



## M-D-T-S NEWSLETTER

April, 1997

**M-D-T-S WORK PARTY -- 9:00 a.m., Sunday, June 15**  
**M-D-T-S MEMBERS' MEETING -- 2:00 p.m., Sunday, June 15**

**For both the work party and members' meeting, meet at the south end of the Gaging Station Bridge over Muddy Creek on Papermill Road. See map.**

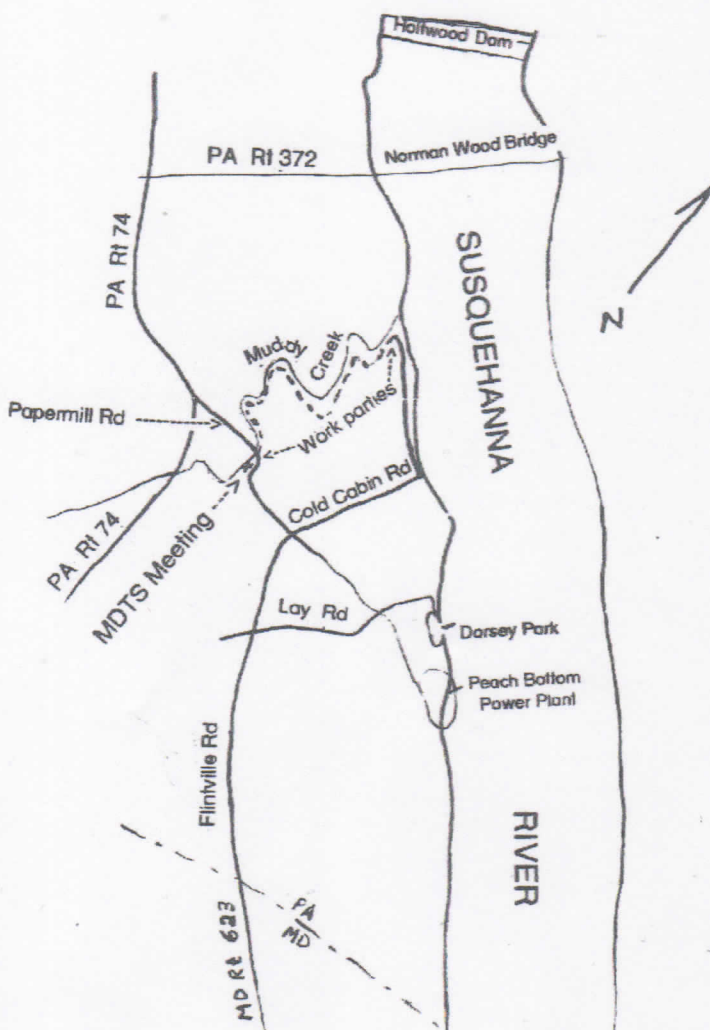
The work party will tackle projects on the Muddy Creek section of the Mason-Dixon Trail including: trail realignment off eroding stream bank, clearing blowdowns, cutting back encroaching growth and blaze touch-up. There is also need for reblazing on some nearby sections of the trail at Robinson Run and Peach Bottom near Atom Road.

For the work party, bring work gloves, lunch, water and the appropriate tools eg. chain saw, mattocks, loppers, small saws, pruning shears and paint set-ups.

### Directions

**From north:** come down PA Rt 74 - about 2 miles south of PA Rt 372, at a sharp bend to the right, leave Rt 74 by going straight on Papermill Rd. Cross Muddy Creek. Park at south end of bridge.

**From south:** via PA Rt 74 heading north, turn right on Papermill Rd where Rt 74 turns sharply left about 1 mile after crossing Muddy Creek. Continue as above.  
From Rt 1 south of Conowingo Dam, turn right on MD 623, becomes Flintville Rd in PA. At intersection with Papermill Rd, turn left to reach Gaging Station Bridge on Muddy Creek.



### Paint-up for Spring

Calling all maintainers and trail volunteers. Some of the blazes on the Mason-Dixon Trail are rather tired looking, pale, washed out, flakey, grungy, and/or moss covered. Now is the time for us to get out and freshen up the blazes for spring.

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### Minutes of the March 2, 1997 M-DTS Members' Meeting

The meeting was held in the Susquehanna Museum in Havre de Grace. Those in attendance were: Michael Wright, Pat O'Dell, Tim Schmidt, John Wilds, Jim Hooper, Ron Gray, Turner Darden, Rick Maerker, Yvonne Blades, James Denny, Vivian and Warren Davies, Clair Piersol, Mary Bleecker and guests, Ruth Galantino and Susan Osborn. Present for the work hike but not the meeting were: Gerald Bulmash and George Hobbs.

The minutes of the November 14, 1996 meeting were approved as circulated.

### Financial Report

Rick Maerker presented a summary of the 1996 financial activity of Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. as well as a comparison with the yearly average of the last 10 years.

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1987-1996 (Average)</u>
<b>Income</b>		
Dues/Donations (122 renew, 19 new)	\$2165.08	\$1715.64
Sale of map/guides	432.00	372.48
Sale of patches	220.00	74.00
Interest	41.36	29.57
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$2858.44</b>	<b>\$2191.69</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Newsletter printing	224.88	338.87
Administration	352.55	306.12
Patches	372.00	118.04
Guidebooks/Maps	0.00	372.64
Trail Maintenance	249.92	199.85
Capital Expense	0.00	71.00
Donations	60.00	63.30
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1259.35</b>	<b>\$1469.82</b>

Opening balance in checking account as of 1/1/96	\$1101.03
Income minus expenses in 1996	+ 1599.09
Transfer to CD 11/18/96	- 2000.00
Ending balance in checking account as of 12/31/96	\$ 700.12
CD -- 30-month @ 5.73%, due 2/12/98	2263.24
CD -- 4-month @ 5.1%, due 3/8/97	773.37
CD -- 1-month @ 4.51%, due 1/17/97	5961.98
Total assets of M-DTS, Inc. as of 12/31/96	\$9698.71

### Trail Reports

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

- Ron Gray and Jim Hooper have checked several sections recently and cut blowdowns. They noted a general need for a refreshing of blazes along the trail.
- Ron has a possible new maintainer for the Accomac to Route 30 section
- Editor's note - The editor plus spouse hiked the challenging, 12-mile, Fishing Creek to Otter Creek section April 13th. The trail was in good shape and the wildflower display stunning.



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

- At last report, the electric fence on the **Clark property, north of Conowingo** (Map #6, Mile 10.8 - 11.2, West to East) no longer crossed the trail.
- At today's work party, a hard working crew cleared most of the 3/4 mile relocation for the M-DT at **Havre de Grace** (see separate account)

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

- Herb and Yvonne Blades have scouted and cleared a new trail in **Elk Neck State Forest** to replace 1.3 miles of road walking. The new, 1-mile route, winds through oak and pine woods, crosses several small streams and passes by two pine plantations. It is now marked with survey tape but will be blazed after spring thaw. Yvonne reports that horse use on soggy trails has caused considerable damage to the M-DT in the Forest.
- Turner Darden and Ed Yalisove have had to make yet another relocation in the section between **Delancy Road and Grays Hill** near Elkton. Permission previously granted for the trail through a development has now been withdrawn.
- The trail under the **Amtrak bridge, on Christina Creek**, has been eroded by the creek thus one has to wade through water or cross the high-speed Amtrak lines. A solution is needed for this problem.
- Warren Davies reported that the M-DT along **White Clay Creek in Delaware** will have to be relocated away from the eroding stream bank. Formal approval for the relocation by the appropriate state authorities is required.

**New Map/Guides**

The new map/guides will consist of 10 maps, 8.5 x 20 inches, with the map on one side and the trail guide on the reverse. Rick Maerker has prepared the text - the final print is small but readable. Yvonne Blades is working on the maps. The initial source maps will be scanned by the printer (Blyler of Lebanon) and provided on CD-ROM. Yvonne will create overlays showing the trail and other pertinent information. This output, on CD-ROM, will go back to Blyler for printing.

It was decided to print the maps on 4.5 Hopsyn, a waterproof, tear-proof material. The cost for printing 750 map/guides will be about \$7000. Each map set will be enclosed in a plastic bag, preferably with a hole at the top for easier display by retailers. The map set will include a blue folder, as at present, with an index to the maps and the disclaimer.

**Other Business**

- Dick Tobias, the editor of *Pennsylvania Hiking Trails*, has asked for an update of the Mason-Dixon Trail information for the next edition. We will include the treasurer's address but no phone number. The price of the new M-DT map/guide has not yet been determined so can not be included.
- Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. was the beneficiary of an event held by Shanks Mare, a store specializing in hiking equipment and clothing, to celebrate the opening of their store at a new location in Long Level. The event, a "Moonlight Snowshoe Hike" was held in January. Over one hundred people signed up. A check for \$425 was presented to Ron Gray for M-DTS. The secretary has sent a letter of thanks to [REDACTED], the owners of Shanks Mare. Ron Gray pointed out that the M-DT goes by the front door of the new store and the owners are planning to sell ice cream!
- **Election of Officers:** The term of office for the present officers of M-DTS expires December 31, 1997. A nominating committee was appointed consisting of Turner Darden, chair, Michael Wright and James Denny to present a slate of candidates at the next meeting for election for the 3-year period January 1, 1998 to December 31, 2000.

**Next Meeting**

**June 15, 1997 - at Muddy Creek.** The work party will meet at 9:00 am to work on the M-DT along Muddy Creek. The members' meeting will follow at 2:00 pm.



### Working on the Railroad at Havre de Grace

A very successful workparty was held on March 2, 1997. This was a joint project of M-DTS and the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway. The object was to clear about 3/4 miles of abandoned railroad bed for a relocation of the M-DT and a route for the Greenway north of Havre de Grace. The railroad bed was heavily overgrown with briars, brush, small trees, vines etc. and many blowdowns obstructed the way. A hard-working crew of 28 tackled the job including: 12 M-DTS members, 4 Greenway volunteers and a team of 12 young people from AmeriCorps.

It was a warm, muggy day with threatening rain. The chorus of frogs was almost deafening. A beaver temporarily vacated his lodge as we worked nearby. We clipped and sawed and hacked and pulled and finally cleared a path through the "jungle". And then we were treated to hotdogs, sodas and cookies courtesy of Joe Kirchendorfer, a council member from Havre de Grace.

The members' meeting was held in the Susquehanna Museum, a former lock house on the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal. [REDACTED] curator of the Museum, gave us a tour and demonstrated the pivot bridge at the restored lock nearby.

### M-DT President Hits the Trail Again

Our intrepid president, Rick Maerker, is on the trail again. This time, it is the Appalachian Trail. Rick and [REDACTED] of the West Chester Trail Club are through-hiking the AT. They began at Springer Mountain in Georgia on March 29th. Reports indicate they are doing very well and expect to reach Damascus, Virginia on April 30th. Target date for completion of the entire AT is the middle of August. Happy Trails - Rick and Sam!

### New Members

We welcome the following new members who have joined M-DTS since January 1997:

Howard Bernd  
[REDACTED]

Lona Hockenberry  
[REDACTED]

Steve Tillery  
[REDACTED]

Jerry Brown  
[REDACTED]

Michelle Sullivan  
[REDACTED]

Dr Vern & Alice Vernier  
[REDACTED]

Jeff Caldwell  
[REDACTED]

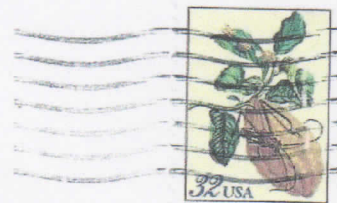
Joseph A. Thompson, Jr.  
[REDACTED]

Tammy Wefzel  
[REDACTED]

James & Sharon Denny  
[REDACTED]

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.

Yvonne Blades  
[REDACTED]



R. Ronald Gray  
[REDACTED]

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