

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.



M-DTS NEWSLETTER July 2002

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Trail relocation at Conowingo; Restrictions at Peach Bottom
See page 2 for details

M-DTS WORK PARTY – 9:00 a.m., Sunday, August 18
M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING – 2:00 p.m., Sunday, August 18

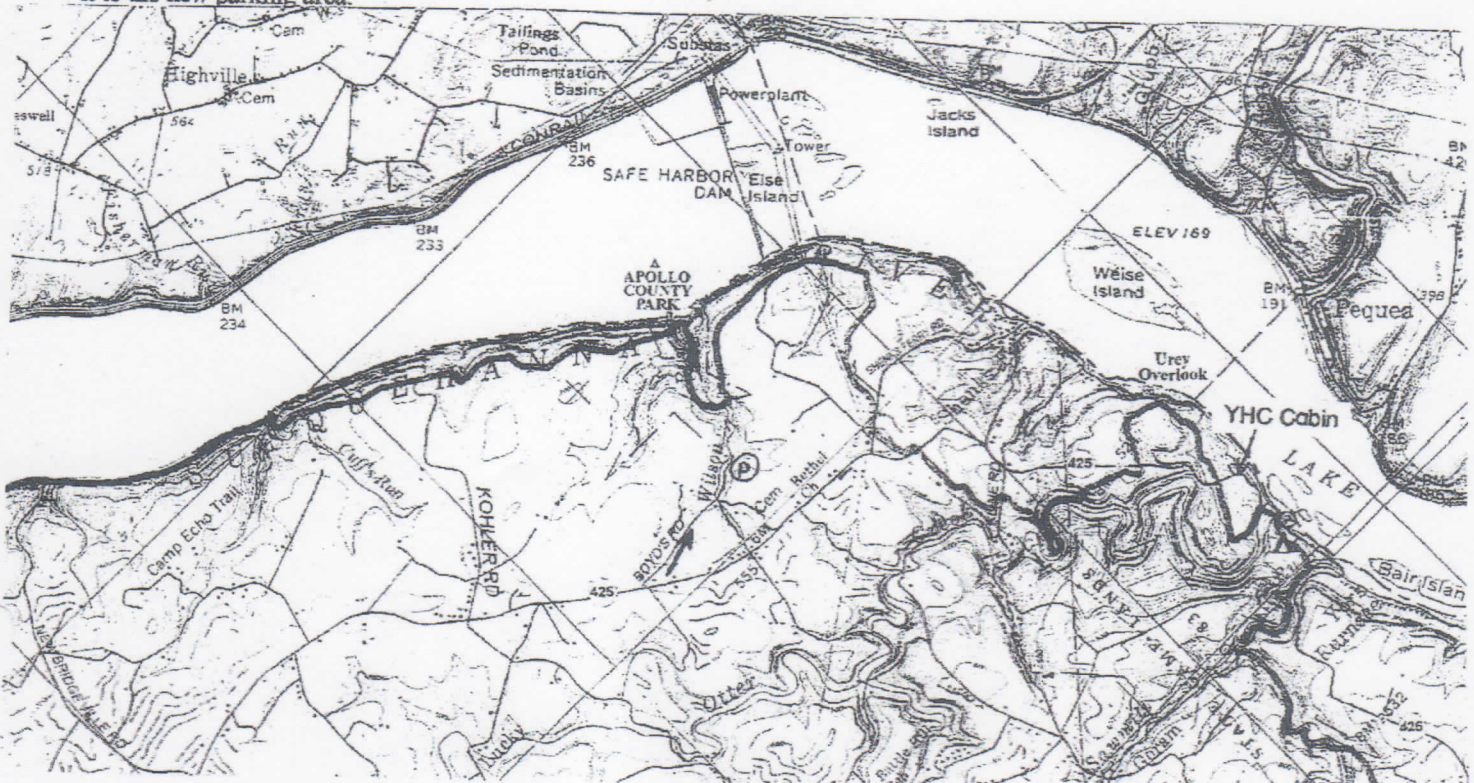
Work Party: Meet at the new parking area at Apollo Park.

There is much rock work to be done to improve the trail through Apollo Park. There also may be 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 a beverage.

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
[REDACTED]
Vice President Jim Denny
[REDACTED]
Secretary & Newsletter Editor Yvonne Blades
[REDACTED]
Treasurer Mary Blecker
[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 Blecker
[REDACTED]

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

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

TRAIL MAINTAINER(S) NEEDED

One or two volunteers are needed to maintain the M-DT through State Game Land 181 from Posey Road to Holtwood Dam in York County, PA. (Map 5: West to East, Mile 4.2 - 8.2). This section of trail descends along beautiful Oakland Run and then heads downstream by the Susquehanna River. A mile-long bypass in eagle nesting season also must be maintained.

Please contact Ron Gray 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 [REDACTED] 8-5 pm weekdays, at [REDACTED] 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 UPDATES AND ALERTS

M-DT relocation between River Road and Glen Cove, Harford Co. MD (Map 6: West to East, Mile 5.5 to 6.3) The relocation has now been completed and blazed. See page 4 for detailed description.

Vandalism has been reported to cars parked at Lock 12 near Holtwood Dam

M-DT route in Whitaker Woods, Cecil Co. MD: The route of the M-DT through this development has now been defined and will be marked by blue blazes where possible. Blazes may be on curbs.

Map 7: East to West

Mile 3.7 Cross paved Red Toad Rd; go through woods between two houses (small pond on right)

" 3.8 Exit small woods; turn left onto Whitaker Woods cul de sac; follow Forge Court

" 4.1 Turn left between two houses (#108 and #118) into woods

" 4.2 Turn right to follow underground cable right of way etc

Map 7: West to East

Mile 7.9 Turn left; go between two houses to enter Whitaker Woods Development

" 8.0 Turn right onto Forge Court; continue to cul de sac; go straight between houses to a small wooded area

" 8.3 Turn right into small woods; a small pond will be on your left

" 8.4 Cross Red Toad Rd and follow underground cable right of way

Those #!/?& Beaver at Elk Neck State Forest, MD: Follow detour route marked with blue ribbons around area flooded by beaver activity. (Map 8: West to East - Mile 5.9)

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 9, 2002 MEMBERS' MEETING

The meeting took place at Glen Cove following the work party. Those present were president Jim Hooper, secretary Yvonne Blades and Ron Gray, Neal Watson, Richard Winemiller, Tim Schmidt, Joyce Miller, Jerry Brown, Dave Linthicum and Frank Swartz. Ted Sanderson took part in the work party.

The minutes of the March 17, 2002 member's meeting were approved as circulated. (Gray, Schmidt).

Treasurer's Report

Mary Bleecker submitted the treasurer's report which covered the period from January 1 to June 8, 2002. The income was \$1979.00 from membership renewals and 16 new members; \$235.50 from sale of map/guides and \$3.99 interest for a total of \$2218.49. Expenses totaled \$380.44 which included \$38.20 for treasurer's expenses - mailings and phone, \$293.04 for printing and postage of the January and May newsletters, \$27.76 for secretary expenses - phone, mailing, photocopying and \$21.44 for trail maintenance supplies (paint and brushes). The balance in the checking account as of June 8, 2002 is \$4691.76.

The secretary reported that 22 names will be deleted from the M-DTS membership list for non-payment of 2002 dues. She will prepare an updated membership list and distribute it to members of the board. Membership now stands at about 190.

Trail Reports

Western Section - Western Terminus at Whiskey Springs to Lock 12

Coordinator: Ron Gray

- Ron Gray reports that blazes are needed on the relocation in Pinchot Park. Ron will ask the park manager for approval to include the park trails on the next edition of our M-DT maps.
- Ron reports that a large rock has become dislodged on the steep climb up from Fishing Creek. It is now in the middle of the trail and will be difficult to move because of potential danger to a house below the trail.
- Major rock work is needed on both sides of Cuff's Run and at Apollo Park.
- Work is required on the switchbacks on the trail to the Urey Overlook. Repair work on the fencing at the overlook has been partially completed.
- Posts for M-DT blazes have not yet been put in the Gladfelter tree farm area.
- A big blowdown along Mill Creek has been cleared by PP&L.

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

- Jim Hooper reported that his vehicle was vandalized while it was parked at Lock 12. The windows were smashed in. The police said there had been several car break-ins in the area.
- Police also reported problems at Muddy Creek with partying at night, drugs and a knifing. Mr Wylie, an nearby landowner, wants "No Parking" signs put up at the bridge. Jim Hooper suggested the signs say: "No parking after dark".
- The relocation between River Road and Glen Cove was completed at today's work party. The route is blazed.
- Yvonne Blades has blazed the relocation that was necessary at Conowingo to avoid the restricted area by the dam. Permission was given for the trail to pass through the former Conowingo Village which housed workers building Conowingo Dam. All the houses in the village except one large one have been demolished, the roads torn up and the whole area landscaped. This route provides a safer crossing at Route 1 with better visibility of approaching traffic. From Conowingo Village, the relocation southbound then follows roads for 1 mile to reach Fishermans Park by the Susquehanna River and connect with the existing trail. The relocation is about 0.7 miles longer than the former route.

Eastern Section - Perryville to Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford Coordinators: Cecil Co. - Tony Belfiglio

Chester & Newcastle Co. - Yvonne Blades

- Tony Belfiglio met with James Lambdin, the developer of Whitaker Woods near North East, MD to delineate a route for the M-DT through a corner of the development. Lambdin does not want posts to be put in so blazes may have to be placed along curbs. Tony will blaze the route.

Other Business

New M-DT Maps: Yvonne Blades showed a sample map she had produced, with the help of Walter Steuber, of Susquehanna State Park. She used the existing M-DT "photoshop" topographical map file and had added the other trails in the park based on accurate maps provided by Dave Linthicum. The M-DT is shown with a solid red line, the other park trails as dotted red lines. The campground area was also indicated. The map is the same scale as our current maps. There was general agreement that this would be satisfactory for our next edition of the M-DT maps. It was recommended that the text include the mailing address of the parks.

Ron Gray will ask for permission to include Gifford Pinchot State Park trails and will obtain an accurate map. Yvonne will contact White Clay Creek State Park and Preserve.

Please report any changes or corrections to be made to the M-DT maps or text to Yvonne Blades. See page 2 for address or email.

Potential Relocation North of Broad Creek: Dave Linthicum reported that there is a trial in progress with cottage owners vs a land owner about access along Line Bridge Road. The outcome will affect our options for a trail relocation north of Broad Creek.

Next Meeting: August 18, 2002. Meet at Apollo Park at 9:00 am for 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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M-DT Trail Segment Protected

From the West Chester Daily News, Nov.11/01: "the Pennsbury Township Land Trust, an all volunteer organization, will receive \$519,320 (Chester Co. grant for open space projects) to leverage \$600,000 for its \$1.1 million project to acquire 56 acres in the eastern part of the township, for walking and hiking and resource protection. The land, which includes part of the Mason-Dixon Trail, abuts permanently protected land that borders the Brandywine Creek." (Editor's note: 2.2 miles at the eastern end of the M-DT pass through this land - the Haskell property. M-DTS past president, Rick Maerker, approached Mr Haskell, a former mayor of Wilmington, about 10 years ago and received permission to route the M-DT through his property).

"Nature's Trail"

A full page of the April 26th edition of the Havre de Grace, MD, local newspaper "The AEGIS" was devoted to an article and color pictures of the Mason-Dixon Trail. The title was "Nature's trail" The reporter, Linda Siemon had contacted Yvonne Blades for information about the trail. The largest picture is of a beautiful old beech tree in Susquehanna State Park with huge branches, one of which bends down to touch the ground. As a matter of fact, this tree is not on the route of the M-DT but is on one of the other park trails that we will be including in the next edition of our M-DT maps.

M-DT Relocation North of Glen Cove

Map 6: West to East

- 5.7 mi Turn left, downhill, along pipeline clearing, then right into the woods on an uphill trail
- 5.8 mi Stay to left at forks as you skirt Indian Lake Christian Camp
- 6.4 mi Follow shoreline past a ruin & campsite (410/836-3761 for camping permission). A house washed up on this point from upstream of the Broad Creek bridge during the July 1984 flood.
- 6.6 mi Cross Peddlers Run on a footbridge. Parking to the right, picnic area. Turn left to Glen Cove Marina (store with outdoor supplies, vending machines, snacks, restrooms, water)
- 6.7 mi Pass store and start up driveway etc

Map 6: East to West

- 13.6 mi Turn left on driveway and reach Glen Cove marina (store with outdoor supplies, vending machines, snacks, restrooms, water and picnic tables). Go right, crossing Peddlers Run (footbridge). To left, ample parking.
- 13.8 mi Pass a ruin, follow shoreline, past campsite (for camping permission, call 410/836-3761)
- 14.3 mi Stay to right at forks, skirting Indian Lake Christian Camp.
- 14.5 mi Turn left, uphill, on pipeline clearing, then right downhill, on dirt road (River Rd)
- 14.8 mi Large cliff on left, veer left, uphill, at junction
- 15.0 mi River Rd begins to follow power line etc



Relocation = dotted line