

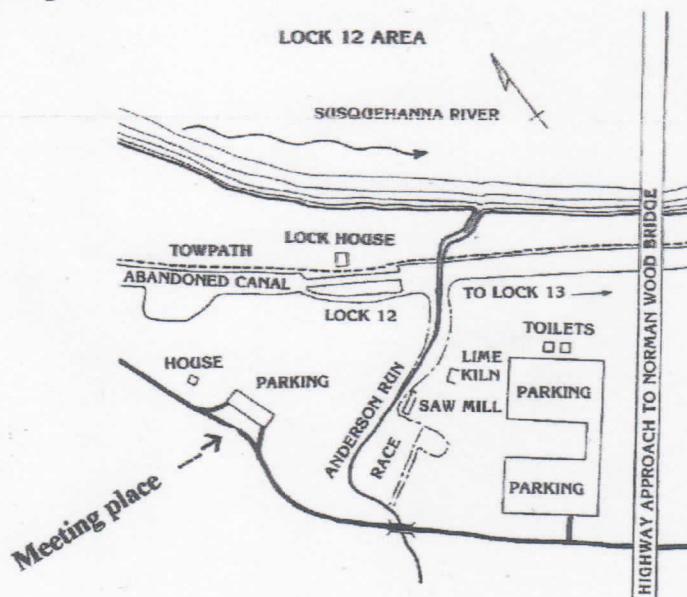
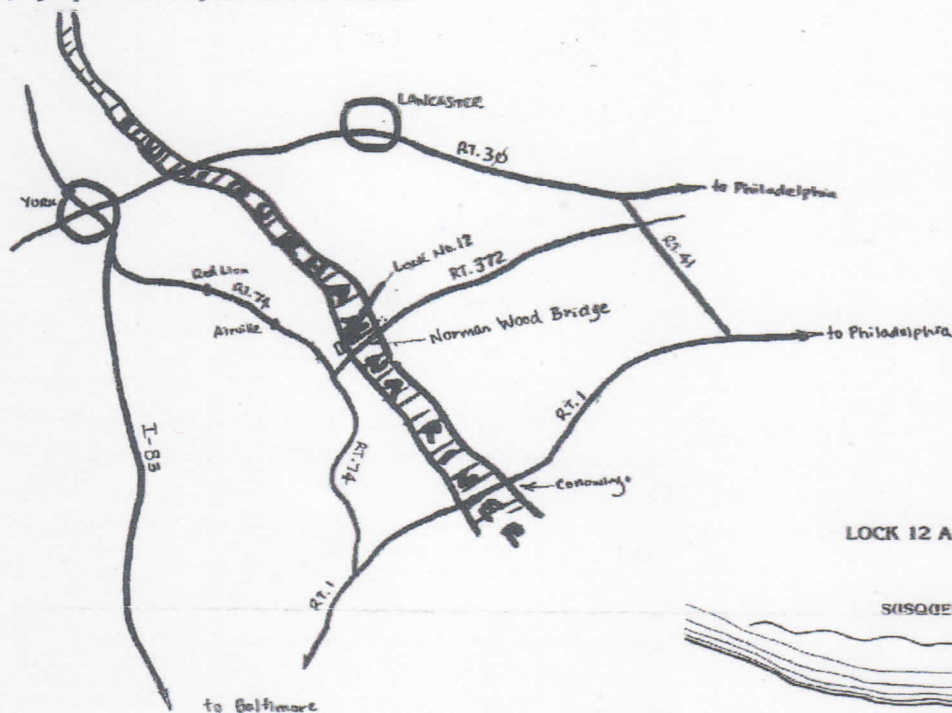


## M-DTS NEWSLETTER October, 2001

**M-DTS WORK PARTY – 9:00 a.m., Sunday, November 4**  
**M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING – 2:00 p.m., Sunday, November 4**

For both the work party and member's meeting, meet in the Lock 12 historic area: Turn north off Rte 372 by the Norman Wood Bridge and continue about 0.2 miles along River Road to the second parking lot on the right.

Work projects include: chain saw work, and a trail relocation north of Mill Creek; and trail clearing, blazing and trash pickup on Peavine Island. Equipment needed: chain saw, mattocks, loppers, small saws, paint set-ups (M-DT blue, and a brown-out paint), clippers, trash bags. All workers should bring work gloves, eye protection, lunch and water.



Details of Lock 12 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.

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Visit the M-DTS web site at:  
[REDACTED]

## ENCLOSURE FOR M-DT MAP SET INCLUDED WITH THIS ISSUE

A 5 x 9 inch sheet detailing all relocations of the Mason-Dixon Trail since the maps were published in 1997 is included with this newsletter. The sheet is designed to fit in the plastic bag with your set of M-DT maps.

## CALLING ALL TRAIL MAINTAINERS

This past summer has been one of exuberant growth. It is time to get out on the trail and cut back the briars, brambles and branches.

## TRAIL MAINTAINERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to maintain sections of the M-DT in southern York County, PA.

**Norman Wood Bridge to Muddy Creek** - 6 miles, mostly on roads, includes Peavine Island. (Map 5: West to East, Mile 10.2-16.0)

**Coal Cabin to Lay Rd** - 2.2 mile stretch of the M-DT, near the Susquehanna River south of Muddy Creek. (Map 5: West to East, Mile 22.7-24.9). One mile on roads, one mile on trail through woods above river.

**Lay Road to Atom Road** - 1.5 miles. (Map 5: West to East, Mile 24.9 to 26.4). Trail climbs through woods, passes on roads or cleared right of ways through open area with good views, then descends on old woods road.

Please contact Yvonne Blades at [REDACTED] for more information or to volunteer to maintain one of these sections. Trail maintainers are expected to check their sections at least once a year and clear and reblaze as necessary. If there is a lot of work to be done, notify your coordinator and a M-DTS work party can be scheduled for the area.

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## TRAIL UPDATES AND ALERTS

**Damage to trail by horse activity south of Otter Creek, PA:** Map 5: West to East - Mile 0.8 to 1.9. Severe degradation of the trail and stream banks have been reported.

**Large tree blocking trail between Atom Rd and Burk Rd:** Map 5; West to East - Mile 26.7. Ribbons have been placed to mark a route up the slope around the blocked trail.

**Old wooden plank bridge unsafe:** Map 6: West to East: Mile 3.2. Avoid the bridge by cutting around to the right through the rhododendron.

**Trail rerouting near North East in Cecil County, MD:** 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). See map enclosure for details. Posts to mark the route through the field have not yet been put in place. Follow the well defined foot path around the northeast perimeter of the field.



## MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 19, 2001 MEMBER'S MEETING

The meeting took place in the picnic area at Glen Cove following the work party. Those present were: president Jim Hooper, secretary Yvonne Blades, treasurer Mary Bleecker and Ron Gray, Turner Darden, Tony Belfiglio, Tim Schmidt, Ted Brower, Dave Linthicum and Joyce Miller.

The minutes of the June 24, 2001 member's meeting were approved as circulated. An updated M-DTS membership directory has been compiled by the secretary and distributed to all members of the board. As of July 31, 2001 there were 169 members.

### Treasurer's Report

Mary Bleecker presented the treasurer's report which covers the period from June 23/01 to August 18/01. The income was \$50.00 from membership renewals, \$15.00 from 1 new membership, \$50.00 donation, \$40.00 from sale of patches and \$3.08 interest for a total of \$158.08.

Expenses were \$69.33 for trail maintenance (stake materials), \$82.20 for printing the July Newsletter, \$51.65 for printing M-DTS brochures and the membership directories, \$29.85 for M-DTS return address labels, \$84.00 for purchase of stamped envelopes and \$25.00 donation to the Delaware Preservation Coalition: Open Space, Parks and Farmland for total expenses of \$342.03. The balance in the checking account as of August 18, 2001 is \$3365.82.

Mary will renew M-DTS membership in the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway.

### Old Business

**Proposal for Yost Memorial:** Turned Darden reported that there are complications regarding the design and other issues. Ron Gray moved that we table the proposal for one year, seconded by Jim Hooper and approved by members present. Yvonne Blades suggested that we put up a bulletin board on the trail such as those used on the Appalachian Trail. This could provide information about the M-DT as well as commemorating the founder. Ron Gray will check on the costs of the AT bulletin boards.

### Trail Reports

#### Western Section - Western Terminus at Whiskey Springs to Lock 12

Coordinator: Ron Gray

- Louise Sis has refreshed all the blazes between Whiskey Springs and Pinchot Park
- A member of the northern chapter of PATC has offered to help maintain the trail through Pinchot Park
- A maintainer is needed for the section from south of Pinchot Park to Wrightsville which is mostly on roads.
- Jim Hooper has been working on his section from Wrightsville to Fishing Creek and is almost finished.
- The section through Apollo Park needs rebuilding
- Ron Gray reports that the Game Commission has not taken down the signs that say "Authorized personnel only" on the M-DT along Oakland Run. This trail section is closed by the Game Commission during eagle nesting season but should be reopened after the eagles have fledged. There is a yellow blazed bypass route.
- Tim Schmidt proposes a relocation on his section between Holtwood dam and Mill Creek.

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

- The trail through Peavine Island probably needs clearing. Maintainer needed
- Re-blazing is needed between Lock 12 and Muddy Creek
- Paul Szatmary has cleared his section of the M-DT along the lower part of Muddy Creek.
- Yvonne Blades reported that there was no response to the request for maintainers in the last M-DT Newsletter. Maintainers are needed for the sections from Coal Cabin to Lay Rd and Lay Rd to Atom Rd.
- Ted Brower will work on his section in September. The Mahoney property has been sold. We need to contact the new owner regarding Ted's proposed relocation along the waterfront on the north side of Broad Creek.



- Dave Linthicum reports that the "old wooden plank bridge" (Map 6: West to East: Mile 3.2) that the trail crosses heading south from the Broad Creek public boat launch is unsafe. He says you can cut around to the right through the rhododendron and avoid the bridge and water crossing entirely. Dave also reported that the "Mayor of Broad Creek" who lived in the cabin near the bridge died recently at the age of 103!
- The rock work on the descent from Bald Hill has not yet been completed.
- Ted Brower talked to the caretaker/manager at Indian Lake Christian Service Camp regarding the possibility of relocating the M-DT along the edge of their property by the Susquehanna River. He recommended that we prepare a proposal for the Board of Directors of the camp. Dave Linthicum will write the proposal and draw up a map. The proposed relocation would avoid 0.8 miles of road walking.
- In spite of the rain, the rock work to improve the treadway along the slope above the house and boat storage area at Glen Cove Marina was completed at today's work party. Mr Charles Day, the adjacent landowner, met us in the morning and walked this section of trail with us.
- Dave Linthicum has cleared the briars on his section from Broad Creek to Conowingo and refreshed blazes near Route 1.

#### **Eastern Section - Perryville to the Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford**

**Acting Coordinators: Cecil County - Anthony Belfiglio**

**Chester & New Castle Counties - Yvonne Blades**

- Mary Bleecker and Yvonne Blades refreshed the blue and white blazes along the gated roadway where the M-DT enters Elk Neck State Forest from the east. More re-blazing is needed along the trail in the forest.
- Yvonne reports that there are still no posts for our M-DT decals on the recent relocation in White Clay Creek State Park. Posts are needed to mark the route through fields heading south from Wedgewood Road and were to be put in by the park. Kay Way says there are old cedar posts available at the Way greenhouse.
- Warren Davies reports that his section from Hopkins Rd to London Tract Rd is in good shape. White Clay Creek Preserve personnel have put in culverts and improved the route along old Peltier Road.

#### **Other Business**

**Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway:** Yvonne Blades reported that the next proposed project on the LSHG will be building the trail segment from Lapidum boat launch to the Arundel property. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources considers it a very doable project and they hope to have the project finished by National Trails Day in June 2002. The trail will be on the old railroad bed. Two bridges will be required. Funding for the project will have an in kind match requirement. Man-hours can be used for this requirement at a value of \$10 per hour. Yvonne suggested that M-DTS would likely be willing to help with this project.

**GPS:** Dr Vern Vernier volunteered to walk the M-DT with his GPS unit. Ron volunteered to go with him. Pennsylvania DCNR will provide in kind funding for GPS. The information then becomes public domain. GPS input will improve the accuracy of our maps.

**Purchase of Grip Hoist:** Ron Gray recommended that M-DTS purchase a Grip Hoist, a heavy duty tool for moving rocks, tree stumps etc. The cost before shipping and handling will be \$1000.67 for the Grip Hoist, with shear pins, 2 snatch blocks, 60 feet of cable, a reel and hook. Mary Bleecker moved, seconded by Turner Darden that M-DTS purchase the grip hoist. Approved unanimously.

**Sunday Hunting:** Dave Linthicum reported that the Maryland state legislature was bringing this issue up again. Ron Gray moved, Yvonne Blades seconded, the motion that "the Mason-Dixon Trail System Inc. is against Sunday hiking". Approved unanimously.

**Map Relocations Enclosure:** Yvonne Blades has made up an enclosure to go in the remaining M-DT map sets that details all relocations since the maps were printed in 1997. A copy will be included with the next M-DTS Newsletter.

**Next Meeting:** November 4 at Lock 12. The work parties will do a trail relocation under the power lines near Holtwood and clearing and blaze painting on Peavine Island.



# 2001 FINANCIAL PICTURE OF M-DTS ACTIVITY

OPENING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 1/1/01		\$2053.51
<b>INCOME</b>		
Dues/Donations (124 "old"; 22 "new")	\$2005.00	
Maps/Guides (~74 sold)	\$804.72	
Patches	\$135.00	
Interest	\$12.53	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$2957.25</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Administration		
1/12/01 (stamped envelopes & stamps)	\$88.10	
1/28/01 (Maerker—2000 misc. exp. )	\$35.96	
1/28/01 (Bleecker—stamps & phone)	\$21.32	
2/2/01 (500 stamped env. & stamps)	\$184.00	
2/27/01 (stamps for map mailing)	\$20.00	
3/2/01 (newsletters & misc. admin)	\$103.76	
6/2/01 (newsletters & misc. admin.)	\$76.14	
8/2/01 (newsletters & brochures)	\$133.85	
8/6/01 (return address labels)	\$29.85	
8/18/01 (200 stamped envelopes)	\$84.00	
8/27/01 (postage for patch order)	\$11.00	
8/28/01 (postage & copying)	\$14.00	
10/19/01 (newsletter)	\$113.44	
Sub-Total		\$915.42
Trail Maintenance		
6/24/01 (Hooper—stile supplies)	\$69.33	
8/24/01 (Gray—paint)	\$22.95	
9/14/01 (griphoist)	\$1031.15	
10/3/01 (Gray—sharpen saw blades)	\$13.56	
11/13/01 (lumber and rebar)	\$29.64	
Sub-Total		\$1166.63
Donations/Dues		
KTa Dues	\$25.00	
Delaware Streams Coalition	\$25.00	
Lower Susquehanna Greenway	\$25.00	
Sub-Total		\$75.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$2157.05</b>
ENDING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 12/31/01		\$2853.71
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 @ 4.21%, due 4/27/02	\$3233.91	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS OF M-DTS, INC. AS OF 12/31/01</b>		<b>\$12785.65</b>