



M-DTS NEWSLETTER

March 1995

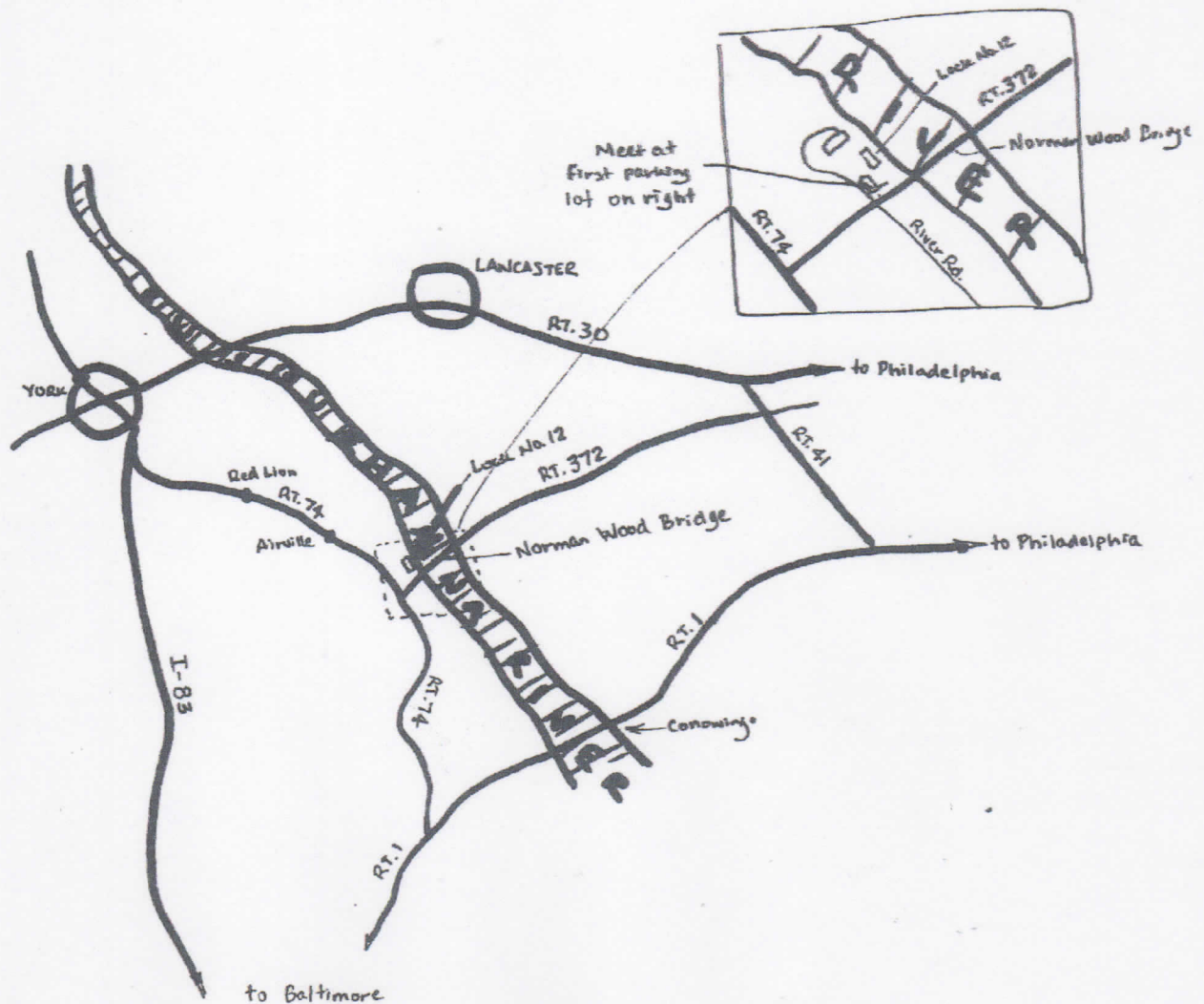
M-DTS WORK PARTY - 10:00 am, Sunday, April 23,
M-DTS MEMBER'S MEETING - 1:30 pm, Sunday, April 23

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

There are several projects nearby for the work parties:

- (1) trail clearing on the M-DT through Peavine Island.
- (2) trail clearing and blaze touch-up along the towpath between Lock 12 and Mill Creek.
- (3) check and repair of the steps leading to the switchbacks up the slope from Mill Creek.
- (4) a short relocation of the M-DT to include PECO's Lock 15 Interpretive Trail - blazing required only.

Bring appropriate tools: clippers, loppers, small saw etc., work gloves, lunch and a drink.



Minutes of the January 25, 1995 M-DTS Members Meeting

The meeting was held at Conowingo Visitors Center and was attended by members: Kay Way, Dave Linthicum, Robert Bennett, Warren and Vivian Davies, Clair Piersol, Richard Winemiller, Ron Gray, Jim Hooper, John Wilds, Ann and Charlie Connon, Rick Maerker, Mary Bleecker, Yvonne Blades and visitors: Alison Willets, Dave Hawley, Rick Winiarczyk, Mike Chapman and Peggy Brosnan.

The minutes of the November 13, 1994 M-DTS meeting were approved as circulated with the following correction: the date of the work party reported in the Western Section - Trail Reports was November 13 not Aug. 21.

Rick Maerker provided a summary of the 1994 financial activity of Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. The income in 1994 from dues, donations, sale of maps/guides and interest earned was \$2898.75. The expenses for newsletter printing and postage, administration, trail maintenance (including materials for Sawmill Run bridge) and donations were \$2557.62. The total assets of M-DTS, Inc. as of 12/31/94 are \$6290.33 of which \$6196.50 is in CDs.

The secretary distributed copies of the new M-DTS Directory which lists all paid-up members as of Dec. 31, 1994. The Directory includes 178 individuals and 10 clubs, corporations or societies.

Trail Reports:

Eastern Section - Eastern Terminus to Perryville:

- Turner Darden reported that the M-DT from Iron Hill to Carpenter Park can be followed and is in good shape. A few more blazes would be helpful through Christianstad and Westbranch. Bob Bennett hopes to negotiate through Newark Parks & Recreation for landowner permission to use posts to mark the trail across mowed areas.
- Bob Bennett has rerouted about 300 yards of the M-DT off Wedgewood Road onto the adjoining property with permission of the reallor.
- The Iron Hill to Elkton section is in good shape at present but is subject to change due to the ongoing development.
- In Elk Neck State Forest, a Wilmington Trail Club work party in December cleared encroaching growth along the M-DT. Hank Drummond sawed through several blowdowns. Herb Blades repaired the two log bridges.
- There is a trail interruption between North East and Route 272. Just north of the Amtrak line the trail used to cross a tributary of Northeast Creek on a water control structure. Now there is only a concrete block 3 feet from either bank. Paul Hirseman and Turner Darden will clear a route to bypass the area.

Central Section - Havre de Grace to Lock 12:

- Yvonne Blades reports the M-DT in Susquehanna State Park is in generally good shape. Some critical blazes have been redone. More blazing and trail grooming will be done in the spring.

Western Section - Lock 12 to Western Terminus:

- Ron Gray reports that the western section of the M-DT is OK but new maintainers are needed for two sections: - the towpath between Lock 12 and Mill Creek and a 2-3 mile section from north of Wrightsville to Accomac, mainly on roads

Other Business

Ron Gray reported that a new chain saw is needed for M-DT trail maintenance work. Jim Hooper moved that M-DTS authorize Ron to spend up to \$700 on the purchase of the chain saw. Seconded by Bob Bennett. Carried.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held Sunday, April 23 at 1:30 pm at Lock 12. There will be a work party starting at 10:00 am. There are several projects in the Lock 12 area to be done.

Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway

John Wilson, Greenways and Resource Planning, Maryland Department of Natural Resources was guest speaker at the M-DTS members meeting on January 29th. By means of a video and slides, he presented the concept of a Heritage Greenway linking the outstanding natural, historic and recreational resources of the Lower Susquehanna area. The corridor of the greenway generally follows both banks of the River from Conowingo to Chesapeake Bay. Mr Wilson said there is widespread support for the concept and a Coordinating Committee representing state, county, municipal and private agencies was formed in June 1992 to implement the plan. The official opening of the first section of the greenway - Conowingo to Deer Creek at the Stafford Road bridge- is scheduled for National Trails Day, June 3, 1995.

Some M-DTS members at the meeting expressed concern about the effect of the Greenway on the M-DT in the area. Yvonne Blades volunteered to attend the monthly meetings of the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway Coordinating Committee to represent M-DTS.

Trail Maintainers Needed

Volunteers are needed to maintain two sections of the Mason-Dixon Trail in York County, PA:

- **Lock 12 to Mill Creek** - a 1/2 mile stretch of the M-DT that follows the old towpath of the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal. This is a scenic and historic area by the Susquehanna River, below Holtwood dam and just north of the Norman Wood bridge. The April 23rd workparty will clear and reblaze this section but a volunteer is needed for ongoing trail maintenance.
- **Wrightsville to Accomac** - a 2- 3 mile section of the M-DT, mostly on roads, by the Susquehanna River.

Please call Ron Gray, Western Section Trail Coordinator, [REDACTED] if you are willing to maintain either of these sections of the M-DT. To volunteer for trail maintenance work in the Central Section (Havre de Grace to Lock 12) call Kay Way [REDACTED] and in the Eastern Section (Perryville to Chadds Ford) call Turner Darden [REDACTED]. Trail maintainers are expected to check their sections in the spring and fall and clear and reblaze as necessary. If there is a lot of work to be done, the maintainer should notify the trail coordinator and a M-DTS work party can be scheduled for the area.

M-DTS Membership Directory - Corrections and Additions

The new M-DTS Directory, listing all members as of Dec. 31, 1994, is included with this newsletter. Please make the following changes:

Teresa Gibson: address change - [REDACTED]
Anthony Marc: address correction - [REDACTED]
Mary Lou Stein: now Mary Lou Stein Hickey
York Hiking Club: address change - c/o Ron Gray, Pres. [REDACTED]

We welcome the following new members:

Gerald Bulmash
[REDACTED]

Linda Hynds
[REDACTED]

Delaware Division of Parks & Recreation
Office of Planning, Grants & Greenways
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]