



## M-DTS NEWSLETTER September 1998

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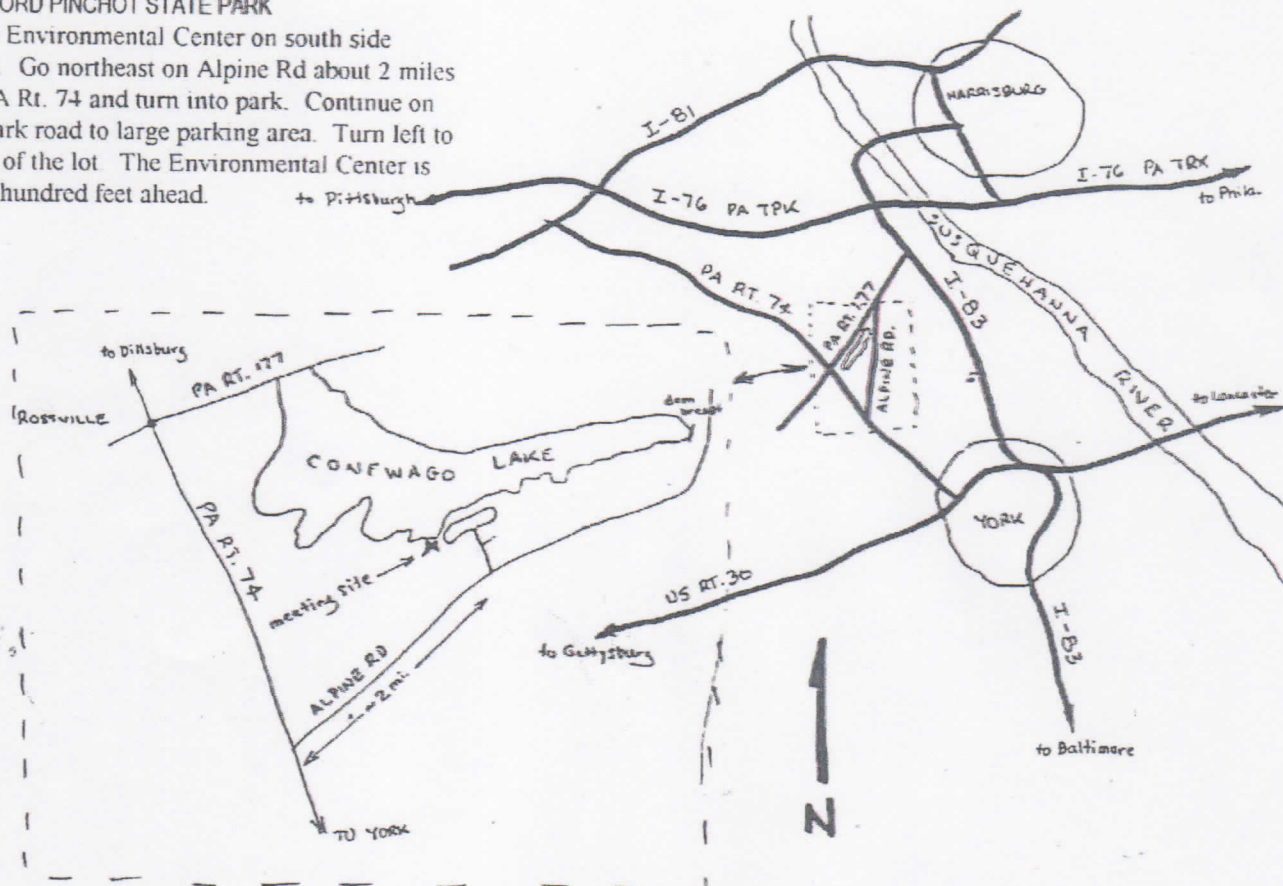
- **Hiker Alert!** MD Rte 623 bridge across Broad Creek closed. Alternative route available --- page 5.
- **Greenbranch to Cuff Run relocation now open** --- page 4.
- **Revised M-DTS Bylaws** --- page 6.

**M-DTS WORK PARTY -- 10:00 a.m., Sunday, October 18**  
**M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING -- 1:00 p.m., Sunday, October 18**

For both the work party and members' meeting, meet at the Environmental Center in Gifford Pinchot State Park, northwest of York, PA. See map. The main object of the work party is to renew M-DT blazes starting from the Western Terminus at Whiskey Springs. There is some minor trail maintenance work in Pinchot Park. There may be an opportunity to hike a section of the trail in the park. We will need several paint set-ups. Wear your painting clothes and bring lunch and water.

#### GIFFORD PINCHOT STATE PARK

Meet at Environmental Center on south side of lake. Go northeast on Alpine Rd about 2 miles from PA Rt. 74 and turn into park. Continue on main park road to large parking area. Turn left to the end of the lot. The Environmental Center is several hundred feet ahead.



## MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2, 1998 M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING

The meeting was held at the home of Jim Hooper, following the work party at Greenbranch. Members present at the meeting and work party were; president Jim Hooper, secretary Yvonne Blades, treasurer Mary Bleecker and Ted Brower, Rick Maerker, Turner Darden, Ron Gray, Jim McCoy, Tim Schmidt, Richard Winemiller, Pat O'Dell, Clair Piersol and Ken Trimble. Mike Calabrese and his son came from [REDACTED] to take part in the work party.

The minutes of the May 17, 1998 meeting were approved as circulated.

### Treasurer's Report

Mary Bleecker presented the treasurer's report for the period from May 15 to August 2, 1998.

Income		Expenses	
Membership dues (1 new, 4 renewals)	\$80.00	April Newsletter - printing	\$68.25
Map sales	127.50	Stamps	12.80
Interest	<u>8.31</u>	Trail Maintenance	<u>67.09</u>
	\$215.81		\$148.14
Balance as of 5/15/98	\$5025.42		
Income minus expenses 5/15-8/2/98	<u>67.67</u>		
Balance as of 8/2/98	\$5093.09		

The secretary presented a list of those whose 1998 membership dues were in arrears after the dues notice in the January Newsletter and a final notice with the May Newsletter. The list was reviewed and the removal of 22 names from the membership rolls was approved.

It was moved by Ron Gray, seconded by Clair Piersol and unanimously approved that Carl Reachard be named an Honorary Member of M-DTS. Carl is one of the seven charter members of M-DTS and has been a long time M-DT trail maintainer.

### M-DTS Constitution and Bylaws

**Bylaws:** The final version of the proposed revision and update of the M-DTS Bylaws was presented by Ron Gray and approved by the required two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. The revised M-DTS bylaws are included in this Newsletter.

**Constitution:** Amendments to the M-DTS Constitution must be approved by the membership. The proposed revision and update of the M-DTS Constitution will be mailed to all current members with the January 1999 Newsletter along with explanatory material and a ballot. Two-thirds majority of the returned ballots is necessary for adoption of the proposed revision.

### M-DT Trail Reports

**Eastern Section - Eastern terminus to Perryville** Coordinator: Rick Maerker ([REDACTED])

- Rick Maerker and Ken Trimble will clear the section from Chadds Ford to Cossart Road.
- Charles Robinson of the Hartefeld Golf course/housing development is interested in a trail connection from his area to the M-DT near Somerset Lake. Rick Maerker will be meeting with Mr Robinson.
- Warren and Vivian Davies have cleared from Peltier Road through to the meadow at Sharpless Road.
- A small work party helped Bob Bennett clear the M-DT along the Christina through Westbranch and Christiansted. Rick Maerker and Ken Trimble cleared the creek-side trail near Wedgwood Road.



- Rick wants to explore a possible relocation of the M-DT in the Four Seasons development south of Iron Hill to avoid close contact with houses.
- Carl Walbeck, a private citizen, is interested in developing a side trail from the M-DT in Elk Neck State Forest down the Elk Neck peninsula to Turkey Point.

**Central Section - Havre de Grace to Mill Creek** Coordinator: Pat O'Dell

- Yvonne Blades reported that the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway Steering Committee (LSHGSC) is investigating the possibility of building a pedestrian bridge across the Susquehanna River between Havre de Grace and Perryville on piers remaining from an old bridge close to the present Amtrak bridge. Such a bridge would provide the M-DT with a walking route across the river.
- The LSHGSC would like to extend the existing Greenway that runs south from Conowingo dam. They propose following the route of the M-DT along the peninsula in Susquehanna State Park to the bridge at Deer Creek. This section would be "unimproved greenway," the existing path without widening the trail or adding a stone surface. It would be marked by 4x4 posts with the Greenway logo (and M-DT decals or blazes). The park manager has approached M-DTS about this proposal. It was agreed that this would be acceptable as long as it did not interfere with M-DTS use of the trail or disturb the spectacular spring wildflower display.
- As a result of a citizen's complaint, PECO Energy has removed the trash pile that had accumulated at "Bald Hill", the high point south of Broad Creek, near the M-DT. M-DTS recommends that road access to the area be blocked.
- The "old wooden plank bridge" (Map 6, mile 3.2 West to East) near the Broad Creek boat launch is in bad shape. We need to determine ownership and whether M-DTS can repair the bridge.
- There is a temporary break in the M-DT due to the missing bridge on MD Route 623 across Broad Creek. The old bridge has been removed and will be replaced by a new bridge (scheduled completion date: Nov. 30, 1998). We hope to get permission for an alternate route through the Broad Creek Scout Reservation.
- Ted Brower presented a proposal for a three stage relocation of the M-DT north of Broad Creek that would ultimately get the M-DT off roads from Broad Creek north to Michael's Run.
- M-DTS member Gerald Bulmash has volunteered to maintain the M-DT from Lay Road to Atom Road.
- Pat O'Dell has reblazed the M-DT from Papermill Road at Muddy Creek north to PA Route 372 including the relocation onto Rt 74 and McKinley Road to avoid barricaded Wylie Rd.
- Pat O'Dell has cleared the trail from Lock 12 to Mill Creek.

**Western Section - Mill Creek to Western Terminus** Coordinator: Ron Gray

- Ron Gray reports that sections of the M-DT along Oakland Run are becoming overgrown with rhododendron.
- Ron Gray and Jim Hooper met with the managers of Otter Creek Campground and cleared a new route for the M-DT as it leaves the campground southbound towards Sawmill Creek.
- The ascent to Urey Overlook needs blazing and waterbars.
- Mowing is needed along the M-DT in the tree farm between Rt 425 and Boyd's Run.
- At today's work party, work continued on the relocation between Greenbranch and Cuff's Run. Two hundred feet of side hill digging and rock work was done to connect the north end of the relocation to the existing trail. A spring was cleared. The middle part of the relocation was blazed. Work is still needed at the south end steep descent to Cuff's Run and improvements to the entrance from Greenbranch before the relocation can be officially opened for use.



### Other Business

**Agreements with Landowners** - Rick Maerker presented a list of the land use agreements he found in the M-DTS archives. They included agreements with Gladfelter PulpWood Co., the PA Game Commission, PP&L etc.

**Trail Standards** - Ron Gray reviewed the standards for trail clearing of the M-DT. He recommended that brush, briars, branches, blowdowns be cleared to a 4-foot width. Yvonne Blades emphasized that desirable and fragile plants should be left undisturbed and there should be no "weed whacking" on woodland trails in the spring.

**Next Meeting** - Sunday, Oct. 18 at Gifford Pinchot State Park. The work party, to meet at 10.00 am, will concentrate on refreshing the blazes on the western section of the Mason-Dixon Trail starting from Whiskey Springs, the western terminus. There may be some trail maintenance work to do in Pinchot Park. There may be an opportunity to hike on sections of the MDT in Pinchot Park. The Members' Meeting will follow at 1:00 pm.

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### M-DT RELOCATION BETWEEN GREENBRANCH AND CUFF'S RUN NOW OPEN

The one-mile stretch of the Mason-Dixon Trail along the Susquehanna River, between Greenbranch and Cuff's Run (MDT MAP 4: WEST TO EAST, mile 6.4 to mile 7.4; EAST TO WEST, mile 9.1 to mile 10.1) was the most rugged and infamous section of the entire 190-mile M-DT - one mile of negotiating your way through large boulders, reminiscent of the worst sections of the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania. But now, through the hard work of Ron Gray and his crew, we have a superb relocation. To avoid most of the boulder field, the trail was relocated onto the ridge. Many hours of side hill digging and heavy rock work were done to construct the trail that gradually ascends to the ridge, about 400 feet elevation gain. The trail passes a spring about half way up. The trail follows the ridge through nice woods then steeply descends over stone steps to Cuff's Run. The relocation was officially opened on August 28. Many thanks to Ron Gray, Richard Winemiller, Jim Hooper, Jim McCoy, Tim Schmidt, Pat O'Dell, Ted Brower, Rick Maerker, Ken Trimble, and Mike Calabrese for their work on this project.



..... = relocation



## M-DT MAP 6

### Alternative Route Across Broad Creek

There is a temporary break in the Mason-Dixon Trail due to bridge construction on MD Route 623 at Broad Creek. Expected completion date of the bridge is November 30, 1998. Permission has been granted for a 2.3 mile permanent "alternative route" through the Broad Creek Memorial Scout Reservation. *The route will not be blazed blue and should not be attempted in cold weather. Hiking on any other trails in this scout owned area is prohibited without permission (contact the camp ranger in advance at 410-452-8155).*

#### WEST TO EAST

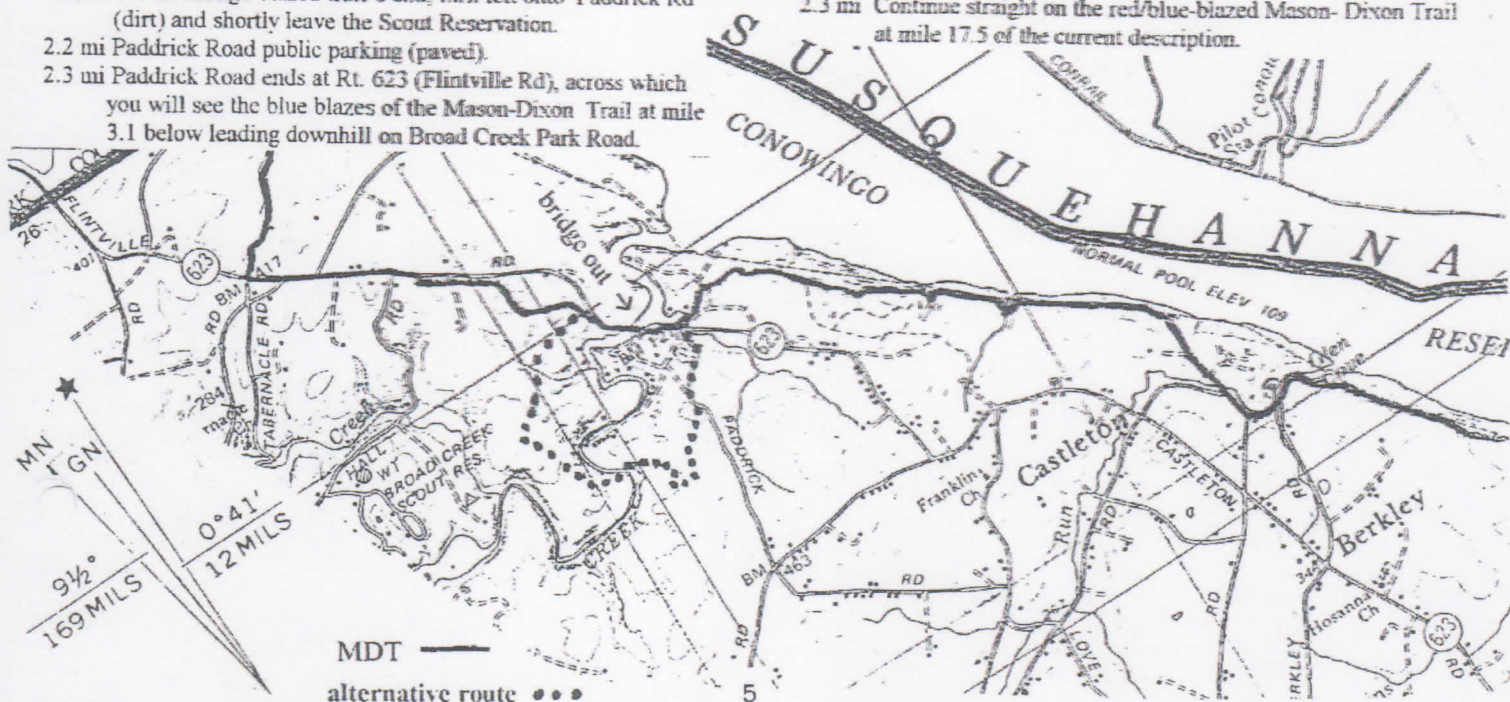
(alternative route for current mile 2.5 to 3.1)

- 0.0 mi Continue straight on the red-blazed trail past the blue-blazed main Mason-Dixon trail fork to the left.
- 0.3 mi Cross the several forks of Whiteford Branch.
- 0.7 mi At the top of OA Hill at 356 feet above sea level at a small clearing; turn left, staying on red blazed trail. *The scouts and Philadelphia Electric in 1981 logged a 240-year old hardwood forest here; huge stumps are visible.*
- 1.2 mi Where red blazes seem to end at Broad Creek at 115 feet above sea level, wade across to the small grassy island. At normal flow, this wade is ankle height as a large tree in place for several years crosses the deeper section after the island. Do not attempt to cross in cold weather; turn around and retrace your steps. After crossing, an outcrop overhanging the creek 60 yards downstream provides a nice view. *Kingfishers and great blue herons seen here.*
- 1.3 mi Follow the red-blazed trail up 275 feet of climbing in 0.4 miles.
- 1.5 mi Cross Robley Branch twice, *on the edge of Maryland's most extensive and oldest hemlock grove east of the mountains, including the state's second biggest hemlock. This tree began growing in 1705 according to a state Natural Heritage Program study. The area is not legally protected but is recognized as significant under a program with The Nature Conservancy entered into by the two landowners here, PECO Energy and Baltimore Area Boy Scouts.*
- 1.8 mi Just before Laurel Branch, do not follow the red-blazes on a 90 degree bend uphill to the right but instead cut down and cross several branches of the little stream on the faint orange-blazed trail.
- 2.0 mi At the orange-blazed trail's end, turn left onto Paddrick Rd (dirt) and shortly leave the Scout Reservation.
- 2.2 mi Paddrick Road public parking (paved).
- 2.3 mi Paddrick Road ends at Rt. 623 (Flintville Rd), across which you will see the blue blazes of the Mason-Dixon Trail at mile 3.1 below leading downhill on Broad Creek Park Road.

#### EAST TO WEST

(alternative route for current mile 16.9 to 17.5)

- 0.0 mi Cross Rt. 623 (Flintville Rd) through the paved parking lot on Paddrick Rd and then continue up Paddrick Rd (dirt).
- 0.3 mi Entering the Scout Reservation, turn right on the faint orange-blazed trail.
- 0.5 mi Just after crossing several branches of Laurel Brook, turn right on the red-blazed trail.
- 0.8 mi Cross Robley Branch twice, *on the edge of Maryland's most extensive and oldest hemlock grove east of the mountains, including the state's second biggest hemlock. This tree began growing in 1705 according to a state Natural Heritage Program study. This area is not legally protected but is recognized as significant under a program with The Nature Conservancy entered into by the two landowners here, PECO Energy and the Baltimore Area Boy Scouts.*
- 1.1 mi Where red blazes seem to end at Broad Creek at 115 feet above sea level, take the large tree across to the small grassy island, then wade across the far channel. At normal flow, this wade is ankle height. Do not attempt to cross in cold weather; turn around and retrace your steps. Before crossing, an outcrop overhanging the creek 60 yards downstream provides a nice view. *Kingfishers and great blue herons are always present here.*
- 1.2 mi Follow the red-blazed trail up 275 feet of climbing in 0.5 miles.
- 1.6 mi At the top of OA Hill at 356 feet above sea level at a small clearing; turn right, staying on the red-blazed trail. *The scouts and Philadelphia Electric in 1981 logged a 240-year old hardwood forest here; huge stumps are visible.*
- 2.0 mi Cross the several forks of Whiteford Branch.
- 2.3 mi Continue straight on the red/blue-blazed Mason-Dixon Trail at mile 17.5 of the current description.





# Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc.

## Bylaws

(revised August 1998)

### 1. Selection of Officers and Members of the Board of Directors.

The president shall appoint a nominating committee of not less than three members of the corporation no later than August first of the year of the election. The members will be notified of the nominating committee's selections by mail. All ballots must be received by the chairman of the nominating committee within thirty days of their date of issue. Election will be by majority vote. Each member will have one vote.

In the event of the resignation or death of the President, the Vice President shall succeed him, and in the event of his resignation or death, the secretary shall succeed him. In the event that he/she is unavailable, the Board of Directors in a special meeting shall appoint a President to serve until the next election. In the event of resignation or death of any other officer or any elected member of the Board of Directors, the President shall appoint a successor to serve until the next election.

### 2. Duties of the Officers.

The Duties of the officers shall be defined by the Board of Directors.

### 3. Meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.

The Board of Directors shall meet four times yearly. The next meeting date will be set by the Board at each meeting. Meetings may be cancelled or postponed under special conditions by the Executive Committee. Meetings of the Board will be open to all members but without benefit of voting privileges.

Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the President or any two members of the Committee on at least two days notice to each member of the committee.

### 4. Classes of Membership and Dues.

a. *Maintaining Member Club* - A dues paying, work participating club involved with the development, construction, maintenance, and educational programs of the Mason-Dixon Trail System.

b. *Supporting Member Club* - A club which supports the Mason-Dixon Trail System by yearly donations only.

c. *Individual Membership* - A dues paying member.

d. *Contributing Membership* - An individual member wishing to support the club with yearly donations larger than individual member dues. He may change to another class of membership at the end of the membership year.

e. *Life Membership* - Any person may become a life member upon payment of the appropriate dues. All dues and donations paid will accumulate toward life membership.

f. Dues will be set by the Board of Directors at least three months, but not more than six months, prior to the beginning of the fiscal year.

g. An application fee set by the Board is required in addition to the first year's dues.

h. The Board of Directors may at its discretion waive the dues of any member or member club.

i. The Board of Directors may bestow Honorary Membership upon persons at their discretion. Dues shall be waived.

### 5. Election to Membership.

Initial application for membership shall be made on a form prescribed by the Board of Directors, signed by the applicant, and mailed along with the first years dues and application fee to the Membership Secretary. All applications shall be submitted by the Membership Secretary to the Board of Directors for approval at a regular meeting.

### 6. Delinquent Members.

Members whose dues are unpaid for six months shall be considered delinquent and may be dropped from membership by action of the Executive Committee.

### 7. Selection of Standing Committee Members.

The Board of Directors shall determine how members of the standing committees shall be selected.

**8. Duties of Standing Committees.**

The duties of the standing committees shall be defined by the Board of Directors.

**9. Temporary Committees.**

Chairmen of temporary committees shall be appointed by the President. Duties and duration of temporary committees will be defined by the President. Members of temporary committees will be selected by the appointed chairman. The Chairman of a temporary committee is not on the basis of their chairmanship a member of the Board of Directors.

**10. Fiscal Year.**

The fiscal year shall end December 31.

**11. Special Meetings.**

Special meetings of the corporation's membership may be called upon petition of not less than 10 members to the President. At least two week's notice by mail must be given.

**12. Rules and Regulations.**

The Board of Directors may make such rules and regulations as it deems advisable, which are consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws.

**13. Expenditure of Funds.**

Expenditure of funds up to an amount set by the Board of Directors may be approved by the Treasurer. Expenditure of funds or financial obligations greater than the amount set by the Board must have authorization by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee.

**14. Discipline of a Member.**

Reports of conduct prejudicial to the corporation shall be investigated and, if possible, adjudicated by the Executive Committee.

The Board of Directors, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, may by two-thirds majority vote, terminate the membership of the individual member or member club.

**15. Amendment of Bylaws.**

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the total Board of Directors. The Board will vote on any amendments suggested by written petition of not less than ten members in good standing.