

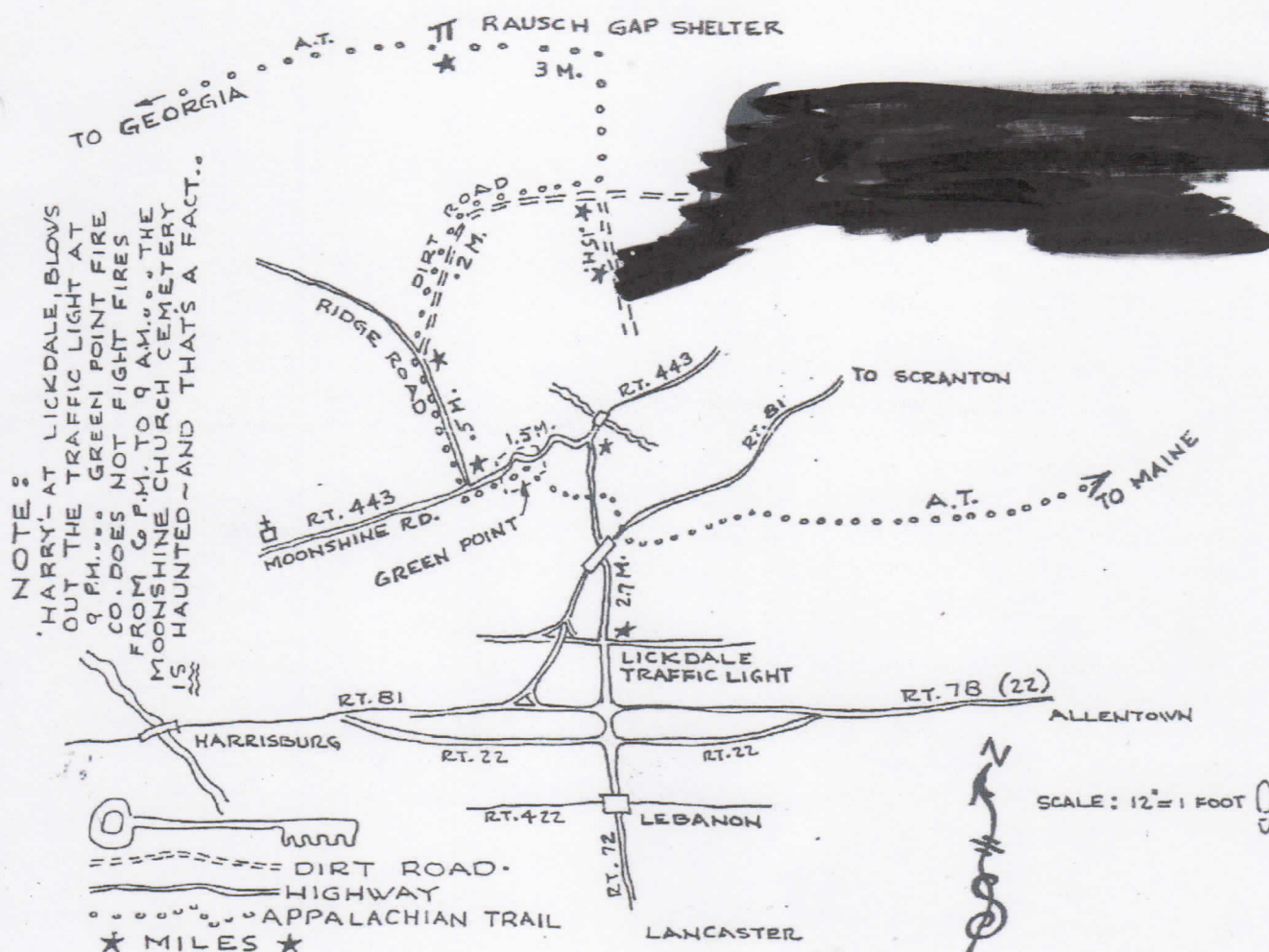
# MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.



## M-DTS NEWSLETTER August 1996

**NEXT M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING -- Saturday, SEPTEMBER 14, 1996**  
Dick and Ann Tobias' Cabin at [REDACTED]

- Meeting: 10:00 am** Reports on trail conditions; open discussion of format for next edition of M-DT Map/Guide
- Lunch: 12:30 pm** Bring your own
- Hike: 1:00 pm** Dick will take us on a 3 to 4 hour hike in the area. The AT is nearby. Dick may show us the proposed AT relocation in Swatara State Park.
- Supper: 5:30 pm** Spaghetti Dinner - for those wishing to stay and for a nominal contribution to defray costs. **Please RSVP by September 11, 1996** at [REDACTED]
- Directions:** See map. Dick says that his place is 50 minutes NNW of Lancaster.





## Minutes of the June 19, 1996 M-DTS Members' Meeting

The meeting was held at the Lock 12 Historic Area near the Norman Wood Bridge. There were 11 members present: Ron Gray, Jim Hooper, Pat O'Dell, Tim Schmidt, Yvonne Blades, Rick Maerker, John Schutky, Mike Wright, Clair Piersol, Charles Albin and Bob Bennett.

The minutes of the March 17, 1996 meeting were approved as circulated with the correction of the name of Tim Schmidt who participated in the December 10th work party.

### Treasurer's Report

Rick Maerker presented the report in the absence of the treasurer. The balance as of March 15, 1996 was \$2357.39. Income for the period from March 15 to May 31, 1996 was: \$553.00 from membership dues (new and renewals), \$202.00 from sale of map/guides, \$112.00 from sale of patches, and \$13.88 interest. Expenses were: purchase of 200 M-DTS patches - \$372.00, printing costs for May M-DTS Newsletter - \$58.80, postage - \$57.60. The balance in the checking account as of May 31, 1996 is \$2749.87.

### Trail Reports

#### Eastern Section -- Eastern Terminus to Perryville    Coordinator: Turner Darden

- Rick Maerker reported that the stream crossing on the M-DT near Cossart Road is becoming wider and more difficult to cross. The land owner (Mr Haskell) does not want a bridge there thus big rocks will be needed.
- Bob Bennett plans to contact Newark, DE members of M-DTS and the Wilmington Trail Club to form a local group: (a) for trail maintenance of the 10-mile stretch of the M-DT in the area plus other local trails, (b) to work on formalizing the existing public right-of-way in the Christianstead-West Branch area and (c) to look into, and write a grant proposal for, possible open space purchases for preservation and public access by appropriate public agencies.

Bob reports that the City of Newark is willing to provide tools for trail maintenance projects.

- Ed Yalisove has made another relocation of the M-DT in the Grays Hill area to avoid conflict with home construction.

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

- Yvonne and Herb Blades cleared the M-DT from Havre de Grace to the "top of the rocks" at the police shooting range on Quarry Rd in preparation for a survey by a sub committee of the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway Coordinating Committee. See report of survey that follows the minutes.
- In Susquehanna State Park, Yvonne Blades measured the recent relocation between Lapidum and Rock Run Mill. The distance is 1.3 miles compared to 2.2 miles by the old route. Yvonne and Herb Blades have rehabilitated the M-DT along the peninsula between the Deer Creek trestle and the new Greenway. The trail had received substantial flood damage. Rerouting, tree cutting, clipping and reblazing was done. Park personnel have cleared and reopened the Greenway section to Conowingo. Yvonne reported that Susquehanna State Park has now marked some park trails with dark blue blazes. These trails do not connect with the M-DT and the blaze color is darker than M-DT blue so she hopes there will be no confusion.
- Blazes on the section above the Peach Bottom plant were spruced up by Rick Maerker and Clair Piersol.
- At today's workparty, Rick Maerker, Clair Piersol and Mike Wright cleared and made some relocations on the trail through Peavine Island which had also received flood damage. They will redo the blazes following the meeting and Ron Gray and Jim Hooper will cut a tree that is across the trail.
- Pat O'Dell has weed-whacked her section between the Norman Wood Bridge and Mill Creek.



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

- The Mill Creek to Holtwood dam section is in good shape. A post is needed at the north end of this section (mile 7.5, west to east, Map #5) to mark the turn where the southbound M-DT leaves the road near the dam and bears right uphill.
- Charles Albin worked yesterday to cut through downed trees along the flood damaged section of the M-DT from McCalls Ferry Road to the mouth of Oakland Run. At today's workparty, Pat O'Dell, John Schutky, Tim Schmidt and Yvonne Blades continued the work of clearing the trail and also picked up litter left by the flood. Charles plans to check the Oakland Run section tomorrow.
- The M-DT from Posey Road to Otter Creek has been cleared and Ron Gray and Jim Hooper have cut through the blowdowns. A short relocation is needed along Furnace Run to move the trail off the eroding stream bank. This may be done as a scout project.
- The M-DT section just north of Otter Creek needs weed whacking.
- Posts are still required to mark the trail through the Gladfelter clear-cut area.
- The M-DT through Apollo Park needs work; blowdowns to cut, rock work, trimming. Ron Gray suggested that a M-DTS workparty be scheduled for this area.
- Rock work is needed at Cuff's Run.
- Ron Gray and Jim Hooper have redone and blazed the climb from Greenbranch. Weed whacking is needed.
- More "needs" reported by trail coordinator Ron Gray:
  - reblazing to Wrightsville
  - a maintainer for Wrightsville to Accomac
  - reblazing north to Pinchot Park
  - work on the M-DT in Pinchot Park.
  - a new maintainer for the proposed relocation into state gameland #242
- Ron reports that [REDACTED] Park Manager at Pinchot State Park, has put in a parking lot at the M-DT junction with the road to improve accessibility to the trail.

## **Other Business**

- **Mountain Bike Use on M-DT** - President Rick Maerker received an inquiry about use of mountain bikes on the M-DT. The policy re use of mountain bikes depends entirely on the individual land owners of the properties on which the trail lies. M-DTS is not the land owner. Permission was granted to M-DTS by the various land owners to build a hiking trail.
- **M-DT map/guides** - We need to consider publishing a new edition of the M-DTS Trail Guide. There are only 50 - 60 left of the original 700 printed in 1992 and there have been several trail relocations since then. What format? The maps need to be improved to show access points more clearly.
- **Trail Bridge over Muddy Creek** - Yvonne Blades asked about the possibility of building a bridge to take the M-DT over Muddy Creek to solve the Wylie property access problem. Ron Gray said it would be very expensive and not feasible to build a bridge in the gorge area but it might be possible to build a bridge at the mouth of Muddy Creek if there are old abutments there.

## **Next Meetings**

- **September 14, 1996** - M-DTS members' meeting and hike at the Tobias' cabin at Greenpoint PA. The meeting will start at 10:00 am followed by a hike at 1:00 pm.
- **November 10, 1996** - M-DTS members' meeting and work party. Work party at Apollo Park. Meet at York Hiking Club cabin at Otter Creek at 9:00 am to carpool to Apollo Park. Members' meeting at 12:30 pm at the York Hiking Club cabin.



## Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway Update

by Yvonne Blades

(Note: Yvonne attends the monthly meetings of the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway (LSHG) Coordinating Committee as a representative of M-DTS. This report covers the period since March 1996.)

### Coordinator Hired

██████████ took on the position of part time coordinator of the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway project in May. He formerly worked in the environmental area for PECO Energy.

### New Bridges and Interpretive Signs on LSHG South of Conowingo

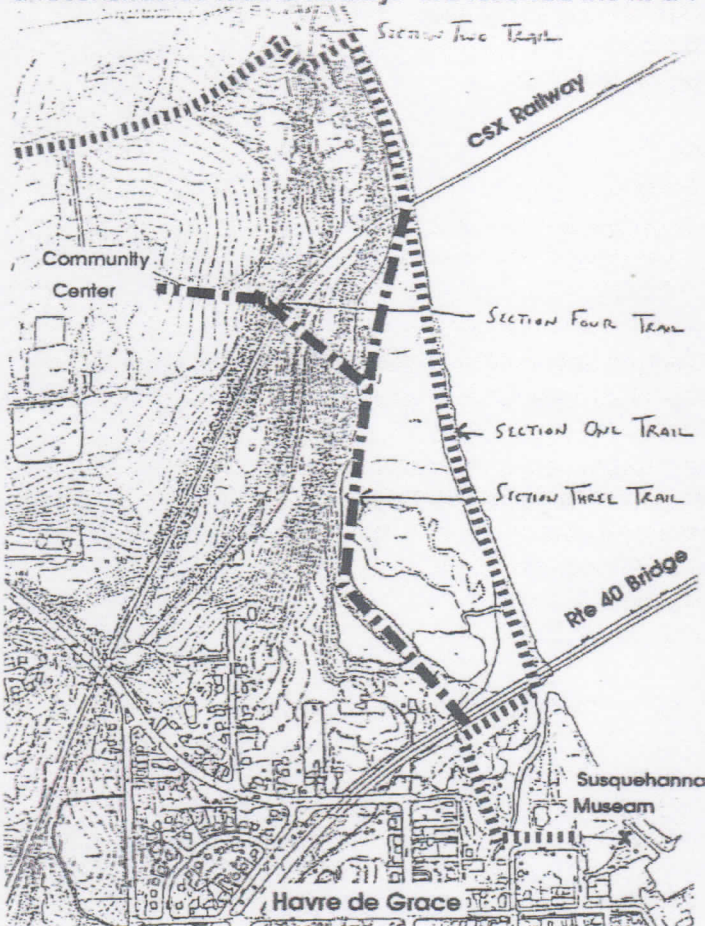
The first section of the LSHG, from Conowingo south to the Stafford Road bridge on Deer Creek, which was officially opened a year ago, now features two new bridges and a series of interpretive signs. One bridge crosses the old canal and can be seen from the Mason-Dixon Trail. The other crosses a tributary of Deer Creek near Stafford Road. The interpretive signs include maps, diagrams and old photos about history and ecology issues. Several are on the section of the LSHG that coincides with the M-DT. Another interesting sign is at Lapidum with historic photographs of the buildings that existed there.

### Survey of Havre de Grace to Arundel Area

The next section of the LSHG to be built will likely be that from Havre de Grace north to Arundel Quarry. I was part of a 5-member sub-committee that surveyed the area on April 10, 1996. We started at the Susquehanna Museum in Havre de Grace (the M-DT passes close by on Conestogo St). The museum focuses on the history of the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal. The building is a former lock house and a reconstructed lock is nearby. We followed the M-DT ("Section One Trail" on map) north through

McIlheney Park, under the Rte 40 bridge and across the tidal stream (fortunately it was low tide). The trail generally follows the shoreline through scrubby woods and vines. The ground is low lying and rather wet. In about 3/4 mile the M-DT joins an abandoned railroad bed, passes under the CSX Railway bridge and continues on or near the RR bed until close to the Arundel property line. Then the M-DT turns sharply left ("Section Two Trail") and climbs up the steep slope over large boulders. (One member of our team was brave enough to follow me up the slope!).

On our return we attempted to follow the old railroad bed ("Section Three Trail") all the way back to the Route 40 bridge. It was overgrown, but using game trails, bushwhacking, and with the aid of the one pair of clippers in the group (mine), we managed to make our way through. The RR bed runs at the base of the steep slope rising from river level and skirts the large marshy area north of Route 40 bridge. I feel the old RR bed would make a lovely route for the greenway and for the M-DT. It is still in good shape, is high enough to avoid the wet areas, gives lovely views over the marshes and a small lake and avoids the problem of crossing the tidal stream. The group



Routes Surveyed: M-DT - - - - - Alternate routes ————



felt the present M-DT route could be retained to make a loop trail. Boardwalks and a bridge would be necessary.

Some members of the survey group thought it would be feasible to build stone steps with switchbacks and handrails or a wooden stairway to climb the steep slope ("Section Two") near Arundel. Another possibility is to angle up the slope ("Section Four Trail") from south of the CSX Railway bridge to come in behind the Community Center on Lagaret Drive.

Anyone who might be interested in volunteering for trail construction work in this area please contact Yvonne Blades at [REDACTED] or phone [REDACTED]

## M-DT TRAIL RELOCATION IN SUSQUEHANNA STATE PARK, MD 2/96

