



## **M-DTS NEWSLETTER** February, 2004

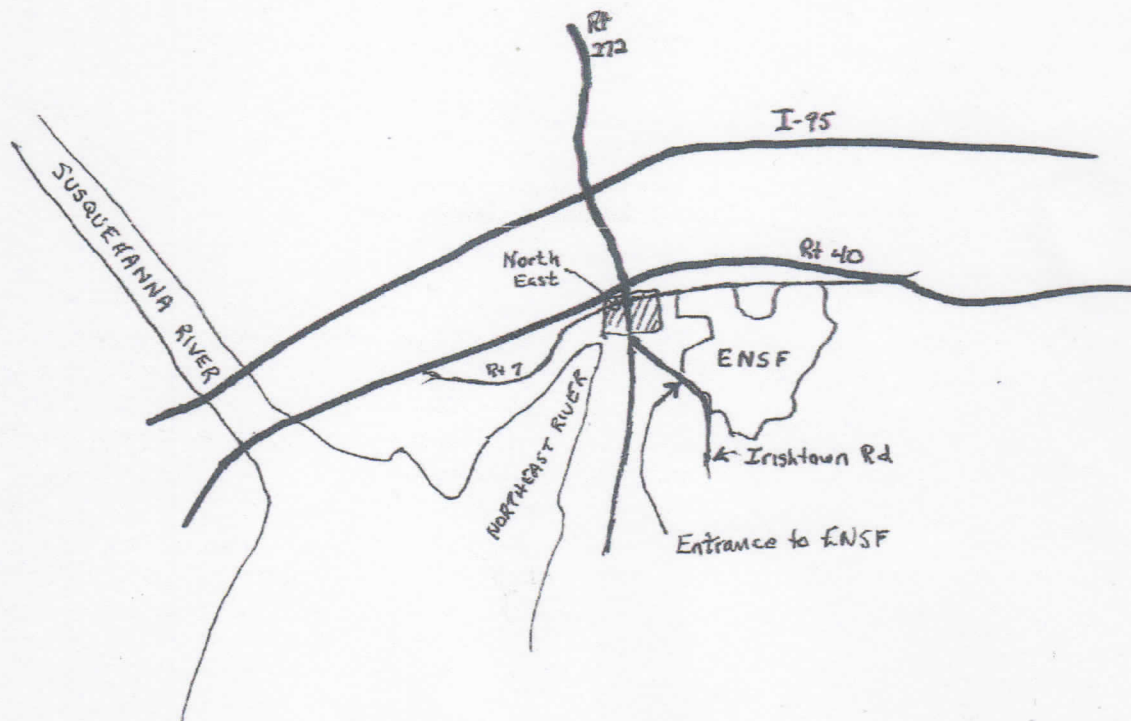
**M-DT WORK PARTY -- 9:00 a.m., Sunday, March 28**  
**M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING -- 2:00 p.m., Sunday, March 28**

**Work Party:** Meet in parking area by the maintenance building just inside and to the left of the entrance to Elk Neck State Forest on Irishtown Road east of the town of North East, MD.

We will work on a relocation of the M-DT around the beaver problem area in Elk Neck State Forest. The major project is building a 15 foot long bridge. We will have use of a "gator" to transport the materials to within about ¼ mile of the work site. There will also be trail clearing and mattock work needed. Blazes on the eight miles of the M-DT in the forest need refreshing (M-DT blazes in ENSF are blue and white). Equipment needed: construction tools, loppers, chain saw, mattock, small saw, paint set-ups (blue, white and a brown-out paint). All workers should bring: work gloves, eye protection, lunch and water.

**Members Meeting:** We will assemble in the parking area as above at 1:50 pm and drive to an appropriate location.

**Directions:** The town of North East is in Cecil County, Maryland and can be easily accessed from I-95 or US Route 40. Exit to the south on MD Rte 272. 1.3 miles south of Rte 40, turn left on Irishtown Road. Proceed 1.7 miles to the entrance to Elk Neck State Forest on the left.





## MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM INC

President ..... Anthony Belfiglio  
[REDACTED]

Vice President.....Jim Hooper  
[REDACTED]

Secretary & Newsletter Editor...Yvonne Blades  
[REDACTED]

Treasurer.....Mary Blecker  
[REDACTED]

Director - Pennsylvania .....James McCoy  
[REDACTED]

Director - Maryland..... Alan Roland  
[REDACTED]

Director - Delaware.....Robert Bennett  
[REDACTED]

### Trail Coordinators:

Western Section.....Ron Gray  
[REDACTED]

Central Section.....Pat Yale  
[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 Blecker  
[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]

*Your 2004 M-DTS membership dues are now due. We hope you will continue to support the Mason-Dixon Trail. An addressed return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.*

## TRAIL UPDATES AND ALERTS

**Clean-up after Hurricane Isabel:** Ron Gray, Jim Hooper, Dave Linthicum and other M-DT members have done a tremendous job of clearing the Mason-Dixon Trail of blow downs and debris after the damaging winds of Isabel.

Park staff and volunteers have cleared the trails (including the M-DT) in Susquehanna State Park in Maryland and White Clay Creek State Park & Preserve in Delaware and Pennsylvania.

**Trail closed north of Apollo Park:** The trail is still blocked between the rocky promontory south of Cuff's Run and Apollo County Park. (Map 4: West to East - Mile 7.6 to 9.7). About 1 mile of new trail construction is still needed to complete the relocation.

**No parking at Gaging Station Bridge on Muddy Creek:** The area by the bridge has been posted as "No Parking" and parked cars have been towed away. (Map 5: West to East, Mile 17.3).

**Trail flooded in Elk Neck State Forest:** High water levels plus beaver activity have necessitated a lengthy detour marked with blue ribbons. (Map 8: East to West - Mile 10.1). This is the site of the trail relocation and bridge construction project planned for the March 28 M-DT work party.

Also at Elk Neck State Forest, the earthen dam the M-DT traverses, by Plum Pond, was breached during an earlier storm and there is now a steep sided chasm following Isabel (Map 8: East to West - Mile 11.1). A route around the break has been flagged with blue ribbon.

### Notice to Hikers and Backpackers on M-DT

Respect private land. Do not leave the trail or camp along sections of the M-DT that pass through private land. In State Forests and State Parks, camp only in designated camping areas.

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### Brandywine Trail End to End Hike

The Wilmington Trail Club's 2004 Brandywine Trail End-to-End Hike will be held on April 3. Warm up hikes on March 20 and 27 will enable interested hikers to familiarize themselves with the route. The 35-mile Brandywine Trail runs from the Horse-Shoe Trail at Ludwigs Corner to Brandywine Creek State Park in Delaware, and shares about two miles of trail with the Mason-Dixon Trail near Chadds Ford. The cost (includes bus, food and trail guide) is \$14 for members of WTC or Chester County Trail Club and \$16 for nonmembers. For a registration form send a self-addressed stamped envelope to [REDACTED] The registration deadline is March 25, 2004.



## MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 26, 2003 MEMBERS' MEETING

The meeting took place at the York Hiking Club cabin following the work party at Apollo Park. Those present for the meeting and/or work party were: president Jim Hooper, secretary Yvonne Blades and Ron Gray, Charlie Ament, Tim Schmidt, Tony Belfiglio, Mike Calabrese, Jim McCoy, Alan, Timothy and Jesse Roland, Joyce Miller and Turner Darden.

The minutes of the August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as circulated (Darden, McCoy).

### Treasurer's Report

Mary Bleecker submitted the following treasurer's report for the period from August 12 to October 20, 2003:

Balance	8/12/03	\$4534.81
<u>Income:</u>		
Interest		0.77
Dues		55.00
Map/Guide Sales		109.50
		\$165.27
<u>Expenses:</u>		
Secretary expenses:		
Printing MDTs Membership Directories		12.00
September M-DTS Newsletter		107.40
500 stamped envelopes		199.00
Treasurer expenses:		
Envelopes for mailing maps		2.23
Trail maintenance: Grip Hoist equipment (Gray)		131.60
Donation: Central PA Conservancy		50.00
		\$502.23
Balance	10/20/03	\$4197.85

### Election of Officers

Turner Darden, chairman of the nominating committee, presented the results of the mail-in ballot for officers of M-DTS. Thirty-two ballots were received. The following were elected to serve for the term from January 1, 2004 to December 30, 2006.

President	Tony Belfiglio
Vice President	Jim Hooper
Secretary	Yvonne Blades
Treasurer	Mary Bleecker
Director - PA	Jim McCoy
Director - MD	Alan Roland
Director - DE	Bob Bennett

### Trail Reports

**Eastern Section - Eastern Terminus to Perryville** Coordinators: Chester & New Castle Co. - Yvonne Blades [REDACTED] Cecil Co. - Tony Belfiglio [REDACTED]

- Turner Darden and Yvonne have checked and cleared the trail from Delancy Rd to Iron Hill (Maps 8&9) and have painted blazes along the curbs on Melbourne Boulevard leading to the recent relocation in the Elkton area.
- Yvonne & Herb Blades have checked the M-DT through Elk Neck State Forest following the hurricane. There were a few trees down but the biggest problem is at the dam at Plum Pond which the M-DT crosses. The dam had already been breached by an earlier storm but after Isabel there is now a chasm there. A relocation may be necessary.

**Central Section - Havre de Grace to Lock 12** Coordinator: Pat Yale

- The central section was badly hit by hurricane Isabel. An estimated 200 trees were down on the M-DT/Susquehanna Greenway trail along the old RR bed south of Conowingo. At the time of this report most of the trails, including the M-DT, in Susquehanna State Park had been cleared by park staff and volunteers.



- Dave Linthicum spent 6 hours on October 5 removing branches/logs/full trees that blocked the M-DT, plus a reroute of 100 yards on the Conowingo to Glen Cove section. He planned to work on the Glen Cove to Broad Creek section in early November.
- Yvonne Blades reported that the section from Lay Road to Robinson Run (Map 5) was blocked by a series of blow downs. The trail along Muddy Creek was in relatively good shape except for blockages between the power line clearing and the descent to Cold Cabin. (Map 5: West to East: Mile 21.3)

#### **Western Section – Western Terminus at Whiskey Springs to Lock 12**

**Coordinator: Ron Gray**

- Tim Schmidt has cleared a blow down on his section between Lock 12 and Mill Run
- At today's work party Tony Belfiglio and Mike Calabrese cleared blow downs on the section south from Apollo Park to the power lines at Safe Harbor dam.
- The other work party group planned to work on the trail relocation north from Apollo Park. But there were several bad blow downs to clear before reaching the trail relocation worksite. About 1 mile of new trail construction still remains to be done on the relocation. The York Hiking Club has scheduled a work trip there on November 29.
- Jim Hooper has cleared hurricane debris from 2/3s of his new Devil's Hole relocation near Long Level.
- Jim Hooper reports that he has approval for another off-road trail relocation north of Long Level. The trail can be relocated through Klines Run Park; then follow Klines Run to Klines Run Road near the intersection with Trinity Church Road. The relocation would replace about 1 mile of road walking.

#### **Old Business**

**Endangered Trails** – Jim Hooper reported that the KTA council approved a resolution presented by the Endangered Trails Committee to expand trail protection efforts and take new initiatives to better represent the interests of hikers. The KTA president will appoint a committee to study each of the issues presented in the resolution. (M-DT has been identified as an endangered trail).

#### **New Business**

**County Maps** - Jim Hooper emphasized that we need to ensure that the route of the M-DT is shown on the official county maps of the counties through which the M-DT runs.

**Next Meeting & Work Party**– March 28 at Elk Neck State Forest. Work party at 9:00 am, members meeting at 2:00 pm.

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#### **Presidents Message**

These are interesting and productive times for the M-DTS. The many improvements on the Trail are obvious to anyone who has recently walked along various sections, even though there still are some problem areas. Not only is there wonderful work being done on formally planned work hikes, but also many folks anonymously work alone or in small groups to maintain the Trail. We have ongoing as well as planned projects, with which I encourage all of you to become involved, by accepting my invitation to join us on a scheduled work hike. You do not need any special skill; you do need a willingness and commitment to work on a labor of love with some dedicated and competent leaders. Perhaps you are, or will be one of our leaders. I personally, am looking forward to helping with the planned bridge building in Elk Neck State Forest.

Another concern, of course, is trail safety, so, if you experience or observe any incidents or conditions along the Trail, or, if you have any remarks of concerns related to trail safety, please contact me by phone, mail, or email.

I hope all of you are enjoying our beautiful Trail as much as you can, and be sure to say hello, if you see me on your travels.

Happy trails,  
Tony Belfiglio  
President, MDTs



## 2003 FINANCIAL PICTURE OF M-DTS ACTIVITY

OPENING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 1/1/03		\$4668.45
<b>INCOME</b>		
Dues/Donations (114 "old"; 28 "new")	\$1950.00	
Maps/Guides (~39 sold)	\$410.00	
Patches	\$32.00	
Interest	\$8.50	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$2400.50</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Administration		
1/27/03 (stamps)	\$51.40	
2/9/03 (225 newsletters)	\$56.25	
2/17/03 (treasurer—stamps, phone, misc for 2002)	\$103.35	
4/30/03 (work hike change notification)	\$97.50	
5/16/03 (deposit for Yost memorial)	\$500.00	
6/3/03 (235 newsletters & postage)	\$165.20	
6/15/03 (remainder due for Yost memorial)	\$500.00	
6/18/03 (cabin rental)	\$10.00	
6/25/03 (pavillion rental at Iron Hill State Park)	\$50.00	
8/2/03 (July newsletter)	\$131.10	
8/26/03 (copying of membership list)	\$12.00	
9/27/03 (map mailing envelopes)	\$2.23	
10/8/03 (September newsletters & postage)	\$306.40	
10/20/03 (stamps & envelopes for treasurer)	\$32.07	
11/18/03 (CD of topos for mid-Atlantic region)	\$84.90	
Sub-Total		\$2102.40
Trail Maintenance		
12/21/02 (Hooper—loppers)	\$62.85	
3/18/03 (Blades—saw, flagging, paint)	\$61.17	
9/8/03 (Gray—equipment for grip hoist)	\$131.60	
Sub-Total		\$255.62
Donations/Dues		
Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway	\$25.00	
Central PA Conservancy	\$50.00	
KTA	\$30.00	
Sub-Total		\$105.00
Patches		
1/23/03 (Order of 200)	\$370.00	
Sub-Total		\$370.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$2833.02</b>
ENDING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 12/31/03		\$4235.93
CD -- 30-month		\$3122.12
CD -- 24-month		\$4368.35
CD -- 6-month		\$3351.06
<b>TOTAL ASSETS OF M-DTS, INC. AS OF 12/31/03</b>		<b>\$15077.46</b>