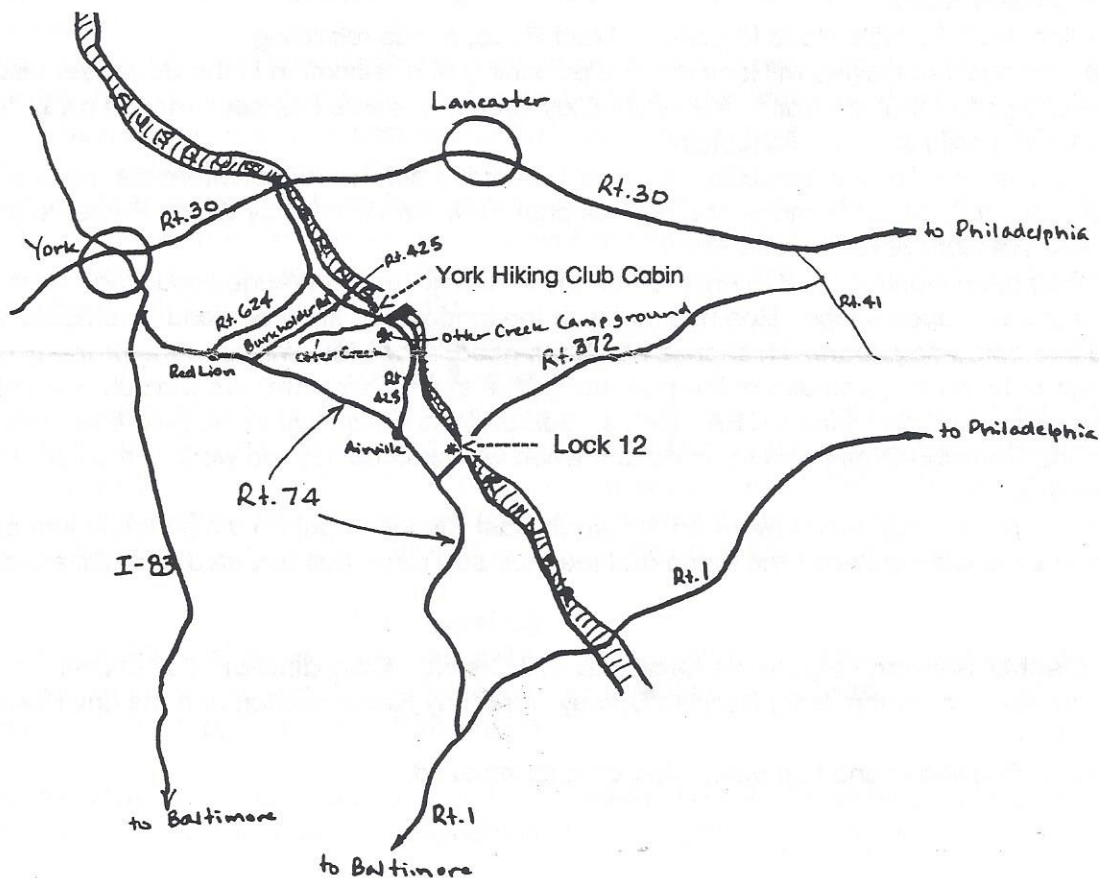


## M-DTS NEWSLETTER October 1996

**M-DTS WORK PARTY --- 9:00 am, Sunday, November 10**  
**M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING --- 2:00 pm, Sunday, November 10**

The Work Party will meet at the Lock 12 historic area in the first parking lot north of Norman Wood Bridge off Route 372 at 9:00 am. We will carry lumber and supplies to the nearby site on Mill Creek where two of the group will build a new set of steps up the steep slope. The rest of the party will then drive to the York Hiking Club cabin at Otter Creek and from there car pool to Apollo Park where rock work, cutting of blow downs and trimming is needed. Work gloves, chain saw, mattocks, digging bar, loppers, lunch and water are in order.

The Members' Meeting will be held at the York Hiking Club cabin at 2:00 pm. From Lock 12 continue west on Rt 372 to Rt 74. Go north on Rt 74 to near Airville; turn right on Rt 425 and drive about 5 miles to Otter Creek. Cross the bridge over Otter Creek. The York Hiking Club cabin is about 1/4 mile beyond the bridge on the right side of the road.





## **Minutes of the September 14, 1996 M-DTS Members' Meeting**

The meeting was held at the Tobias' cabin at Greenpoint, PA. and was attended by: Ron Gray, Linda Hynds, Chuck Bramhall, Jim Hooper, Pat O'Dell, Kay and Bob Way, Warren and Vivian Davies, Yvonne Blades, Mary Bleecker, Rick Maerker, Clair Piersol, Turner Darden and Dick Tobias.

The minutes of the June 9, 1996 meeting were approved as circulated with corrections of the meeting date (June 9) and the name of John Schetky.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Mary Bleecker reported on the financial activity since May 31, 1996. The balance in the checking account as of May 31 was \$2749.87. Income for the period from May 31 to September 13, 1996 was: interest \$14.81, membership dues (new & renewals) \$86.00, sale of map/guides \$141.00, and sale of patches \$108.00. Expenses were: herbicides for trail maintenance \$28.49, printing costs for August M-DTS newsletter \$59.58, postage \$70.40, KTA dues \$25.00. The balance as of September 13, 1996 is \$2916.21.

The secretary distributed a list of those in arrears with 1996 dues 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 roles was approved.

### **Trail Reports**

#### **Eastern Section - Eastern Terminus to Perryville Coordinator: Turner Darden**

- Rick Maerker reported that a Chester County Trail Club work hike in August cleared and weed-whacked the Chadds Ford to Cossart Road section. A pond is leaking onto the trail making it wet and muddy in spite of attempts at ditching and use of rocks. Rick would like to construct a log walkway. He will discuss this with the land owner. The stream crossing near Cossart Road remains a problem - there is a temporary crossing consisting of a board resting on supports.

Kay Way suggested that the adjacent land owner should be approached now to see if the M-DT could be rerouted off Cossart Road.

- The next section, from Fairville Road to London Tract Road, needs reblazing.
- Rick Maerker and Warren Davies will look into the possibility of a relocation in the Somerset Lake area.
- Warren Davies reported that the trail in the White Clay Creek Preserve has been moved away "slightly" from the stream bank but it still lies in the floodplain.

The Davies reported that a feasibility study will be carried out this fall to determine the best route for a wildlife corridor (also suitable for humans and equestrians) between White Clay Creek Preserve and State Park, and the Fair Hill Natural Resources Area.

- Bob Bennett has been working hard to ensure that the land adjacent to Wedgewood Road on which the trail lies will be preserved as open space. Bob has met with the landowner, state and county officials, local politicians and interested neighbors. Response has been good. The state will have the property appraised. Possible sources of funds for purchase of the property by the state (Delaware) are the suburban street funds, the 21st Century Fund and matching ISTEAs. Bob expects action within the next 6 months.
- The M-DT along Christina Creek was trimmed and weed whacked during two work parties organized by Bob Bennett this summer.
- Turner Darden reported that a landowner on the North East River has put up a high fence that crosses the M-DT. It is possible to walk between the fence and the river so Turner has rerouted and blazed the trail next to the river.

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

- Maintainers are needed for the Atom Road to Dorsey Park (Lay Road) section and the Lay Road to Cold Cabin Road section.
- The trail through Peavine Island has been cleared and reblazed.



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

- Ron Gray reported that the wooden steps leading up the slope from Mill Creek have to be replaced. This will be done at the November 10th work party.
- Ron Gray has put in a post with blazes to mark the turn where the southbound M-DT leaves the road near Holtwood dam and bears right uphill. (Ed. note: This post has since disappeared)
- Ron, Jim Hooper and Pat O'Dell have cut blowdowns and mowed the trail in the area north of Otter Creek.
- A maintainer is needed for the Rt 425 to Rt 425 section (Mile 1.8 to 3.6, east to west, Map 4)
- Ron and Jim have put in eight, six-foot posts to mark the trail through the clear cut area that was the former pine plantation.
- The Cuffs Run to Greenbranch section is in good shape.
- Jim Hooper has completed work on the Greenbranch relocation and has refreshed blazes north to Accomac.
- Jim Trautman has cleared his section in Gifford Pinchot State Park.

### **M-DTS Tee Shirts**

Dick Tobias commented on the overuse of the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania and the need to promote the use of other trails such as the Mason-Dixon Trail. He proposed a M-DTS Tee shirt to publicize the M-DT. Dick and Tim Schmidt will look into the costs and suggest a design.

### **M-DT Map/Guides**

A new edition of the M-DTS Trail guide is needed. Rick Maerker reviewed the earlier editions: the first was printed in 1982 in the newsletter; the second, published in 1985, consisted of a guide book and a set of 5 hand drawn maps. The present edition, published in 1992, consists of 10 topographical type maps printed on 5 sheets of waterproof paper, 25 x 9.25 inches, with detailed text printed along side the maps. The sheets fold to a 4 x 9.25 inch format and are enclosed in a plastic, ziplock bag.

Problems with the present format include: The maps are difficult to read and do not cover enough area to show access points and connecting roads. More road names are needed. There are too many contour lines a 20 foot contour interval would be less confusing than the present 10 foot interval. The map packet is too big to fit easily into a pocket.

Rick suggested a 10-sheet format with the map on one side with overlay of the trail in a different color and the trail description (both east to west and west to east) on the other side. Most felt that waterproof paper was desirable, and both east to west and west to east trail descriptions should be included. Rick recommended Beiler of Lebanon as the printer.

New mapping techniques need to be looked into. Suggestions for sources of information included; Jean Aron who is working on maps for the AT in Pennsylvania, and the Water Resources Agency.

A committee was formed consisting of Rick Maerker, Yvonne Blades, Turner Darden and Pat O'Dell to work on the new edition with spring as the target date.

### **Other Business**

Rick Maerker reviewed a letter received from Mike, a member from Virginia, who had led a 2- day backpacking trip on the M-DT in July from Lock 12 north to Kohler Road. The first day was "great" but they ran into difficulties on the second day because of lack of blazes especially through the clear cut "pine plantation". He outlined other problems on the trail and also volunteered time and money to place posts for blazes. Jim Hooper will reply to Mike by e-mail. Jim and Ron Gray have put in posts through the clear cut area.

### **Next Meeting**

**November 10, 1996** - Work party will meet at Lock 12 at 9:00 am. Two people will rebuild steps at Mill Creek. Remainder of group will work at Apollo Park: rock work, cutting blowdowns, trimming, etc. Members' meeting at 2:00 pm at York Hiking Club cabin.

**Addendum:** A note of thanks to our hosts, Dick and Ann Tobias. Dick led us on a lovely hike through the surrounding woods and Ann served a delicious spaghetti dinner followed by pie and ice cream!!!