 3, 2001. "It has been reported to the Keystone Trails Association on March 23, that local equestrians are using SGL #83 and surrounding private lands for fox hunting outings. The Rose Tree Hunt club lets a large pack of dogs loose and then chases them on horseback without regard to marked trails. The section of the Mason-Dixon Trail between Bare Road and Sawmill Road (Map 5: West to East - Mile 0.8 to 1.9) has been devastated by this activity, and the stream banks have been severely degraded at six locations. What once was a smooth trail is now a rocky, marshy mess. Horseflies are so thick they deter prospective hikers at the Otter Creek Campground" No one at the meeting had been on this section recently to give an update on the problem.
- Ron Gray cut the tree that had fallen across the switchbacks descending southbound to Cuffs Run. (Map 4: West to East - about Mile 7.3.)
- Ron Gray has supplied paint to Lorraine Sis to redo the blazes on her section from the Western Terminus to Gifford Pinchot Park.

Other Business

Proposal for Yost Memorial: Turner Darden reported a problem with the proposed location for the memorial. He had received permission from the New Castle County parks department for the location in Swift Park, Hockessin. Now other county officials have questioned this site and Turner was to meet with another county official to discuss the matter.

There was discussion about adding the length of the trail to the inscription to indicate the M-DT is a long distance trail. Also, it was noted, that we need to compile the early history of the trail and the names of those who took part in the exploratory hikes.

GPS: Yvonne Blades asked whether we should consider using GPS to more accurately indicate the route of the trail on our maps. Jim Hooper wants to add side trails on the next printing of the M-DTS maps. It was noted that M-DTS member Dr Vern Vernier was to present a workshop on GPS at the ATC Conference in July.

Donation to Delaware Preservation Coalition: A donation of \$25.00 to the Delaware Preservation Coalition: Open Space, Parks and Farmland was approved.

Next Meeting: August 19 at Glen Cove The work parties will continue the rock work on the trail above the Marina, and finish off the rock work on the bottom of the descent from Bald Hill.

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Shippensburg 2001

The 33rd biennial meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conference was held at Shippensburg University from July 13 - 20. It was a great success. The weather was unusually good for this time of year in Pennsylvania. There was a great program of hikes plus many interesting and informative workshops. Several M-DTS members helped out at the conference. Ron Gray headed the sign committee and was much in evidence along with helper Richard Winemiller during the week; Jim Hooper and Tim Schmidt led hikes, Mary Bleecker and Yvonne Blades, each put in 9 hours at the registration desk and Mary led an excursion. M-DTS member Dr. Vern Vernier led hikes and presented two workshops.

Your reporter took the opportunity to hike the "Thousand Steps" up Jack's Mountain and particularly made note of Step #190 which was "bought" by M-DTS as part of the campaign to "Save the Thousand Steps". It was a delightful hike with dramatic views of the Juniata River valley from the top.