



M-DTS NEWSLETTER September 2002

Updated relocations insert for M-DT map sets enclosed.

M-DTS WORK PARTY – 9:00 a.m., Sunday, November 10
M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING – 2:00 p.m., Sunday, November 10

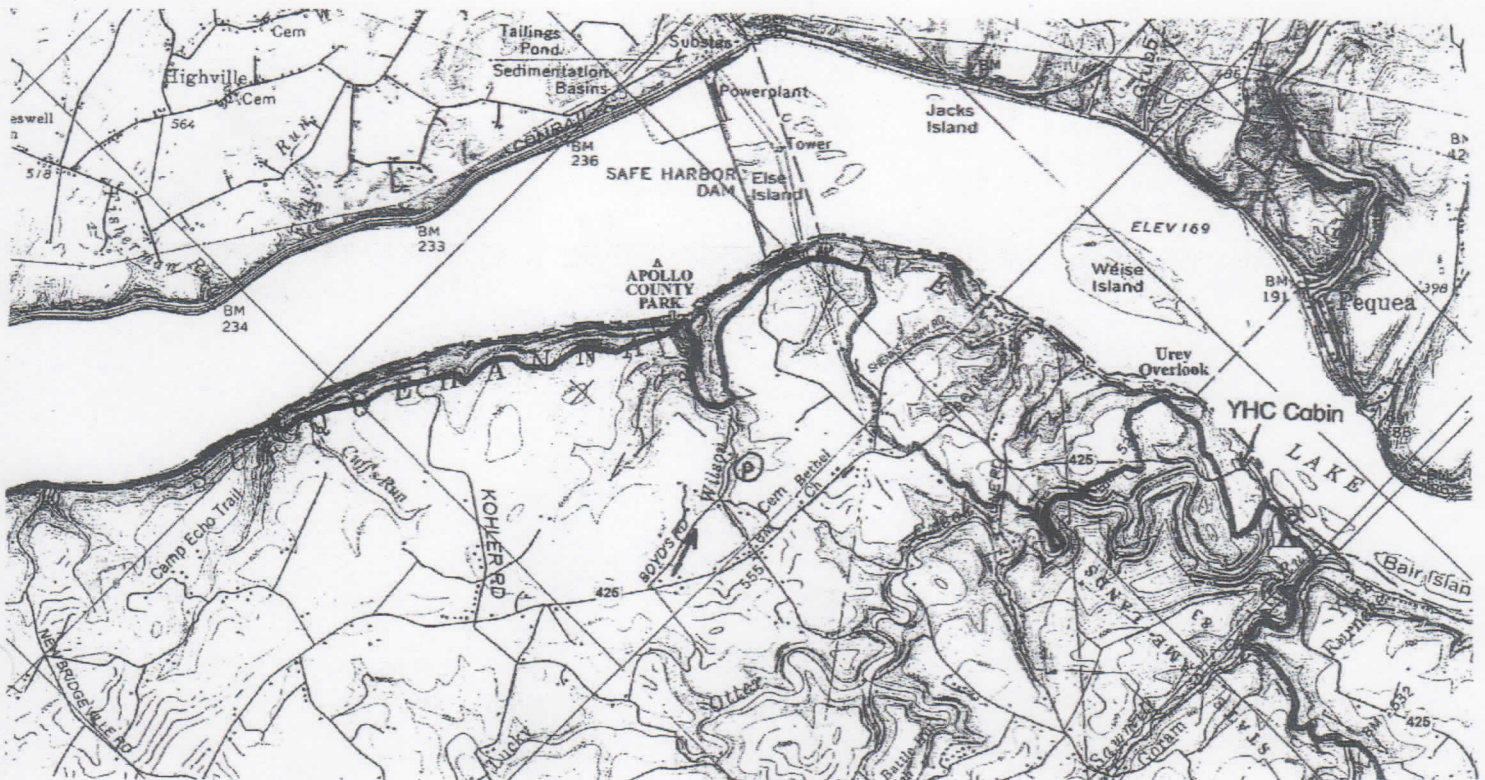
Work Party: Meet at the new parking area at Apollo Park.

We will continue work to improve the trail through Apollo Park. There is more rock work to be done, blow downs to be cleared, brush clearing, clipping and blaze painting. Equipment needed: mattocks, digging bars, chain saw, small saws, loppers, paint set-up. All workers should bring: work gloves, eye protection, lunch and water.

Members Meeting: Meet at York Hiking Club cabin on Route 425 near Otter Creek.

Directions: From north: From PA Rte 74 east of Red Lion turn left on Burkholder Rd to connect to Rte 425 at New Bridgeville. Go south on Rte 425 about three and a half miles. Turn left on Boyd's Rd and follow it to the new parking area for Apollo Park. To reach the York Hiking club cabin, continue south on Rte 425 for 3 miles. Cabin is on the left on the descent to Otter Creek.

From south and east: Cross the Norman Wood bridge on Rte 372. Turn right, north, on Rte 74 to near Airville; turn right on Rte 425 and follow it about 5 miles to Otter Creek. The York Hiking club cabin is about ¼ mile beyond the bridge on the right side of the road. To reach Apollo Park, continue north on Route 425 about 3 miles and turn right at Boyd Rd. Follow it to the new parking area.



MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM INC

President Jim Hooper

Vice President Jim Denny

Secretary & Newsletter Editor Yvonne Blades

Treasurer Mary Blecker

Director - Pennsylvania Timothy Schmidt

Director - Maryland Anthony Belfiglio

Director - Delaware Robert Bennett

Trail Coordinators:

Western Section Ron Gray

Central Section Pat Wolf

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

Thereafter, the annual fee is \$5.
Life membership is available for \$250.

Visit the M-DTS web site at:

NOTICE

All non hunters are now required to wear fluorescent orange on PA State Game Lands between November 15 and December 15 (except Sundays)

TRAIL MAINTAINER NEEDED

One or two volunteers are needed to maintain the M-DT from the east gate of Elk Neck State Forest in Cecil Co, MD to the top of Iron Hill in Delaware (Map 8: West to East: Mile 8.2 to 16.0; Map 9: West to East: Mile 0.0 to 3.5).

Please contact Yvonne Blades at [REDACTED] for more information or to volunteer.

TRAIL RELOCATION AND RESTRICTIONS DUE TO SECURITY CONCERNS

1) Relocation at Conowingo dam. (Map 6: West to East: Mile 9.4 - 10.2). The M-DT now crosses Rte 1 into the former site of Conowingo Village. It climbs uphill, curves left, passes a house and water tower then turns right on Shuresville Rd and left at Shures Landing Rd to reach Fisherman's Park by the river. The relocation has been marked with blue blazes.

2) Restrictions in Peach Bottom area - between Lay Rd and Burk Rd (Map 5: West to East: Mile 24.9 - Mile 26.4). Those wishing to hike in this area must call ahead to Fran Reining, 8-5 pm weekdays, at 717/456-4759, state time you will be there and the number and names of individuals. Hikers must carry photo ID and may be stopped by armed guards or state police.

ADDITIONAL TRAIL ALERTS (Cecil County, MD)

M-DT at Stony Creek (Map 7: West to East: Mile 9.2) A metal gate has been placed across the telephone cable right of way that the M-DT follows through this area. The gate is on the west side of the creek and the ROW there has become overgrown with brambles. Tony Belfiglio and Yvonne Blades, who were checking the area, walked around the brambles and the gate to cross the creek and continue on the trail. They believe the gate was placed to keep out ATVs.

Townhouse development near North East Creek (Map 7 relocation: West to East: Mile 10.6 to 10.8) The M-DT follows the cable ROW through the completed parts of this development - a route for the trail was included in the plans. Excavations are underway for the last stage of the development - nearer to North East Creek. At this time it is not obvious where the trail will be routed so hikers should just make their way down towards the creek and pick up the trail again as it heads downstream along the creek.

Access to woods near Elkton (Map 8: East to West: Mile 2.1) The route for the M-DT from Continental Dr into the woods has been cut off by new home development. A new route will be developed from the pond on Melbourne Boulevard.

Please report any changes or corrections to be made to the maps or text for the next edition of M-DT maps to Yvonne Blades. See left column for address or email.

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 18, 2002 MEMBERS' MEETING

The meeting took place at the York Hiking Club cabin at Otter Creek following the work party at Apollo Park. Those present were president Jim Hooper, secretary Yvonne Blades, treasurer Mary Bleecker and Ron Gray, Joyce Miller, Duane Hyson, Neal Watson, Harold Paley, Dave Linthicum, Charlie Ament, and Charles Albin. Anthony Belfiglio and Richard Winemiller were present for the work party.

The minutes of the June 9, 2002 members' meeting were approved as circulated (Gray, Hyson).

Treasurer's Report

Mary Bleecker presented the treasurer's report which covered the period from June 8 to August 18, 2002. The income was \$160.00 from membership dues, \$105.00 from sale of map/guides, \$29.00 from sale of patches and \$2.00 interest for a total of \$296.00. Expenses were \$42.34 for the purchase of two digging bars and \$152.98 for printing and postage of the July 2002 M-DTS Newsletter for a total of \$195.32. The balance in the checking account as of August 18, 2002 is \$4792.44. There were three new members since June 8, 2002 - John Eppinger, David McClure and John Sharp.

Ron Gray moved, seconded by Duane Hyson that M-DTS donate \$25 to the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy for the Blue Mountain East Project for land acquisition in Dauphin County, PA. Carried. The Darlington Trail passes through the 79 acre tract to be acquired.

Trail Reports

Western Section - Western Terminus at Whiskey Springs to Lock 12

Coordinator: Ron Gray

- Ron Gray reported that the short M-DT relocation in Gifford Pinchot State Park has now been blazed. It is in the area of the Lakeside Overlook picnic area. Ron has talked to the park superintendent and has received permission for M-DTS to include the park trails on the next edition of M-DT maps. The park is surveying trails using GPS and the information will be provided to us on a CD. The park is considering placing a pontoon bridge above the dam which would provide a route for hikers and riders around the dam.
- Jim Hooper has weed whacked his section between Fishing Creek and Greenbranch and removed some blow downs.
- At today's work party in Apollo Park, the work crew made great progress in improving the very rocky sections of the trail. One more work party there should finish the project.
- Ron Gray reported that the climb to Urey Overlook still needs work. The railings at Urey Overlook have been repaired.
- Ron Gray and Richard Winemiller have cleared blow downs on the M-DT, and on the bypass route for eagle nesting season, between Oakland Run and Holtwood Dam. Ron has received permission from the Game Commission to take down their "Trail Closed" signs on the M-DT on August 1, after the eagles have fledged.
- Charles Albin has volunteered to maintain a section between Sawmill Run and Lock 12. He will let Ron know which section he will look after.

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

- Duane Hyson will maintain the M-DT along the upper section of Muddy Creek. Paul Szatmary maintains the lower section.
- A Pennsylvania hiking group reported a "good experience" at Peach Bottom. The group had called ahead as is now required to hike in that area and they all carried photo ID. They were stopped by the National Guard and had to show their ID. "But after all was clear the guards were real friendly, we took their picture, and we got the sermon on ticks, snakes, safety, and the phone number in the guard house in the event of an emergency on the trail"

Eastern Section -Perryville to Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford Coordinators: Cecil Co. - Tony Belfiglio
Chester & Newcastle Co. - Yvonne Blades

- Chuck Baker of the Chester County Trail Club has reported numerous problems on the M-DT between Perryville and North East in Cecil County, Maryland - overgrowth, lack of blazes, fence across the trail, new developments. New member, John Sharp has expressed concerns about access to the trail near Grays Hill in the Elkton area. Yvonne Blades said she will get together with Tony Belfiglio to look at the problem areas and will also check with the Cecil County Planning Office about new developments impacting the trail. Yvonne believes the 3-mile section of trail along the active railway line with a trestle between Perryville and Belvedere Road is best left with limited blazing and obscure access to discourage casual hikers.
- Ed Yalisove has resigned as the M-DT maintainer between Old Elk Neck Road near Elkton, MD and Iron Hill Park south of Newark, DE. We thank him for his efforts over the years.

Other Business

Trail Relocations Insert - Yvonne Blades has prepared an updated trail relocations insert for the present M-DT map sets. A copy will be included with the next M-DTS Newsletter.

New M-DT Maps - Yvonne still needs accurate trail delineation, preferably GPS data, for Gifford Pinchot State Park, the M-DT route from Greenbranch down to Lock 12, on Peavine Island, along Muddy Creek at Gaging Station Bridge to Burk Rd, and the off road section near Elkton.

Next Meeting - November 10, 2002. Meet at 9:00 am at Apollo Park for the work party. The members' meeting will be held at 2:00 pm at the York Hiking Club cabin near Otter Creek

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From the Archives

Note: The following article is reprinted from Keystone Trails Association Newsletter, Winter 1986

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM DEDICATION

Ten years is a long time to wait for an idea to come to fruition. Most of us lack the patience to persevere over such an extended period. Fortunately the Mason-Dixon Trail System (M-DTS) is blessed with people who have dogged determination in abundance, and their commitment paid off on October 27, 1985 when the M-DTS was formally dedicated.

This major new hiking trail, over 200 miles in length, was first conceived ten years ago when hiker Bob Yost was recovering from a heart attack. With plenty of free time for thought and reflection, Bob used it not to brood on his infirmity, but rather to plan ahead for his return to hiking. It occurred to him during this period that it might well be possible to link the Horse-Shoe Trail (H-ST) with the Appalachian Trail (AT) by a southern route. (The western end of the H-ST already joined the AT in St. Anthony's Wilderness.)

Bob's idea was to develop a trail that would depart from the H-ST near its eastern end, proceed south into Delaware, bear southwest into Maryland, cross the Susquehanna River at Route 40, and head north back into Pennsylvania along the west side of the River, eventually joining the AT at Whiskey Spring. Yost began discussing his plan with fellow hikers, and eventually as his contagious enthusiasm spread, the Mason-Dixon Trail System was incorporated and set about all of the tedious work that a project such as this involves.

Permission had to be negotiated with several landowners (including the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pennsylvania Power and Light Co., Glatfelter Pulpwood Co., and the Maryland Park Service), an abandoned railroad bridge in Maryland had to be refurbished, members and workers had to be recruited, and (not least) money had to be raised.

Eventually it was all accomplished and on a Sunday afternoon in October some 100 people drank a toast in local wine to the ribbon cutting that marked the official opening of the Mason-Dixon Trail System.

Over the years many people have played key roles in this monumental project. Among them (in addition to Bob Yost) are Dick Tobias, Pat Boyle, Ron Gray, and Turner Darden. John Mott of Downingtown, who was the most recent treasurer of the M-DTS, died two weeks before the dedication. Special note was made of his services.

2002 FINANCIAL PICTURE OF M-DTS ACTIVITY

OPENING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 1/1/02

\$2853.71

INCOME

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Dues/Donations (126 "old"; 33 "new") | \$2282.00 |
| Maps/Guides (~42 sold) | \$462.00 |
| Patches | \$43.00 |
| Interest | \$10.94 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$2797.94 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Administration | |
| 1/25/02 (200 stamped envelopes) | \$84.00 |
| 1/30/02 (newsletter) | \$55.75 |
| 1/22/02 (Bleecker—stamps & phone) | \$38.20 |
| 3/13/02 (Blades—stamps, paint, phone) | \$24.95 |
| 4/6/02 (Blades—brushes, copying) | \$24.25 |
| 5/25/02 (newsletter) | \$153.29 |
| 6/16/02 (copy & mail mbrs list) | \$6.00 |
| 8/5/02 (newsletter) | \$146.98 |
| 8/20/02 (cabin rental) | \$5.00 |
| 10/2/02 (newsletter & postage) | \$296.44 |
| Sub-Total | \$834.86 |
| Trail Maintenance | |
| 6/16/02 (Gray—digging bar) | \$42.34 |
| 8/20/02 (Gray—lamination) | \$9.54 |
| 11/30/02 (6 power grip loppers) | \$46.46 |
| Sub-Total | \$98.34 |
| Donations/Dues | |
| KTA Dues | \$25.00 |
| Central PA Conservancy | \$25.00 |
| Sub-Total | \$50.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$983.20 |

ENDING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 12/31/02

\$4668.45

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| CD — 30-month @ 6.06%, due 2/12/03 | \$3026.19 |
| CD — 24-month @ 6.81%, due 6/22/04 | \$4207.55 |
| CD — 6-month @ 1.99%, due 4/26/03 | \$3302.48 |

TOTAL ASSETS OF M-DTS, INC. AS OF 12/31/02

\$15204.67