



M-D-T-S NEWSLETTER

April, 1993

M-D-T-S WORKPARTY and MEMBERS MEETING - 10:00 a.m., Sunday, July 11

We will be rebuilding trail on both sides of Sawmill Run (near the Otter Creek Campground) to lead to ends of future bridge across Sawmill Run. We will also construct piers on both sides of run to hold future bridge. Equipment needed: mattocks and prybars (digging bars) to move rocks. Also needed: enthusiastic workers willing to do some heavy work. Expect a short M-D-T-S meeting over lunch at 12:00 noon at the worksite.

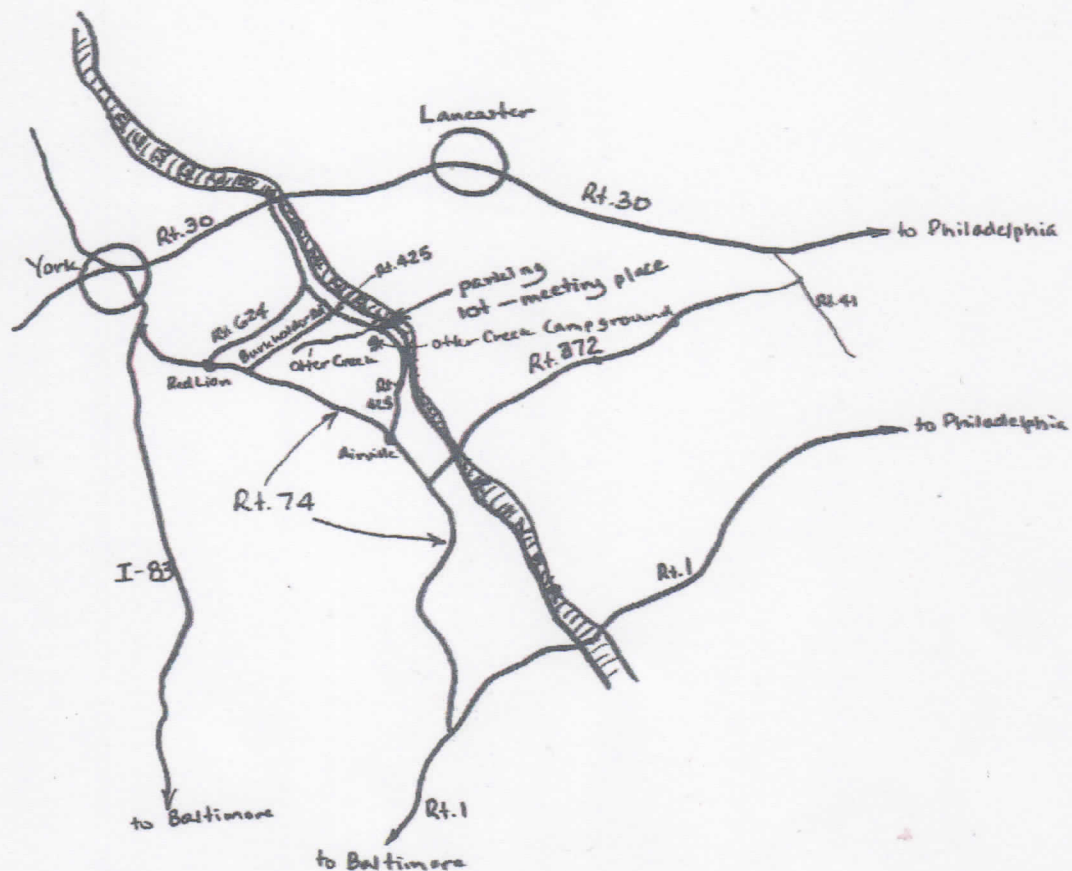
Met at 10:00 a.m. at the parking area just south of the bridge over Otter Creek on the Susquehanna River side of PA Rt. 425.

Directions

From North: From Wrightsville, drive south on Rt. 624 to town of Craley; turn left on Rt. 425; go about 7 miles to bridge across Otter Creek; turn left into parking lot immediately after crossing bridge.

From Red Lion, go south on Rt. 74 about 1 mile; turn left onto Burkholder Rd. at Mack's Ice Cream Store; go 6 miles to 3-way stop sign intersection; continue straight ahead on Rt. 425 for about 6 miles to bridge across Otter Creek; turn left into parking lot immediately after crossing bridge.

From South: Go north on Rt. 74 to near Airville; turn right on Rt 425 and drive about 5 miles to Otter Creek. Just before bridge turn right into parking lot.



1993 M-DTS MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

For those of you who have not yet renewed your M-DTS membership for 1993 a renewal form is included in this newsletter. We do hope you will continue to support M-DTS and send in your membership renewal at your earliest convenience.

TRAIL RELOCATION CLEARED ALONG THE CHRISTINA

Seventeen members took part in a successful work party February 20th. Brush was cleared for a relocation of the M-DT along the west side of Christina creek heading north from the B&O railroad tracks to Church Road in Newark. The relocation was scouted by Bob Bennett and John Wristen. Bob will lead a hike on the Mason-Dixon Trail, including this relocation, on National Trails Day, June 5th as part of the *Hiking Extravaganza* co-sponsored by M-DTS, Wilmington Trail Club, City of Newark and Delaware Division of Parks & Recreation. See page 4 for details of this event.

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 1993 MEMBERS MEETING

The meeting was held in the home of John Wristen in Newark following the work party on the Christina. Members attending were: President Rick Maerker, Clair Piersol, Warren Davies, John Wristen, Mary Bleecker, John Wilds, Ron Gray, Ken Power, Jim Hooper, Turner Darden, Vic Kaliakin, Kay Way, Robert Bennett, Yvonne Blades, Jennifer Matherly, Ted Brower and John Schefky.

The minutes of the last meeting (November 14, 1992) were approved with the following correction: Ron Gray contacted Safe Harbor Water Power Co. regarding the goat pen on the trail near Fishing Creek not PP&L.

Rick Maerker reported the total assets of M-DTS as of Dec. 31, 1992 were \$2757.68. He reviewed the financial activity of M-DTS for the 6-year period from 1987-1992 inclusive. Over this period the breakdown of income and expenses was:

M-DTS Income		M-DTS Expenses	
Dues & contributions	75.3%	Newsletter	23.8%
Guidebook/map sales	19.2%	Administrative	14.7%
Sale of patches	4.7%	Patches	8.2%
Interest	0.8%	Guidebooks/maps	37.9%
		Trail maintenance costs	2.8%
		Capital equipment costs	7.2%
		Donations	5.3%

Jim Hooper moved that a discretionary fund of \$200 be available to the President for donations. Money beyond this amount must be approved at a M-DTS meeting. The motion was carried.

Mary Bleecker reported that since the last meeting there have been 103 membership renewals, 3 new members and 18 map/guides sold.

Trail Reports:

Eastern Section - Turner Darden reported that the trail was in reasonably good shape.

- Yvonne Blades reported beaver activity in a new location in Elk Neck State Forest which has flooded the trail. A short relocation is necessary.

Central Section - Kay Way, Yvonne Blades and Ted Brower met with Rodney Stark of PECO on Dec. 31/92 and walked the proposed relocation around Peach Bottom.

- Ted Brower's proposed relocation in the Broad Creek area was also shown to Stark. The route apparently crosses about 800 feet of private land. To go around, the trail would have to go down a steep slope and then back up again. Stark was going to approach the property owner. Kay Way will contact Stark to follow-up.
- Work parties consisting of Yvonne & Herb Blades, Hank Drummond (with chain saw), Kay Way and others have cleared some of the blowdowns on the M-DT along Muddy Creek.

Western Section - Ron Gray reports that the property manager at Safe Harbor has written and talked to the cabin owner about the goat pen on the trail.

- Ron is working on the permit for the bridge over Sawmill Run. He has the photos. PP&L will donate two new 55' utility poles and will drop them in place. M-DTS will pay rest of estimated \$700 cost of the bridge.
- Jim Hooper is exploring the possibility of a 2-mile relocation south of Brunner Island. Needs to contact property owners.
- John Schetky reports vandalism along the trail in the area where Oakland Run meets the Susquehanna.

Other Business:

- Mid Atlantic Energy Engineers Ltd have proposed a pumped storage hydroelectric power plant on Cuff's Run. There is much opposition to this proposal. It was decided that M-DTS should not officially oppose the project, as, if the facility goes ahead, we may have to negotiate with the company for a route for the M-DT. However members, as individuals, could sign the petition against the project if they wished. Ron Gray will write a letter to Mid Atlantic to inform them that the M-DT goes through the area of the proposed facility.
- The Delaware Division of Parks & Recreation is holding public workshops on outdoor recreation needs in Delaware. A workshop is scheduled May 11 at Ashland Nature Center in Hockessin at 7:00 p.m. Another will be held in Wilmington in August.
- National Trails Day: Yvonne Blades, Delaware Coordinator for NTD, encouraged M-DTS participation in National Trails Day, June 5th, 1993. She outlined plans of the Wilmington Trail Club for a Hiking Extravaganza with a series of hikes, all leading to Carpenter State Park. Bob Bennett and John Wristen proposed a hike on the M-DT from Rittenhouse Park to Carpenter, incorporating the relocation just cleared, as part of this event. M-DTS will be a co-sponsor of the event.
- Warren Davies wants to flag a loop trail from the M-DT to the Arc Corner and Tri-state boundary markers. Rick Maerker and Yvonne Blades offered to assist.
- Next meeting: Sunday, July 11 - work party and short meeting.

SIGNS FOR MASON-DIXON TRAIL

A recurring topic at M-DTS meetings is the need or desirability for signs to identify the M-DT especially at road or trail crossings. If anyone knows of a company that could make small plastic signs or if you have any other suggestions please call Rick Maerker [REDACTED] or Jack Schultz [REDACTED].

SAFE HARBOR DAM HIKE - August 15

Ron Gray and Charles Ament will lead a combined York Hiking Club/M-DTS hike on Sunday, August 15, from Apollo Park to Safe Harbor, across the dam, a tour of the power plant and then back to the York Hiking Club cabin for sloppy joes. Meet at Otter Creek parking lot (south side of bridge over Otter Creek-Susquehanna side) at 9:30 a.m. Reserve at least a week in advance by calling Ron at [REDACTED].

M-DTS MEMBER FEATURED IN BALTIMORE SUN

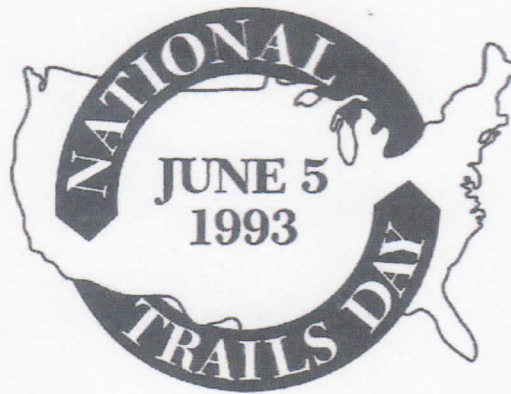
M-DTS member Ted Brower was described as "a modern pathfinder along the Gunpowder" in the February 20th edition of the Baltimore Sun. The article, complete with a photograph of Ted in action, described Ted's work scouting and blazing trails in the Gunpowder River watershed. Ted is head of the trails committee of the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy. Ted also maintains a section of the M-DT.

HONG KONG HIKES

Interested in various hiking trips in the Hong Kong area during January/February 1994 for at least one week? If so, call [REDACTED]. If there is interest a meeting will be held before September 30, 1993. John will be returning to Hong Kong at that time, and hiking Kowloon, Territories, Lantau Island, and Cheung Chau - all within 1 hour of Hong Kong Island by train, subway, and boat.

John's address is [REDACTED]

*A trail
awaits you*



*Your day to
hit the trail*

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

HIKING EXTRAVAGANZA

Saturday, June 5, 1993

A choice of four hikes of different lengths that showcase greenways in the White Clay, Christina, and Elk River watersheds. All hikes will end at Carpenter State Park north of Newark, Delaware.

Meeting place & parking: Park and meet in the upper parking lot at U. of Delaware Clayton Hall. Enter from Route 896 on road one half mile north of Cleveland Avenue in Newark. Watch for sign at entrance. Arrive 10-15 minutes before scheduled time to register for hike. There will be a bus to shuttle hikers to the trailheads and back to the cars after the hikes.

Hikes - choose the hike that suits your interest and capabilities:

- **12-mile** 'adventure' hike, moderately strenuous, exploring existing trails and potential trails in the White Clay Creek Preserve. Meet at **8:00 am** at Clayton Hall. Leaders: Warren Davies [REDACTED]
- **9-mile** hike on the Mason-Dixon Trail from Rittenhouse Park to Carpenter Park including a recent relocation of the M-DT on parkland along the Christina River. Meet at **9:00 am** at Clayton Hall. Leader: Bob Bennett [REDACTED]
- **6-mile** hike from Fairhill Natural Resources Area to Carpenter Park featuring three states, two watersheds and historic boundary markers. Meet at **10:00 am** at Clayton Hall. Leader: Vivian Davies [REDACTED]
- **3-mile** family hike in Carpenter State Park with the park naturalist. Meet at **11:00 am** at Clayton Hall or at 11:10 am at Carpenter Park. Leader: Kay Way [REDACTED]

Wear hiking boots or comfortable walking shoes. Bring water and a snack for the trail and money for refreshments. All hikes will end at Carpenter State Park about 1:00 pm where refreshments (drinks, hot dogs, sandwiches and other goodies) will be available for purchase.

Co-sponsors: Wilmington Trail Club, Mason-Dixon Trail System, City of Newark, Delaware Division of Parks & Recreation

Questions?: Call Yvonne Blades [REDACTED] or Warren or Vivian Davies [REDACTED]