



## M-DTS NEWSLETTER January 1995

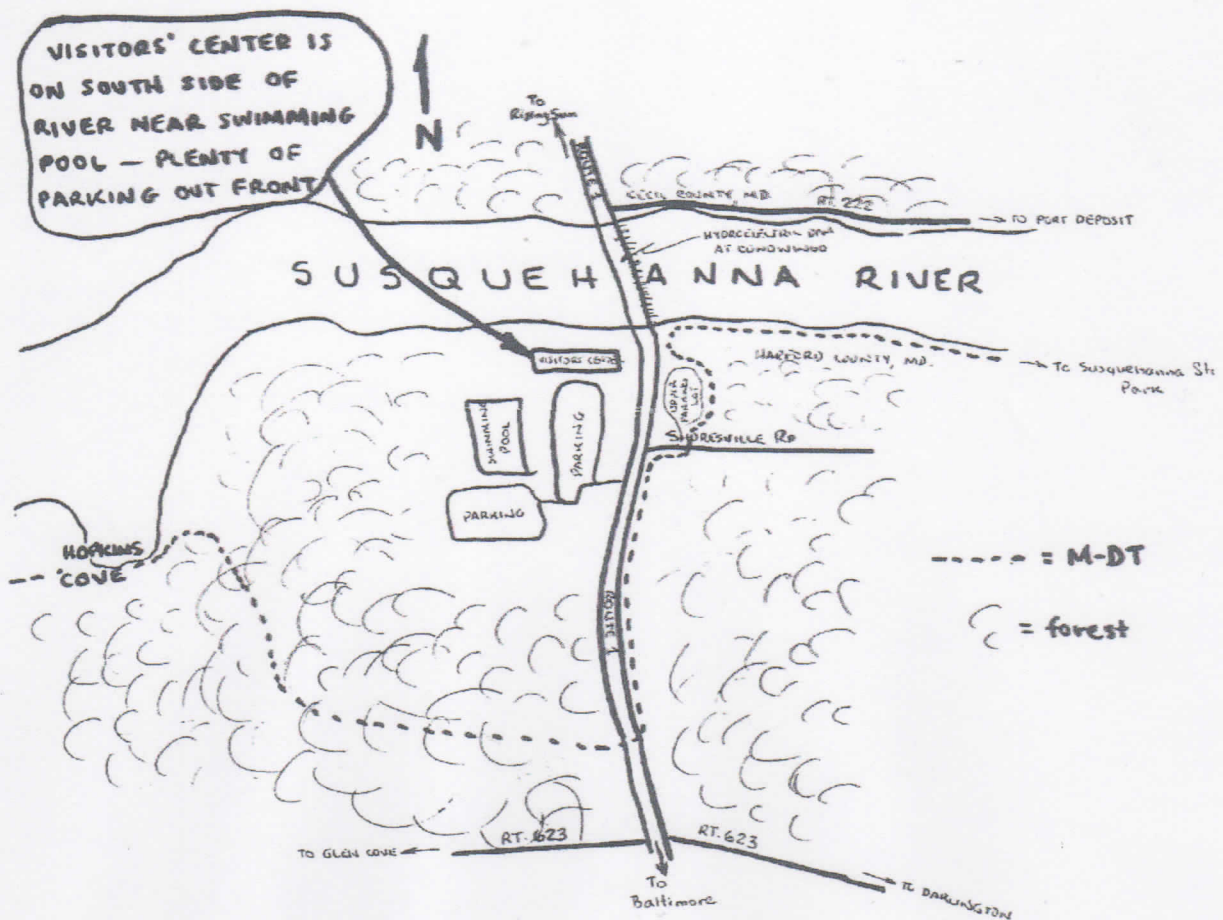
**M-DTS MEMBER'S MEETING - 1:30 pm, Sunday, January 29, 1995**

**Conowingo Visitors Center**

**Guest speaker: John Wilson, Central Region Chief, Greenways and Resource Planning,  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources**

There will be a brief business meeting, and then Mr Wilson will show a video on the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway and will bring us up to date on the current status of the greenway. He will discuss with us the consequences of the greenway on the Mason-Dixon Trail south of Conowingo, the possibility of an off-road route around Arundel Quarry, a proposed eastern greenway connection to Fairhill and other topics we may wish to bring up. This should be an interesting meeting. Plan to attend.

For those willing to stay after the meeting and do some work, we plan to clear and mark a trail relocation between the Visitors Center and Hopkins Cove. Bring work gloves, clippers, loppers or a small saw.





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## 1995 MEMBERSHIP DUES NOTICE ENCLOSED

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**Your 1995 Mason-Dixon Trail System membership dues are now due.** The 1995 dues form is included in this mailing. An addressed, return envelope is enclosed for your convenience. No envelope or dues notice is enclosed if you: (1) joined late in 1994, (2) are a life member or (3) sent in dues twice in 1994 (several members did!).

### Minutes of the November 13, 1994 M-DTS Members Meeting.

The meeting was held at Otter Creek Campground following a successful work party. Members present were: Rick Maerker, Jim Hooper, Clair and Christine Piersol, Yvonne Blades, Hank and Peg Drummond, Warren and Vivian Davies, Bill Tinney, Richard Winemiller, Turner Darden, Ron Gray and Jim Trautman.

The minutes of the August 21, 1994 M-DTS meeting were approved as circulated.

The report from the treasurer, Mary Bleecker, indicated that, since August 5, 1994, the income was \$62.00 from memberships and renewals, \$172.95 from sale of map/guides and \$13.82 interest - a total of \$248.77. Expenses were \$39.48 for trail maintenance supplies, \$26.60 postage and \$103.47 for printing and mailing the October newsletter - a total of \$169.55.

The secretary distributed a list of those in arrears with 1994 dues after dues reminders in the January and April newsletters and a "final notice" with the August newsletter. The list was reviewed and the removal of 17 names from the membership roles was approved.

#### Trail Reports:

##### Western Section - Western terminus to Lock 12:

- Ron Gray reports reblazing is needed in several places on the western section of the M-DT
- Steps are needed at Fishing Creek, also at Green Branch
- The Green Branch to Cuffs Run section needs maintenance
- A work party before the Aug. 21 meeting (Ron Gray, Warren & Vivian Davies, Turner Darden, Yvonne Blades) cleared and blazed a relocation of the M-DT around a large blowdown near Otter Creek and refreshed blazes on the 2-mile stretch between crossings of Rt 425.
- Another work party before the meeting (Rick Maerker, Jim Trautman, Bill Tinney, Hank Drummond, Richard Winemiller) built stone steps for the south approach to the new Saw Mill Run bridge. Jim Hooper with his chain saw cleared blowdowns on the north side of the bridge.
- A maintainer is needed for the section along the tow path between Mill Creek and Lock 12.

##### Central Section - Lock 12 to Havre de Grace:

- Clair Piersol refreshed blazes through Peavine Island - there is still clearing to be done. Clair reported that Wylie Road is closed and the M-DT will have to be rerouted via McKinley Rd and Rt 74 to Papermill Rd. Rt 74 is a busy road with no shoulder; the distance on it would be about 0.4 miles.
- Yvonne Blades reported that the Muddy Creek section is now in good shape. The new, mattocked route down the embankment has been blazed, more blowdowns have been cleared, a detour around the unsafe bridge has been flagged and two short relocations cleared.
- Yvonne Blades, Barb Davison and Pat Glanden cleared the trail between Robinson Run and Lay Rd. They also cleared and flagged a relocation above Peach Bottom to avoid an area of tree cutting by PECO and resulting brambles. Posts will be needed for blazes through the area.
- Dave Linthicum did a thorough maintenance of his Broad Creek to Conowingo section in August. He has cleared a 1/3 mile long relocation away from the shoreline at Glen Cove. He would like to convert the old route to a side trail.



- Yvonne Blades reports that work on the Susquehanna Greenway south of Conowingo has started. Trees at the side of the old railroad bed have been cleared leaving a 8 foot wide swath for the greenway. Some of the M-DT blazes disappeared with the tree cutting.
- The post with blazes marking the start of the trail up the embankment at Lapidum is missing. This steep trail is showing use by mountain bikers - presumably the post was in their way.

#### **Eastern Section- Perryville to Eastern Terminus (Chadds Ford):**

- Rick Maerker reported that one of the log bridges on the trail in Elk Neck State Forest had been washed out.
- Turner Darden and Ed Yarislove (Sierra Club) rerouted about 200 yards of the M-DT at Grays Hill. The trail was obliterated by construction materials and bull dozer work.
- Warren and Vivian Davies reported that their section is OK. They will refresh blazes.

#### **Trail Markers**

Ron Gray made the following recommendations with regard to the use of the wooden M-DT trail signs made at the York County Vo-Tech:

- use galvanized nails to attach the signs to trees.
- leave room for tree growth.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next M-DTS members meeting will be held Sunday January 29, 1995 at 1:30 pm at the Conowingo Visitors Center. Yvonne Blades will ask John Wilson, Greenways & Resource Planning, Maryland Dept of Natural Resources to speak to us about the Lower Susquehanna Greenway and its ramifications on the M-DT. There will be a work hike following the meeting to relocate the M-DT between Conowingo and Hopkins Cove.

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#### **Members Inspect New Bridge at Saw Mill Run**

The location of the November M-DTS members meeting at Otter Creek Campground gave those attending the opportunity to inspect the new M-DTS bridge across Sawmill Run nearby. And we were duly impressed. Great! Super! were adjectives heard. Amazing! - How did Ron ever get those two 60 foot long utility poles into place? Very, very carefully was Ron's answer.

The bridge project was Ron Gray's baby from the start. He drew up the plans and specifications for the bridge, took the site photographs and completed all the paperwork required by PennDOT. He gathered the materials, arranged for a donation of the utility poles from PP&L, and with help from members of M-DTS and the York Hiking Club built the piers and approaches for the bridge. The 60 foot long utility poles were dropped off by PP&L on the road above the bridge site. Ron and his helpers, using cables and winches, then slowly and carefully eased each pole down into the gorge and into place across the stream to rest on the piers. It was a day-long operation. Then the decking and railings were added and the bridge was complete. We all owe a vote of thanks to Ron Gray for the super job he has done.

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#### **New Members**

We welcome the following new members who have joined M-DTS since October 1994:

Charles & Ann Connon





# 1994 FINANCIAL PICTURE OF M-DTS ACTIVITY

OPENING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 1/1/94		\$2252.70
<b>INCOME</b>		
Dues/Donations (120 "old", 22 "new")	\$2278.00	
Maps/Guides (83 sold)	\$541.45	
Patches	\$4.00	
Interest	\$75.30	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$2898.75</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Newsletter</b>		
1/10/94	\$54.90	
3/24/94	\$128.70	
6/27/94	\$101.75	
12/26/94	\$103.47	
Sub-Total		\$388.82
<b>Administration</b>		
1/25/94	\$53.13	
2/3/94	\$7.50	
3/24/94	\$54.23	
6/28/94	\$57.42	
8/21/94	\$4.00	
10/23/94	\$26.60	
11/18/94	\$3500.00	
11/18/94	\$16.64	
12/5/94	\$5.00	
12/12/94	\$36.80	
12/12/94	\$26.92	
12/29/94	\$64.60	
12/29/94	\$5.00	
Sub-Total		\$3857.84
<b>Trail Maintenance</b>		
2/25/94	\$8.68	
5/8/94	\$78.92	
5/28/94	\$30.18	
6/18/94	\$19.81	
6/24/94	\$508.78	
7/30/94	\$29.29	
9/21/94	\$10.19	
11/28/94	\$41.14	
12/26/94	\$68.97	
Sub-Total		\$795.96
<b>Donations</b>		
11/18/94 KTA Dues	\$15.00	
Sub-Total		\$15.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5057.62</b>	
ENDING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 12/31/94		\$93.83
CD -- 30-month @ 5.20%, due 8/12/95	\$2000.00	
CD -- 12-month @ 5.25%, due 10/31/95	\$696.50	
CD -- 24-month @ 5.92%, due 11/18/96	\$3500.00	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS OF M-DTS, INC. AS OF 12/31/94</b>		<b>\$6290.33</b>