



M-DTS NEWSLETTER

April, 1994

M-DTS MEMBER'S MEETING & WORK PARTY - 9:00 am, Sunday, May 8

The member's meeting will take place first at 9:00 am at Dorsey Park (PA Fish Commission Boat Launch at end of Lay Road--see map)

Trail work on the Muddy Creek section of the M-DTS will follow at about 10:30 am.

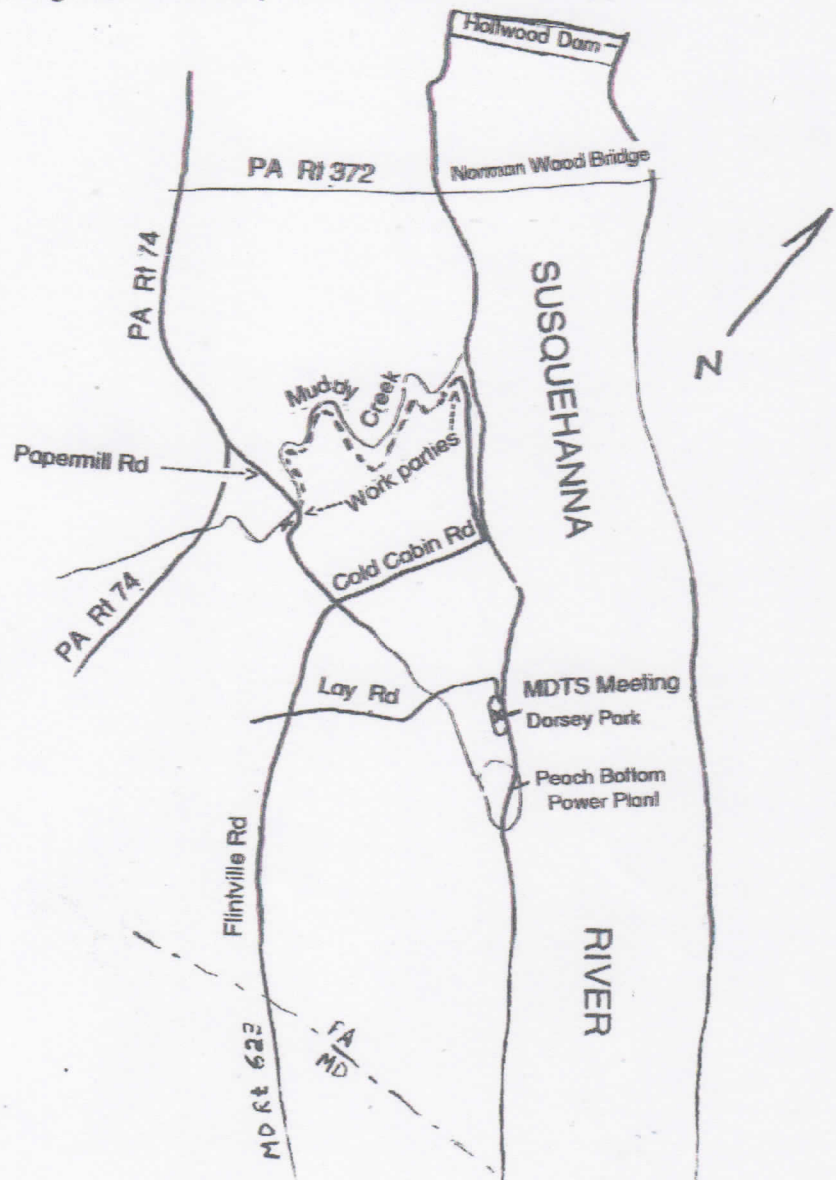
Bring a trail lunch, work gloves and the appropriate tools. There are two possible projects:

- 1) Establishing a hillside trail using maddocks on the steep ascent from river level near the mouth of Muddy Creek - this is heavy duty work! Ron Gray will supply the maddocks. This group will work from Cold Cabin.
- 2) Clearing blowdowns and cutting back growth on the western end of this section working from Gaging Station bridge. Chain saws and strong backs needed plus those able to wield clippers and loppers.

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. Stay on Papermill Rd for 3 or 4 miles until turning left at intersection with Lay Rd. Follow Lay Rd to the river and the Fish Commission Boat Launch parking lot.

From south: take Rt 1 about 1 mile south of Conowingo Power Plant and turn right (north) on MD Rt 623. Stay on Rt 623 across Broad Creek and cross into PA after about 7 miles. Continue about 3 more miles into PA on the continuation of Rt 623 (Flintville Rd) until stop sign at intersection at Lay Road. Turn right (east) on Lay Rd and go 2 miles to the river and the Fish Commission Boat Launch parking lot.



\$ 1994 M-DTS MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE \$

A red mark on your address label indicates that according to our records you have not yet submitted your 1994 M-DTS membership dues. A membership dues form is included in this newsletter. We hope you will continue to support the Mason-Dixon Trail System.

M-DTS Directory

The new M-DTS directory is included in this mailing. The directory includes all members as of December 31, 1993. Those who have joined M-DTS since January 1, 1994 are listed in the New Member section on page 4 of this newsletter.

Scout Project Yields Four New Footbridges

Bob Bennett submitted this report:

The revised route of the Mason-Dixon Trail through Newark, Delaware took a major step forward last summer with the construction of four footbridges across feeder streams into the Christina Creek in the section from Barksdale Road to Church Road. Last spring, eagle scout candidate, Michael Garner, sought me out at the suggestion of Newark parks Director, Jim Hall, for a possible project. Mike, his father, and I surveyed the trail section, identifying where footbridges would prevent erosion and facilitate hiking. We then toured an area of the White Clay Creek Preserve where bridges of a comparable nature were already in place. From there, Mike drew up plans, submitted his proposal for approval, obtained contributions from Shinn's Lumber Company of supplies, and over several days of skilled, hard labor put in place three modest size footbridges and a fourth, handrailed bridge of considerably more complexity. Lending an occasional hand, while the scouts under Mike's direction took charge, I watched with admiration as materials were gathered at the site, measurements taken, holes dug, adjustments made, and a sturdy, handsome structure was put in place.

Since the bridges have been built, numerous heavy rains resulting in frequent flooding of the Christina downstream have tested the engineering and durability of the bridges. Firmly anchored, they stand today as they did the first day they were built, inviting hikers from Newark and beyond to enjoy this pleasant foot route through a natural area closely abutted by attractive suburban housing. The Mason-Dixon Trail System members at the February 6th meeting applauded Michael's contribution and voted him an honorary member, with maps and badge, for the coming year.

Minutes of the February 6, 1994 M-DTS Members Meeting

The meeting was held at the Conowingo Visitor Center on one of the few pleasant days amidst the winter storms. Those in attendance were: Rick Maerker, Ron Gray, Jim Hooper, Warren and Vivian Davies, Robert Bennett, John Thigpen, Mary Bleecker, John Wilds, Clair Piersol, Turner Darden, Carleton J. Pierce, Theo Lupien III, Wayne Pierce, Eugene Hamilton, Yvonne Blades and visitor Alison Willets of the Chester County Parks and Recreation Department.

The minutes of the October 31, 1993 members meeting were approved as circulated.

Rick Maerker provided a summary of the 1993 financial activity of M-DTS. The total assets of M-DTS, Inc. as of 12/31/93 are \$4930.19 of which \$2677.49 is in CDs. The income in 1993 from dues, donations, sale of map/guides and interest earned was \$2895.81. The expenses for newsletters, administration, trail maintenance and contributions were \$745.25. Expenses anticipated early in 1994 include tools and materials needed for the construction of the bridge over Sawmill Run.

Trail Reports

Eastern Section - Bob Bennett and John Wristen have cleared the route for the M-DT relocation along Christina Creek through Christianstead and West Branch to Wedgewood Rd. They will be meeting with Susan LaPorte of the Division of Parks and Recreation, Delaware, regarding a possible public right-of-way along Wedgewood Rd. Bob met with Nick McFadden, park manager of Carpenter State Park, to work out the route of the M-DT through the park. McFadden will provide 18 carsonite posts for M-DT blazes in the park.

- Four footbridges were built for the M-DT along the Christina by eagle scout candidate Mike Garner. A one year honorary M-DTS membership along with maps and patch were approved for Mike.
- Turner Darden and John Wilds report that there is now a break in the trail south of the Iron Hill Museum. Work on a new development has obliterated the trail and the area is impassable due to mud. When the developer has roads in, Turner and John will look for a possible route.
- Yvonne Blades received a letter from the Maryland Forest Service regarding the M-DT blue blazes which are apparently being confused by hunters with the blue "NO TRESPASSING" boundary markers that landowners may use to mark their property boundary. The letter stated that our blue blazes in Elk Neck State Forest must be removed by May 1, 1994! Green blazes were suggested as a replacement. Yvonne contacted Cliff England, the ranger at Elk Neck State Forest, about the possibility of a two color blaze retaining blue as one of the colors. She was notified on Jan. 26/94 that the Forest Service will accept a two color blaze, 2" x 6", half blue and half white. Signs designating 'Mason-Dixon Trail' would be helpful to identify the trail especially at road crossings.
- The two log bridges on the M-DT in Elk Neck Forest have been rebuilt by Herb Blades.
- Rick Maerker hiked the M-DT from Perryville to Haminski Rd and reports that there is a missing turn blaze onto the buried cable right-of-way but otherwise all the blazing is good.

Central Section - Yvonne Blades reported that Rick Smith, the new manager of Rocks/Susquehanna State parks, says work on the first stage of the Susquehanna Greenway - Conowingo to Stafford Road - will begin in April. The greenway will follow the route of the old railroad bed south from Conowingo and, for the present, will curve over to Flint forge and the Stafford Road bridge rather than continue to the Deer Creek trestle. The M-DT can continue to use the riverside trail and trestle.

- Ron Gray hiked the section north of Broad Creek and reports that a blaze is needed "on top" near Peach Bottom and major work is needed on Muddy Creek.
- Kay Way and Yvonne Blades checked out the new PECO Lock 15 Interpretive Trail adjacent to the PA Fish Commission Boat Launch area off River Rd. It is an attractive area; we need to reroute the M-DT through it.

Western Section - Ron Gray reports that the trail is OK to Sawmill Run.

- Jane Sutter, a new member, will join Mary Lou Stein as maintainer for the Otter Creek campground to Posey Rd section.
- The permit for the Sawmill Run bridge has been approved. PP&L will provide 6 foot lengths of utility poles for the bridge piers. Ron will get treated wood at cost. Gravel fill will be needed. The pier work will be done by a small work party organized by Ron.
- PP&L would like a new trail built along Otter Creek
- The Cuff's Run Pumped Storage Project is in limbo at present.
- Jim Hooper reports that Green Branch creek changed course and washed out our trail leaving a cliff. This will be a major job to fix and represents another break in the M-DT.
- "Stop" signs on the road below the Accomac Inn indicate there may be an access problem and a potential 4-mile blockage in the trail.
- Ron Gray has hiked a nice, potential relocation of the M-DT through the SGL 242 that would eliminate 4 miles of road walking.
- Ron Gray has an eagle scout candidate looking for a project.

Nominating Committee

Ron Gray, Turner Darden and John Wilds were appointed to act as a nominating committee and prepare a slate of candidates for the next meeting.

Trail Markers

Trail markers or signs are needed to identify the Mason-Dixon Trail especially at road crossings. Rick wants the signs to have white letters on blue background with Mason-Dixon Trail in full. Some quotes for trail markers

obtained by Rick and Yvonne were:

- acrylic, 1/4 inch thick, blue letters on white \$3.14 each
- "phylon", fiberglass impregnated acrylic, 6/100 inch thick, 3" diameter with hole, blue - \$2.50 each
- baked enamel on aluminum, 3" x 3" with a hole, 3 blue letters on white \$2.65 each

All of these were considered too expensive. Another suggestion was stick-on type signs to be placed on carsonite posts or on short lengths of carsonite or aluminum nailed to trees. Ron Gray and Jon Thigpen will look into the costs.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held May 8, 1994 at 9:00 am at Dorsey Park. The meeting will be followed by work parties on the Muddy Creek section of the Mason-Dixon Trail.

Susquehanna Spring Wildflower Hike and Litter Clean-up

Yvonne Blades [REDACTED] will lead a 3-mile wildflower hike and litter clean-up on a stretch of the M-DT along the Susquehanna River in Susquehanna State Park, Harford County, MD, on Sunday April 17, 1994. This area is noted for its spectacular springtime display of bluebells and trilliums. The M-DT follows close to the river edge and is a popular spot for fisherman and thus becomes littered with cans, bottles, food containers and tangled fishing line. Most of the litter is on a 1-mile section of trail and river edge near the mouth of Deer Creek. **Meet at the far end of Deer Creek picnic area parking lot off Stafford Rd in Susquehanna State Park at 10 am, Sunday, April 17. Bring lunch, water and work gloves. Trash bags will be provided.**

Following lunch, for those interested, we will hike another 3-mile loop (litter-free this time) in this scenic park.

New Members

We welcome the following new members who have joined since January 1994:

Robert Beck

[REDACTED]

Clinton R. Boyd

[REDACTED]

Mike Garner

[REDACTED]

Eugene Hockensmith

[REDACTED]

Theo & Karen Lupien III

[REDACTED]

H. Scott Luxon

[REDACTED]

Gerald & Beth Meyers

[REDACTED]

Patricia A. O'Dell

[REDACTED]

Carlton J. Pierce

[REDACTED]