



## M-DTS NEWSLETTER

October, 1994

**M-DTS WORK PARTY - 10 am, Sunday, November 13**  
**M-DTS MEMBER'S MEETING - 2 pm, Sunday, November 13**

The meeting place for both the work party and member's meeting will be Otter Creek Campground (see map). If the weather is inclement the meeting will be held indoors in the York Hiking Club cabin nearby.

There are two projects for the work parties: 1) building stone steps for the new bridge at Sawmill Run and 2) a short trail relocation on Otter Creek. Equipment needed: digging bars, heavy duty loppers, hand saws, mattocks, clippers, work gloves. Bring lunch and a drink.

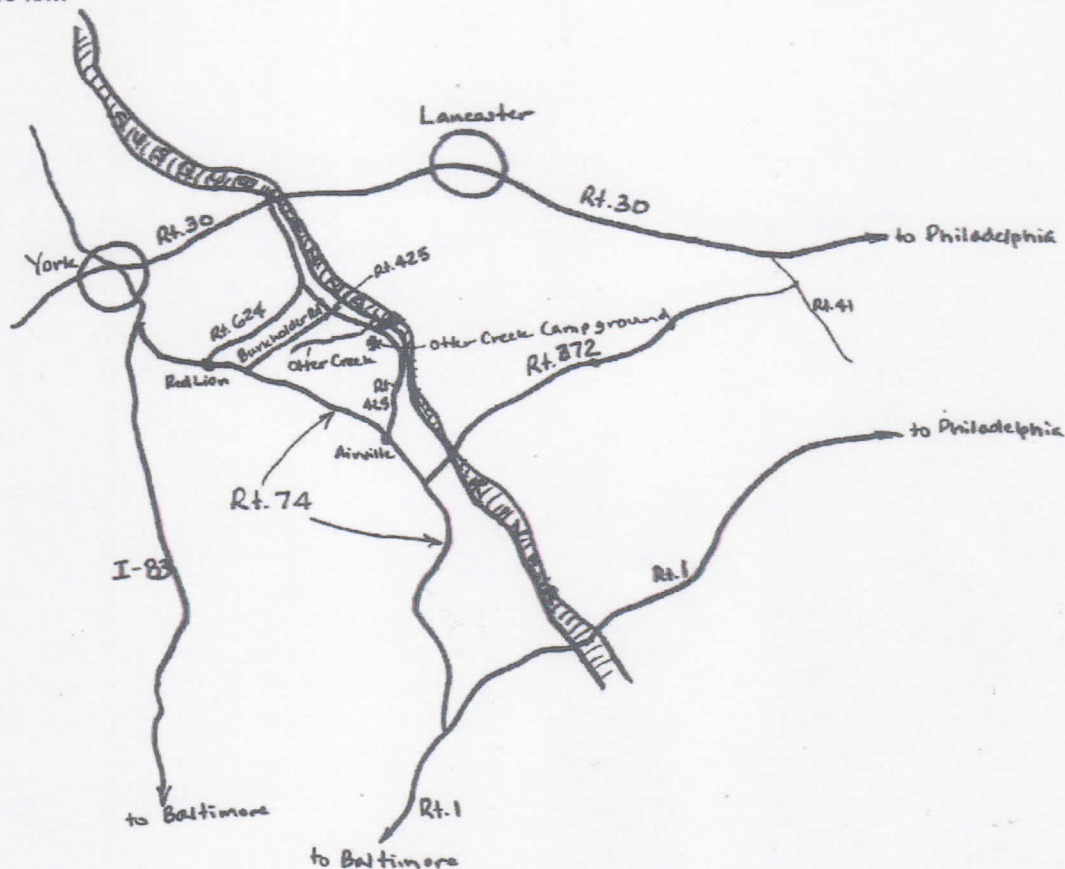
*Come on out to Otter Creek for the meeting and/or work party and the opportunity to inspect the new M-DTS bridge over Sawmill Run.*

### Directions

**From the north:** From Wrightsville, drive south on Rt. 624 to the town of Crawley; turn left on Rt. 425; go about 7 miles to bridge across Otter Creek; turn right into Otter Creek Campground about 0.2 mile beyond the bridge.

**From Red Lion,** go south on Rt 74 about 1 mile; turn left onto Burkholder road 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 right into Otter Creek Campground about 0.2 mile beyond bridge.

**From the south:** Go north on Rt. 74 to near Airville; turn right on Rt. 425 and drive about 5 miles to Otter Creek Campground on the left.





## Minutes of the August 21, 1994 M-DTS Members Meeting

The meeting was held at Dorsey Park at 2 pm following a successful workparty on the Muddy Creek section of the M-DTS. Members attending were Vivian and Warren Davies, Jim Hooper, Kay Way, Charles Albin, Mary Bleecker, Ron Gray, Ted Brower, Clair Piersol, Rick Maerker and Yvonne Blades.

The minutes of the May 8, 1994 M-DTS members meeting were approved as circulated.

The treasurer, Mary Bleecker, reported that since the last meeting there were 9 membership renewals including Philip Curtin who is now a life member, 5 new members and 28 map/guides sold. M-DTS financial activity for the period from May 5 to August 5, 1994 was as follows:

M-DTS Income		M-DTS Expenses	
Membership renewals	\$195.00	Bridge construction costs	\$735.95
New memberships	62.00	June M-DTS Newsletter	89.75
Sale of map/guides	178.50	Duplicating	12.00
Interest	<u>22.05</u>	Postage	<u>57.42</u>
	457.55		895.12

Income minus expenses for the period May 5 to August 5, 1994 = -\$437.57

Balance as of August 5, 1994 \$3623.05

### Trail Reports:

**Western Section** - Ron Gray reports that Bernie Frick is replacing Fred Fox as the maintainer for the Pinchot Park to Cordorus Furnace section of the M-DT.

- Reblazing is needed on the new utility poles north of Wrightsville.
- Jim Hooper reported on the Greenbranch washout. An Eagle scout project did not materialize so Jim suggests the trail relocation work be done by an M-DTS workparty. Jim and Ron Gray will determine the best way to bypass the washout and will report back to the next meeting.
- An adult Shenks Mare group has agreed to maintain the Green Branch to Cuffs Run section.
- John Schelky has arranged for a friend to maintain his section south of Cuffs Run during his 2-year absence in Maine.
- A short trail relocation is needed in the Otter Creek area.
- The bridge across Sawmill Run was officially completed on July 10th. We can all inspect it at the next meeting.
- The Oakland Run section is in good shape.
- The steps down to Mill Creek need checking.

**Central Section** - Clair Piersol plans to check his new section from Lock 12 to Muddy Creek soon. It was suggested that he reroute the trail to include the new PECO Lock 15 area.

- The August 21 workparty continued work on the Muddy Creek section. Ron Gray, Rick Maerker, Ted Brower and Clair Piersol completed the mallock work on the trail up the slope from the creek. Jim Hooper assisted by Warren Davies did more chain saw work including cutting through two very large trees across the trail. Vivian Davies and Yvonne Blades cleared brush and painted some blazes at the west end of the section. Kay Way and Mary Bleecker refreshed blazes in the Cold Cabin area. There is still more work to be done; downed trees to be cut, trail relocation to avoid eroding stream bank, blazing, and replacement of a collapsing bridge.
- Kay Way and Yvonne Blades measured the Peach Bottom relocation and added some additional blazes.
- Ted Brower reports his section (Atom Road to north end of Broad Creek Scout Reservation) is OK. He will reblaze in the fall.
- Rick Maerker will get together with Dave Linthicum to decide on a relocation of the M-DT off Rt. 1 near Conowingo.
- Yvonne Blades and Rick Maerker attended a meeting of the Lower Susquehanna Greenway planning committee as observers. At the meeting, John Wilson, Chief, Central Region, Greenways & Resource Planning, Maryland Department of Natural Resources outlined the plans for the Conowingo to Deer Creek section of the greenway. The proposed route follows the old railroad bed south from Conowingo for about 2 miles then turns west and crosses Deer Creek on the Stafford Road bridge. (The M-DT continues along the Susquehanna and crosses Deer Creek on the old RR trestle.) Mr Wilson said the greenway route was chosen to avoid wetlands and some rare plant species in the Deer Creek peninsula area. He would like us to relocate the M-DT along the route of the greenway to help reduce disturbance in this area.
- Yvonne Blades and Barbara Davison have cleared and reblazed the trail down the rocks beneath the police shooting range and have freshened blazes through Havre de Grace. More work is needed just north of Havre de Grace along the river.



**Eastern Section** - Warren & Vivian Davies report their section through the White Clay Creek Preserve is now OK. They have clipped, and cleared flood debris. Vivian requested that a letter from M-DTS be sent to London Britain township supervisors to verify that the former route of the M-DT, now a side trail, passes through the Forrest Thompson property. This property is about to be developed. The township has an ordinance that established, pre-existing trails be kept and maintained. Vivian and Kay Way will write the letter.

- Rick Maerker reports that the trail through the Haskell property has been cleared and weed-wacked. He talked to Mr Haskell's son who said they were still happy to have the trail pass through their property.

#### Trail Markers

Rick Maerker reports that the Mason-Dixon Trail decals ordered for M-DTS by Susan Moerschel, Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation, have been printed and will be delivered to him. The cost was \$250 for 1000 decals. Funds for the decals were obtained by Ms Moerschel (see separate account below).

Ron Gray now has 85 wooden, engraved 'Mason-Dixon Trail' signs made at the York County VoTech. To make the letters blue, the signs will be sprayed with blue paint, the surface wiped off and then finished with a coat of shellac.

#### Election of Officers

A mail-in ballot was included in the June Newsletter. The result of the election, as reported by Turner Darden, was unanimous approval of the slate of candidates put forward by the nominating committee. The officers for the three-year period from January 1, 1995 to December 30, 1997 will be:

President	- Rick Maerker
1st Vice President	- Clair Piersol
2nd Vice President	- Jim Hooper
Secretary	- Yvonne Blades
Treasurer	- Mary Bleecker

#### Next Meeting

The next M-DTS members meeting and a work party will be held November 13th, 1994. We will meet at Otter Creek Campground at 10 am for the work party and 2 pm for the meeting. In case of bad weather the members meeting can be shifted to the York Hiking Club cabin.

#### NEW TRAIL MARKERS

New trail markers are appearing on the Mason-Dixon Trail in the Newark, Delaware area. The three inch round decals, featuring a hiker and the words MASON - DIXON TRAIL in white on a blue background, will be attached to trail posts first in Delaware then along the Trail in surrounding states.

Leading Delaware's Greenway Program for the Division of Parks and Recreation, coordinated decal production. Printing costs were provided by former Delaware State Representative from Suburban Street Funds (SSF) she had set aside for greenway and trail creation. SSFs are traditionally used for road projects, but since 1992 these funds can be used to create new trails and pathways and to improve existing trails.

M-DTS appreciates the efforts and cooperation of and former State Representative in providing these attractive decals.

