

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.



M-DTS NEWSLETTER May, 2001

M-DTS WORK PARTY – 9:00 a.m., Sunday, June 24
M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING – 2:00 p.m., Sunday, June 24

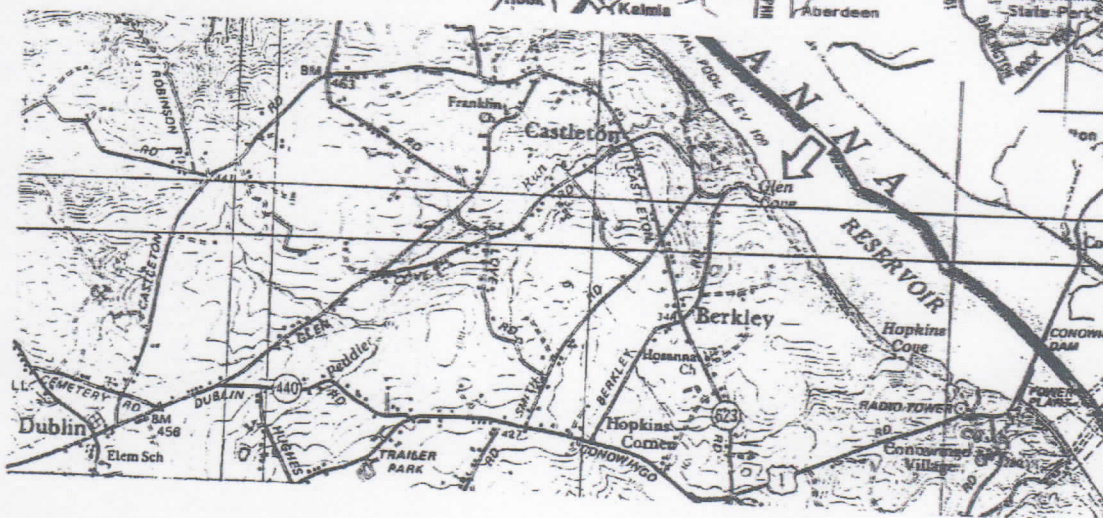
Work Party: Meet at the parking lot of Glen Cove Marina.

There are two major projects. (1) Improve the treadway on the rocky 0.2 mile stretch of the M-DT above the house and boat storage area. Equipment needed: pulaskis, mattocks, digging bars; (2) Build two stiles across the electric fence on the Clark property. 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 right 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]

M-DTS MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

Your 2001 Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc, membership dues are now due. A dues form is included with this mailing to those who have not yet renewed their membership for 2001. We hope you will continue to support MDTS.

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.

Bypass route north of Holtwood: It is eagle nesting time again - use the yellow blazed, mile-long, bypass route that follows the ridge instead of descending along Oakland run. (Map 5, East to West, starts at Mile 22.6: West to East, at about Mile 6.5)

Peach Bottom area: Map 5: West to East, Mile 25 to 27. Encounters with security officers have been reported. M-DTS has reconfirmed with PECO Energy that we do have permission to hike through this area. Stay on the blazed trail.

Trail re-opened near North East in Cecil County, MD: M-DTS has regained access to the cable right of way between Red Toad and Belvedere Roads. 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 on a pleasant trail through University of Delaware property to Creek Road. It follows Creek Rd along White Clay Creek 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 it is marked 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)

Parking Alert! A hiker has reported severe vandalism to his car parked at Wago Junction. (Map 2)

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 25, 2001 MEMBERS' MEETING

The meeting took place at Dorsey Park by the Susquehanna River following the work parties at Muddy Creek and Peach Bottom. Members present were: president Jim Hooper, vice president Jim Denny, secretary Yvonne Blades, and Ron Gray, Tony Belfiglio, Tim Schmidt, Richard Winemiller, Pat Wolf, Paul Szatmary, Vivian and Warren Davies and Neal Watson.

The minutes of the November 19, 2000 members' meeting were approved as circulated.

Financial Report

Rick Maerker has reviewed the treasurer's records and submitted the following summary of the year 2000 financial activity of Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc.

	2000	1991-2000 (average)
Income		
Dues/Donations (129 renew, 28 new)	\$2384.00	\$2346.33
Sale of maps	480.50	523.81
Sale of patches	81.30	35.03
Interest	<u>13.85</u>	<u>40.93</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$2959.65	\$2946.10
Expenses		
Newsletters	450.42	350.46
Administration	208.80	406.36
Trail Maintenance	390.47	272.65
Map/Guides	0.00	1064.19
Patches	370.00	74.20
Donations/Dues	<u>75.00</u>	<u>67.50</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1494.69	\$2235.36
Opening balance in checking account as of 1/1/00		\$3588.55
Income minus expenses in 2000		1464.96
Minus purchase of CD		<u>-3000.00</u>
Ending balance in checking account as of 12/31/00		\$2053.51
CD - 30 month @ 6.06%, due 2/12/03		3026.19
CD - 24-month @ 6.81%, due 6/22/02		3671.84
CD - 6-month @ 5.52%, due 4/28/01		<u>3082.57</u>
TOTAL ASSETS OF M-DTS, Inc. as of 12/31/00		\$11834.11

Trail Reports

Eastern Section - Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford to Perryville

Acting Coordinators: Cecil County - Anthony Belfiglio

New Castle & Chester Counties - Yvonne Blades

- The M-DT relocation between Delrem Rd and White Clay Creek State Park that was cleared and marked at the last work party has now been measured and blazes placed along the road sections. The distance is almost the same as the old route. Posts with M-DT decals are still needed to mark the route through the fields south of Wedgewood Road. The posts are to be installed by state park personnel.
- In Elk Neck State Forest, the M-DT is back to its original route at mile 5.9 (Map 8, west to east). Tony Belfiglio and Herb Blades have put in a sturdy two-log bridge across the stream below the beaver dam. They made use of a good sized tulip poplar, felled by the beaver, which they sawed into two and dragged into place. Margit Pruett and her Conservation Corp team have cleared the fallen trees from the trail and have cut down

some "widow makers" near the trail. Yvonne Blades proposes to do a relocation (about 0.2 miles) at Mile 14.2 (Map 8: East to West) to avoid a section of trail that is eroded and passes close to houses and trash.

- Tony Belfiglio reports that the "unfriendly" neighbor at Stony Run (Map 7: Mile 9.2 West to East) has moved away and the new owner is friendly. However, the crossing of Stony Run is still likely to be a wet foot crossing.
- The situation at Red Toad Road in Cecil County has been resolved (Map 7: East to West - Mile 3.7). A new house and driveway prevented access to the cable right of way that the MDT follows between Red Toad Road and Belvedere Road. Tony Belfiglio spoke to the owner and received permission to relocate the trail through woods, south of the new home. Just west of that property is a section of a large new development called Whitaker Woods which crosses the present route of the M-DT. Lambdin Development has submitted a plan with a suggested realignment of the MDT as it passes through the development. The developer is to put in posts to mark the route.
- Yvonne Blades received an email, forwarded from Cecil County Public Works Department. It was from a private citizen who was concerned about the M-DT following the CSX railway tracks, now a busy freight line, for 3 miles in Cecil County. He had seen the route of the M-DT marked on the recent ADC map of Cecil County. The 3 miles include a trestle across Principio Creek. We do need a better and safer route for the M-DT through this area.
- The East Coast Greenway Alliance has hired consultants to recommend a route for the East Coast Greenway through New Castle and Cecil Counties. Yvonne attended their workshop in Cecil County last November which she found very interesting and informative with lots of good discussion. She made some useful contacts. Their recommended route has not yet been announced.

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

- Jim Hooper suggests building stiles at the two locations where the M-DT crosses an electric fence on the Clark property. (Map 6: East to West- Mile 12.2 and 12.6). This could be a project for the next work party. Paul Szatmary offered to get the measurements for the stiles. Permission from the landowner will be needed to get close to the site with a vehicle.
- Another future project is to improve the tread way on the very rocky stretch by the Glen Cove Marina.
- There is still a short section of side hill work needed at the bottom of the Bald Hill descent.
- Ted Brower has cleared the blowdown that was across the trail just south of Atom Rd
- At today's work party, Warren and Vivian Davies and Yvonne Blades, refreshed blazes and cut back growth along the M-DT between Atom Rd and Lay Road.
- The rest of the work party worked along Muddy Creek; cleared blowdowns, moved sections of trail away from eroding stream bank, cut back encroaching rhododendron and cleaned up litter at the unofficial campsites.
- Paul Szatmary will refresh blazes on the side stream section of the trail along Muddy Creek.

Western Section - Lock 12 to Western Terminus at Whiskey Springs

Coordinator: Ron Gray

- Tim Schmidt has cleared blowdowns on his section between Mill Creek and Holtwood dam. Work is needed on the climb up from Mill Creek.
- Ron Gray plans to put in posts to mark the trail in the logged area north of Otter Creek. The blazes now are on 6 inch high stumps but are easy to follow.
- The trail through Apollo Park needs work. A farmer above Safe Harbor dam has offered us access through his land to get to work sites in Apollo Park.
- A large amount of trash from the Susquehanna River has collected at the mouth of Cuff's Run right on the route of the M-DT. The only practical way to remove the trash is by boat.

- Blazing at the west end of the M-DT needs improvement. The blazes should be closer together. We need to look into other options for the west end of the M-DT - such as connecting to the Appalachian Trail on the mountain rather than on the road at Whiskey Springs.

Other Business

Maps: Jim Hooper suggests adding side trails on the next addition of the M-DT maps and also the routes to campgrounds. Mary Bleecker recommends an "Errata" list to be included with our remaining maps with the changes or relocations since the maps were printed in 1997.

Proposal for Yost Memorial: Turner Darden has made the following proposal "The Mason-Dixon Trail was the brainchild of Bob Yost, and it was only through his leadership and perseverance that it became a reality. I propose that M-DTS finance a monument beside the trail commemorating Bob's achievement. We have a quote of \$750 for a granite monument roughly two feet cubed with a sloping face, on a concrete footing, inscribed and installed in Swift Park in Hockessin, DE. Permission has been granted by New Castle County park authorities. The inscription might read: "IN MEMORY OF ROBERT V. YOST 1927-1997 FOUNDER OF THE MASON-DIXON TRAIL". Turner suggested a raised and roughened 2" x 6" rectangle beside the inscription to be painted blue.

Jim Hooper moved, seconded by Ron Gray "that up to a limit of \$1000 be approved for a memorial to Bob Yost." Carried unanimously. There was a quorum of 6 board members present.

Next Meeting and Work Party: A work party in the Glen Cove area was suggested to improve the treadway just south of the marina and also put in stiles over the electric fence on the Clark farm property. Dates and times to be arranged.

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Nature Notes Along the Trail

Spring is a wonderful time to hike on the Mason-Dixon Trail, especially on those sections along the Susquehanna River. Some recent observations while hiking the M-DT:

- March 22: The osprey are back and looking for nesting sites. A pair nest on top of the high transmission tower just south of Conowingo dam.
- March 29: Egg masses of spotted salamanders and wood frogs are present in the vernal pools by the trail along the old railway bed south of Conowingo dam. Great Blue Herons are seen flying around at their nesting colony across the river.
- April 14: A late spring: bluebells just coming out on the trail along the peninsula in Susquehanna State Park. Dutchman's breeches, toothwort, spring beauty and trout lily in bloom. Palm warblers and Louisiana waterthrush heard and seen.
- April 28: A bald eagle flies by near Safe Harbor dam; scarlet tanagers in Apollo Park. Trillium along the trail.
- May 1: Fishermen are lined up elbow to elbow along the river edge below Conowingo dam. A pileated woodpecker works on dead trees along the trail below the dam. A prothonotary warbler claims his territory in the swampy area by the boardwalk.

Multi-million dollar fish lifts have been constructed at the three dams on the Susquehanna River that are visible from the Mason-Dixon Trail. The lifts are at Conowingo, Holtwood, and Safe Harbor Dams. The lifts will be in operation for the spring shad run.

**Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway
to Open New Trail Segments
on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 2, 2001**

Ground Breaking & Walk of Trail in Perryville

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Virtual Walk Across the Susquehanna River

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Dedication & Walk of trail in North Park, Havre de Grace

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

The event "Making the Connection" will begin in Perryville, at Rodgers Tavern, Broad Street and Roundhouse Drive at 9:00 am where there will be a ground breaking and walk of a new trail segment. In Perryville, there will be coffee and displays including one on the 4 options for a pedestrian river crossing to be considered by consultants. Participants will then board busses at 10:00 am for a "virtual walk" across the Hatem Bridge over the Susquehanna River. The busses will drive slowly and each will have a spokesperson on board who will provide information on the river and the bay, the Susquehanna flats and Garrett Island.

Once in Havre de Grace there will be a dedication and walk of the trail in North Park from 11:00 am to noon. The North Park trail along the old railway bed is the route of the M-DT (now with freshened blazes). M-DTS helped with the original clearing of the route. Since then, culverts have been put in place and fine stone has been placed between the rails.

The Lock House Museum will be open on National Trails Day. The City of Havre de Grace's trolley will be running that day and will be taking visitors between the Lock House and the Lighthouse and promenade. The cost of riding the trolley will be \$1 for the entire day. Free buses will be available to transport participants back to Perryville. The last bus will leave Havre de Grace at 3:00 P.M.