



## M-DTS NEWSLETTER April 1998

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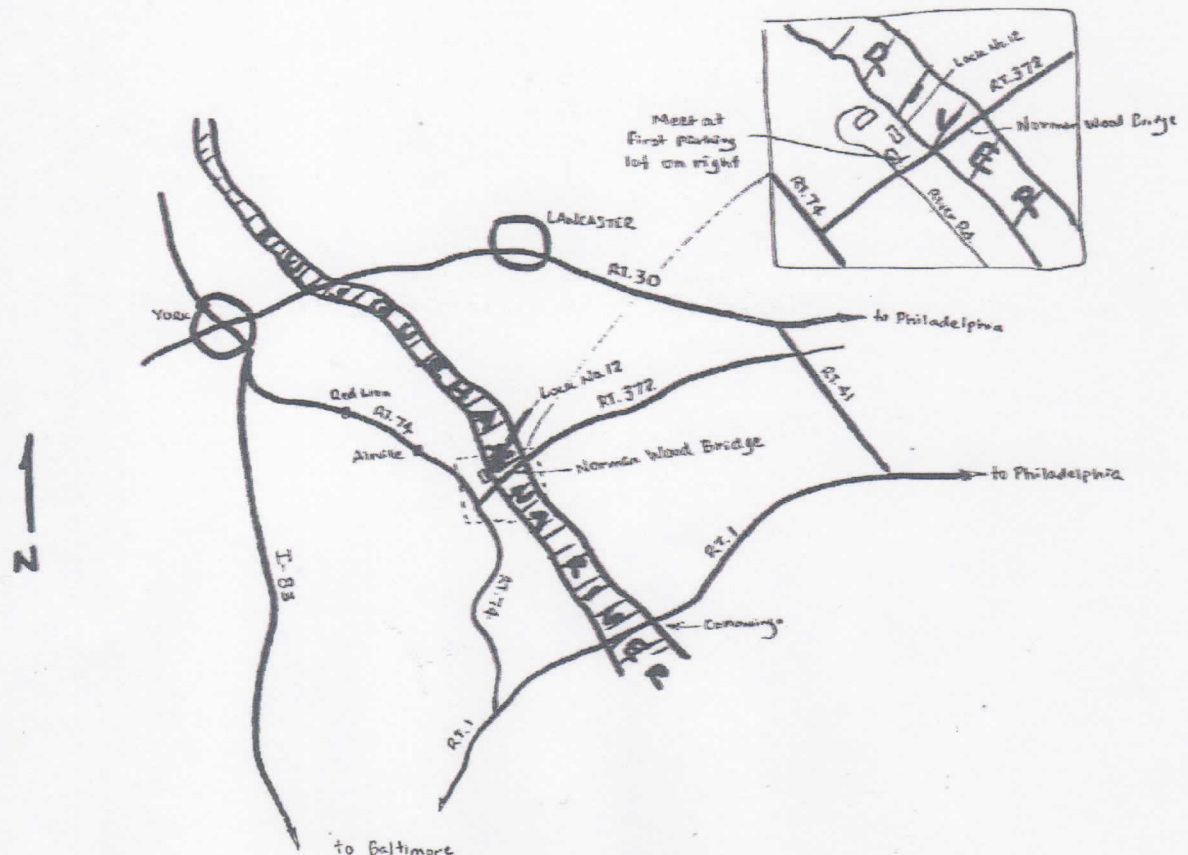
- TRAIL RELOCATION - north of North East, Maryland (MAP 7). See page 6.
- MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER - page 2
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### **M-DTS WORK PARTY -- 9:30 am, Sunday, May 17** **M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING -- 1:30 pm, Sunday, May 17**

For both the work party and members' meeting, meet in the Lock 12 historic area in the first parking lot north of the Norman Wood Bridge off PA Route 372. See map below.

The work party will clean up the Mason-Dixon Trail and adjacent areas south of Lock 12, over Peavine Island to River Road. There is a lot of litter in this popular area and recent high water will have deposited much debris on the trail. Trash bags will be provided. Bring work gloves, clippers, small saws etc. and lunch and a beverage.

A chain-saw crew is also needed to cut trees across the trail in the Peach Bottom area.



## **\$\$ 1998 M-DTS MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER \$\$**

Your 1998 Mason-Dixon Trail System Inc. membership dues are now due. The 1998 dues form is included with this mailing to those who have not yet renewed their membership for 1998. We hope you will continue to support M-DTS.

### **NEW MASON-DIXON TRAIL MAPS AVAILABLE**

The *elegant, new*, completely revised, set of 10 maps covering the entire 190-mile Mason-Dixon Trail is now available. The 2-color maps, printed on waterproof, tear-proof paper, show contours, roads, parking and other features. Each map is 20 x 8.5 inches and is folded to a 4 x 8.5 inch format. A detailed trail description, both west to east and east to west, 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 cost of the map set is \$12 which includes the cost of mailing. Checks should be made payable to Mason-Dixon Trail System Inc. and mailed to: Mary Bleecker, Treasurer M-DTS

M-DTS members may renew their membership and receive the new set of maps for a total of \$15.

\* \* \* \*

### **MINUTES OF THE MARCH 1, 1998 M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING**

The meeting was held at the Susquehanna Museum at the Lockhouse in Havre de Grace, Maryland. Those present were: William Cawthray, Richard Winemiller, Jeff Short, Warren Davies, Pat O'Dell, Mike Calabrese, Jim Denny, Rick Maerker, Mary Bleecker, Clair Piersol, Hank Drummond, Jim Hooper, Ron Gray, Tim Schmidt, Yvonne Blades, Bob Bennett and guest [REDACTED].

The minutes of the November 2, 1997 meeting were approved as circulated.

### **Financial Report**

Rick Maerker presented a summary of the 1997 financial activity of Mason-Dixon Trail System Inc. as well as a comparison with the yearly average of the last 10 years.

|                                       | <u>1997</u>                | <u>1988-97 (Average)</u> |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                         |                            |                          |
| Dues/Donations<br>(123 renew, 27 new) | \$2520.00                  | \$1890.04                |
| Sale of map/guides                    | 444.95                     | 395.47                   |
| Sale of patches                       | 10.00                      | 66.60                    |
| Interest                              | 52.05                      | 34.78                    |
| (CD redemptions)                      | <u>\$6972.81</u>           |                          |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                   | <b>\$3027.00 (9999.81)</b> | <b>2386.89</b>           |
| <b>Expenses</b>                       |                            |                          |
| Newsletter                            | \$384.16                   | \$339.92                 |
| Administration                        | 321.38                     | 334.77                   |
| Trail maintenance                     | 109.66                     | 207.82                   |
| Map/guide, 4 <sup>th</sup> ed         | 7398.42                    | 1112.49                  |
| Patches                               | 0.00                       | 102.20                   |
| Capital Expense                       | 0.00                       | 71.00                    |
| Donations/Dues                        | <u>25.00</u>               | <u>65.80</u>             |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                 | <b>\$8238.62</b>           | <b>\$2232.00</b>         |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Opening balance in checking account as of 1/1/97  | \$ 700.12 |
| Income minus expenses in 1997                     | 1761.19   |
| Ending balance in checking account as of 12/31/97 | \$2461.31 |
| CD - 30-month @ 5.73%, due 8/12/00                | 2573.33   |
| Total Assets of M-DTS, Inc. as of 12/31/97 =      | \$5034.64 |



### M-DT Maps

Sales of the new M-DT map sets are going well. Mary Bleecker reported she had mailed out over 90 to date to members who had renewed their membership at \$15 level or higher. The winter 1998 issue of the Keystone Trails Association Newsletter has an announcement about the new maps. Several hiking specialty stores (Shanks Maje, Wild Ware, and Wilderness) have bought wholesale lots for sale to the public.

Extra copies of some of the individual maps (except Map 4) are available for purchase. It was decided to sell them for \$1.50 per single sheet. The cost of the complete map set is \$10.50 plus \$1.50 handling charge.

### Camping Sites on the M-DT

We get frequent queries about where you can camp overnight along the Mason-Dixon Trail. We need to prepare a camping information sheet with locations, restrictions, reservation procedures, phone numbers etc. Possible camping sites are: Gifford Pinchot State Park, Otter Creek Campground, Broad Creek Scout Reservation for scout groups, Susquehanna State Park, and Elk Neck State Forest. The trail coordinators will send information about camping in their sections to the secretary who will compile a list for distribution.

### M-DT Trail Reports

#### Western Section - Western Terminus to Mill Creek Coordinator: Ron Gray

- Ron Gray has a good route in mind for a relocation through State Game Lands in the Western Section but wants to line up maintainers before relocating the trail.
- Peter and Brenda Petroski are the new maintainers for the Accomac to Route 30 bridge section.
- Additional work has been done on the climb from Fishing Creek since the last meeting. It is in better shape but still needs work.
- Greenbranch to Cuffs Run: About 1200 feet of heavy work has been done by Ron Gray, Richard Winemiller and Jim Hooper at the Greenbranch end to improve this very rocky section. There is still  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile to do. A large blowdown at Cuffs Run has been cleared.
- Cuffs Run to Apollo Park: Need to contact new owners about a possible short relocation at Kohler Road to improve the route. The descent into Apollo Park needs work. There is a bad blowdown in a dangerous position to clear.
- Apollo Park to Boyd's Run: Charles Ament cleared some blowdowns recently. The rocks need work in several places. There is a lot of ATV activity in the upper part of the park. Ron is trying to get the park to install a parking area for access.
- Upper River Road (Shenks Ferry Rd) to Rte 425 before Urey: The climb from Kline Road has been reconstructed. Some clipping needed in the central section. New switchbacks needed on the climb from Otter Creek.
- Rte 425 to Otter Creek: Some blazing needed. Major water bar work on the climb to Urey needed at some point in time.
- Otter Creek to Rte 425 (south crossing): John Plyler is the new maintainer. Horse traffic is a problem.

#### Central Section - Mill Creek to Havre de Grace Coordinator: Pat O'Dell

- Jack Schultz reports that there is a great deal of litter on the trail and adjacent areas on Peavine Island.
- Yvonne & Herb Blades recently hiked along Muddy Creek and report there are 2 or 3 blowdowns across the trail beyond the first stream crossing that need cutting. There are also signs of possible logging activity to come - red ribbons and blue diagonal paint strips on trees near the trail. The branches left from one tree that had been logged obliterated the trail at the point where it turns left and starts the descent to Muddy Creek at Coal Cabin. Herb & Yvonne cleared a route around the mess. The bridge on the trail used by the dirt bikers is in dangerous condition.
- There is a large blowdown across the dug-in trail that descends to Grove Road near Lay Road and Coyne Lock.
- A large, felled, tree obstructs the trail where it leaves the old RR bed near Peach Bottom to descend to Atom Road.
- Trail maintainers are needed for the Robinson Run to Lay Road and Lay Road to Atom Road sections of the M-DT.
- Jim Hooper recommends improvement in the trail down the long slope from the high point south of Broad Creek to river level and construction of a stile over the electric fence on the Clark farm.
- Before today's meeting, Jim Hooper, Ron Gray, Pat O'Dell and Yvonne Blades walked part of the perimeter of the Arundel property with Richard Mattingly of Arundel Corporation. We discussed the possibility of relocating even a short section of the M-DT (now on roads) into the buffer area outside the quarry fence. Mr Mattingly said he would check into it for us and let us know.
- Today's work party continued work on the relocation along the old railroad bed at Havre de Grace and cleared the existing trail to Arundel. See separate account.



#### Eastern Section - Perryville to Eastern Terminus Coordinator: Rick Maerker

- Rick Maerker will take over as Eastern Coordinator from Turner Darden who has requested to be replaced. Turner for his many years of dedicated work as Eastern Coordinator.
- The Wilmington Trail Club held a work hike on the M-DT through Elk Neck State Forest and North East on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>. There were 22 participants. Much clipping was done. Stumps were removed on the new one-mile section of trail. Two important short relocations in North East were blazed by a crew led by Turner Darden. One avoids the crossing of the high speed Amtrak line and the other eliminates 200 yards of busy highway. See detailed trail description on page 6.
- Bob Bennett reports continued problems with the trail by the Christina Creek under the Amtrak bridge. He has tried stepping stones but the stones are often under water. A more permanent solution is needed.
- Rerouting is needed in Christianstead because of erosion along the creek. Trail marking is a problem where the land has been cleared to the creek edge.
- Warren Davies reports that erosion along the edges of White Clay Creek will make it necessary for more relocations of the M-DT in that area.

#### Other Business

**Purchase of Trail Maintenance Equipment** - Ron Gray asked for approval to purchase a "drag clamp" (a cable clamp to shorten cables) for use in rock work. The cost is \$38.95. Approval was granted.

**Save Our Steps Campaign** - Yvonne Blades proposed that M-DTS contribute to the KTA campaign to purchase and save the "1000 Steps" on Jack's Mountain, a key feature of the Link Trail. She suggested we purchase step #190 (the length in miles of the M-DT) for \$100. Approved.

**Mountain Club of Maryland** - Yvonne met a group of 34 from the MCM hiking on the MDT along Muddy Creek. She wondered if the MCM or some individual members might be willing to maintain a section of the M-DT in that area. Jim Denny, a MCM member, said that the MCM had several trail maintenance commitments but he will contact them about publicizing our work hikes in their newsletter.

**Correspondence** - Rick Maerker, on behalf of M-DTS, sent a letter of condolence to Mrs Robert Yost on the death of her husband. Bob Yost was one of the founders of the Mason-Dixon Trail System.

#### M-DTS Constitution and Bylaws

A committee, headed by Ron Gray, has reviewed the M-DTS Constitution and Bylaws and suggested some revisions. These were discussed at the meeting and further revisions were suggested. Ron will consolidate these recommendations and present the proposed revisions at the next meeting.

#### Next Meeting

The next M-DTS member's meeting will be held on Sunday, May 17 at Lock 12 at 1:30 pm. This will be preceded by a work party to clean up litter and debris from the M-DT and adjacent areas on Peavine Island. The work party will meet at 9:30 am at Lock 12.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### New Members

We welcome the following new members who have joined M-DTS since January 1, 1998:

Richard A. Bailer

Lon Homeier

John Plyler (M)

Charles E. Strehl

Ken Berg (M)

Duane Linsenhardt

Geoff Rogalsky

Carole N. Walsh

Kyle Bottorff

Michael / Kathleen Mague

Evan Sandt

Marlise Wise

Tom Cagle

John A. McCauley

Harry J. Smith

Russell / Donna Yoas

Barry Ellenberger

Brenda/Peter Petroski (M)

Ann B. St.Clair

(M) = maintainer



**Spring cleaning** RECORD 6 MAR 98



**Rick Maerkler from the Mason Dixon Trail Club** works on a portion of the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway trail in Havre de Grace Sunday. The Mason Dixon Trail Club and the National Civilian Community Corps were two of the groups who helped clear brush and debris from the trail.

(From the front page of the March 6, 1998 *Record*, the Havre de Grace newspaper.)

## WORKING ON THE RAILROAD AT HAVRE DE GRACE, PART 2

About 50 people turned out on March 1, 1998 to work on the new trail north of Havre de Grace. This was a follow-up of last year's efforts to clear about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile of an old railroad bed for a relocation of the M-DT and a route for the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway. The hard-working group included 15 M-DTS members, some local citizens and a team of 30 young people from the AmeriCorps NCCC. The Americorps group worked on the two sections that had not been cleared last year and did an amazing job. The M-DTers grubbed out roots and cut back encroaching growth on the rest of the route. Ron, Jim and Pat worked with chainsaws to clear the M-DT south from Arundel to the new trail.

Special thanks to Joe Kochenderfer, a Havre de Grace councilman, for arranging to have hot dogs, baked beans, cookies and sodas for the hungry workers.



# 1997 FINANCIAL PICTURE OF M-DTS ACTIVITY

|   |           |           |                  |
|---|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| OPENING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 1/1/97  |           |           | \$700.12         |
| <b>INCOME</b>                                     |           |           |                  |
| Dues/Donations (123 "old"; 27 "new")              | \$2520.00 |           |                  |
| Maps/Guides (50 sold)                             | \$444.95  |           |                  |
| Patches   | \$10.00   |           |                  |
| Interest  | \$52.05   |           |                  |
| CD transfer on 3/11/97                            | \$786.11  |           |                  |
| CD transfer on 10/14/97                           | \$6186.70 |           |                  |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                               |           | \$9999.81 |                  |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                                   |           |           |                  |
| Newsletter  |           |           |                  |
| 1/28/97   | \$64.05   |           |                  |
| 4/29/97   | \$64.00   |           |                  |
| 4/29/97   | \$60.90   |           |                  |
| 7/25/97   | \$46.85   |           |                  |
| 10/10/97  | \$64.00   |           |                  |
| 10/14/97  | \$84.36   |           |                  |
| Sub-Total   |           | \$384.16  |                  |
| Administration                                    |           |           |                  |
| 1/24/97   | \$172.00  |           |                  |
| 2/3/97  | \$35.07   |           |                  |
| 2/5/97  | \$28.75   |           |                  |
| 2/13/97   | \$12.95   |           |                  |
| 2/18/97   | \$4.00    |           |                  |
| 2/24/97   | \$8.00    |           |                  |
| 4/17/97   | \$8.00    |           |                  |
| 4/29/97   | \$10.00   |           |                  |
| 11/3/97   | \$11.11   |           |                  |
| 11/6/97   | \$11.50   |           |                  |
| 11/29/97  | \$20.00   |           |                  |
| Sub-Total   |           | \$321.38  |                  |
| Trail Maintenance                                 |           |           |                  |
| 2/15/97   | \$28.86   |           |                  |
| 4/7/97  | \$10.06   |           |                  |
| 7/25/97   | \$36.96   |           |                  |
| 8/17/97   | \$27.54   |           |                  |
| 8/17/97   | \$6.24    |           |                  |
| Sub-Total   |           | \$109.66  |                  |
| Map/Guide, 4th ed.                                |           |           |                  |
| 4/21/97   | \$115.72  |           |                  |
| 11/10/97  | \$6980.10 |           |                  |
| 11/10/97  | \$172.00  |           |                  |
| 11/13/97  | \$65.37   |           |                  |
| 12/16/97  | \$65.23   |           |                  |
| Sub-Total   |           | \$7398.42 |                  |
| Donations/Dues                                    |           |           |                  |
| KTA Dues  |           |           |                  |
|   | \$25.00   |           |                  |
| Sub-Total   |           | \$25.00   |                  |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                             |           | \$8238.62 |                  |
| ENDING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 12/31/97 |           |           | \$2461.31        |
| CD — 30-month @ 5.73%, due 8/12/00                |           |           | \$2573.33        |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS OF M-DTS, INC. AS OF 12/31/97</b> |           |           | <b>\$5034.64</b> |



# MAP 7 - 11/97 Relocations At North East, MD

## WEST TO EAST

(replaces current description of  
mile 9.8 to mile 10.6)

- 9.8 mi At "T" intersection, turn right onto Nazarene Camp Road.
- 10.5 mi Cross directly over MD Rt. 272 onto 1-lane black-top drive and follow it as it makes a U-turn and then heads south parallel to Rt. 272.
- 10.6 mi Turn left on buried cable right-of-way again; and follow it down hill to creek.

\* \* \* \* \*

(replaces current description of  
mile 11.4 to mile 11.8)

- 11.4 mi Trail turns right and heads towards disused underpass under Amtrak line. Go through underpass, then follow yellow fence posts along utility property.
- 11.6 mi Pick up Rolling Mill Road and follow it across bridge.
- 11.8 mi Turn right on Mechanics Valley Road etc.

## EAST TO WEST

(replaces current description of  
mile 0.3 to mile 1.0)

- 0.3 mi Just beyond church turn left onto Rolling Mill Road.
- 0.5 mi Cross bridge over North East Creek, continue along road; then follow yellow fence posts to end of utility property.
- 0.8 mi Go through disused underpass under Amtrak line; turn right and pick up trail that follows along the creek
- 1.0 mi After passing pavilion etc.

\* \* \* \* \*

(replaces current description of  
mile 1.3 to mile 1.6)

- 1.3 mi Turn left onto buried cable right-of-way.
- 1.5 mi About 100 feet before reaching MD Rt. 272, turn left and follow a 1-lane black top drive that makes a U-turn and reaches Rt. 272 directly opposite Nazarene Camp Road.
- 1.6 mi Cross MD Rt. 272 onto Nazarene Camp Road.



..... = relocation

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.

Yvonne Blades



R. Ronald Gray