



M-DTS NEWSLETTER August 1995

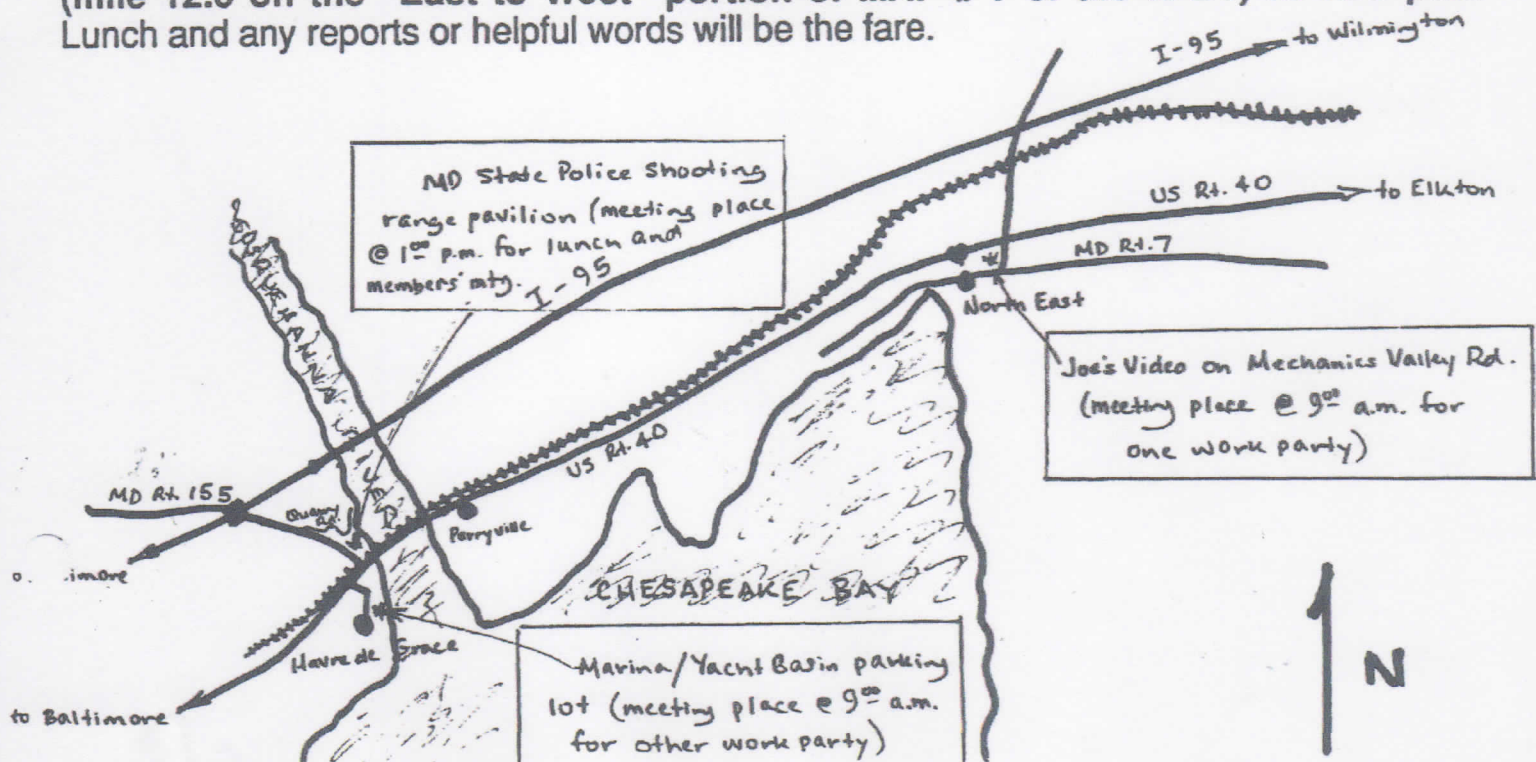
M-DTS WORK PARTY — 9:00 a.m., Sunday, September 17
M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING (& lunch) — 1:00 p.m., Sunday, September 17

There will be two work parties working simultaneously and you are welcome to join either one.

- One party will meet at Joe's Video on Mechanics Valley Road in Northeast, MD (mile 0.0 on the "East to West" portion of MAP # 7), and will clear brush for a 1-mile stretch between Rolling Mill Road and the buried telephone cable right-of-way. Weed whackers, brush cutters, swing sticks, pruning shears, loppers, paint for blaze freshening, and work gloves are in order.

- The other party will meet at the parking lot near the marina/yacht basin in Havre de Grace (mile 11.1 on the "East to West" portion of MAP # 7) to do brush clearing and blow down clearing for a 1-mile stretch along the river up to Quarry Road. Chain saws, weed whackers, brush cutters, swing sticks, pruning shears, loppers, paint for blaze freshening, and work gloves are in order.

The members' meeting will convene in the pavilion at the Maryland State Police Shooting Range off of Quarry Road north of Havre de Grace (mile 12.8 on the "East to West" portion of MAP # 7 of the M-DT) at 1:00 p.m. Lunch and any reports or helpful words will be the fare.



Minutes of the July 9, 1995, M-DTS Members' Meeting

The meeting was held at the Nature Center of Pinchot State Park courtesy of Park Superintendent Larry Adams and was attended by the following: Rick Maerker, Ron Gray, Jim Hooper, Clair Piersol, Dan Shaffer, Ted Brower, Mary Bleecker, Jim Trautman, Turner Darden, Richard Winemiller, Pat O'Dell, Jim McCoy, Tim Schmidt, and Larry Adams.

The minutes of the April 23, 1995, M-DTS meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's report: Financial activity since April 23, 1995, was as follows:

Income		Expenses	
Membership renewals	\$320.00	Chain Saw	\$469.72
New memberships	45.50	Paint & supplies	7.99
Sale of map/guides	70.50	June newsletter, postage	<u>64.00</u>
Interest in checking acct	<u>6.31</u>	Total	\$541.71
Total	\$442.31		

Checking Account balance as of April 23, 1995 — \$1407.96

Checking Account balance as of July 7, 1995 — \$1308.56

Trail Reports

Western Section — Western Terminus to Mill Creek Coordinator: Ron Gray

- the nicely-routed western terminus sign at Whiskey Springs has disappeared; Louise Sis recommends temporarily mounting a small piece of carsonite post on a tree with an M-DT sticker until a nicer sign can be remade.
- Ron Gray and Jim Hooper will scout a relocation of the trail off roads through SGL 242; Louise Sis has volunteered to maintain the relocation with some help.
- with today's work, the trail through Pinchot State Park is in much better shape; a small relocation near the western end to reduce the road walking is pending and will be completed soon.
- along River Road between Wrightsville and Accomac a dirt section of the road has been gated and locked to prevent through traffic; however, pedestrian traffic is not impeded.
- Jim Hooper wants to make some improvements to the trail at Greenbranch even though Rick Maerker found the trail to be quite navigable in that area.
- the rocky stretch of trail between Cuff's Run and Greenbranch is supposedly being maintained by Boy Scouts and Troop Leader George Kain; Rick Maerker did not see any evidence of maintenance on his journey through that section, but the blazes were good enough to be followed and the trail was clear and obvious enough to be hiked.
- a clear-cut south of Apollo County Park by Gladfelter Paper Company has obliterated blazes for about a one-mile stretch; Ron Gray would like to put M-DT stickers on carsonite posts to mark the trail through the clear-cut; Rick Maerker will talk to Bob Bennett about getting about half a dozen carsonite posts from White Clay Preserve Superintendent Nick McFadden.
- the Holtwood Dam area has been freshly maintained by Marion and Jack Schultz.
- replacing some of the steps up from Mill Creek will probably be a late winter or early spring job that Ron Gray will put on his and the York Hiking Club's agenda.
- Pat O'Dell volunteered to take over maintaining the section of trail between Mill Creek and the Norman Wood Bridge since she's a lot closer to the area than is Mary Bleecker; as agreed before, that section will be considered part of the Central Section of the trail from a maintenance point of view.

Central Section — Mill Creek to Havre de Grace Coordinator: Kay Way

- read letter from Boy Scout Michael Kalpowsky (Troop 27) about his Eagle Scout Project in clearing the M-DT along Muddy Creek in conjunction with M-DTS maintainer Duane Hyson; the trail between Cold Cabin Road and the Gaging Station bridge (Papermill Road) is in good shape and freshly reblazed so "people won't get lost because of a lack of visible blazes."
- Ted Brower will soon be freshening the blazes between Broad Creek and the Peach Bottom Atomic Energy Plant.
- Rick Maerker pointed out the one-mile stretch of trail between Havre de Grace and Quarry Road that could use a work party to clear blow downs and cut back encroaching brush; it was noted that some homeless people are starting to frequent this area along the trail and the maintainers are understandably reluctant to rub elbows with the local color.

Eastern Section — Eastern Terminus to Perryville

Coordinator: Turner Darden

Rick Maerker singled out two areas that need some attention: a half-mile stretch from just below US Rt. 40 to the underground telephone cable right-of-way; a one-mile stretch along the Christina River through the developments of Christianstead and West Branch. The former will be the object of one of the work parties at the next meeting; the latter will be taken care of by Bob Bennett and Rick Maerker.

- Rick Maerker commented on the good use of the M-DT stickers through Carpenter State Park and the presence of the new wooden plaques announcing the M-DT on both sides of Carpenter State Park; also the new relocation through the woods paralleling Wedgewood Road is quite nice.

- more blazes are needed through the cow pasture off of Rt. 82, through Swift Memorial Park, and through the housing development just north of that park.

- Kay Way noted that there are very few blazes between DE Rt. 7 and Newark Road through the Somerset Lake development because further expansion has taken out trees and all the utility poles are underground. Warren Davies at one time proposed that we talk to the farmer (Mr. Wilkinson) in the area south of the development for a possible more rustic rerouting through the farm. There used to be a young couple living in the Somerset Lake development who joined M-DTS and were excited about doing publicity for M-DTS and rerouting the M-DT onto the development recreational trails. However, the couple has since moved and the developer's economic fervor has replaced the recreational trails with more houses. We're probably better off in pursuing Warren Davies' suggestion.

Other Business

- [REDACTED] Superintendent at Pinchot State Park, commended us for our help in maintaining the trail through the park. He also told us of plans to provide parking lots at either end of the park where the M-DT passes to facilitate use of the trail. Larry took some of our stickers and two wooden plaques to post at appropriate spots in the park.

- On National Trails Day, Saturday, June 3, the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway was officially dedicated. The Greenway coincides with about two miles of the M-DT.

- Turner Darden reported that he represented M-DTS on the Green in front of Legislative Hall in Dover, DE, on June 14 at a rally for the 21st Century Fund in support of the Open Space, Parks & Farmland Preservation Coalition. The environmental component of the fund hopes to provide \$40 million for farmland preservation, \$40 million for open space preservation, and \$15 million for a state parks endowment fund. M-DTS is listed as one of the Preservation Coalition supporters (no money).

- Turner also attended the dedication on Saturday, June 3, of Delaware Nature Society's Burrows Run Preserve into the State System of Nature Preserves. The Burrows Run Preserve is about a mile east of the M-DT in northern Delaware.

- [REDACTED] sent a note stating that on June 6 the General Assembly of Pennsylvania passed a "revised" hold-harmless act that defines specific recreational activities to be included in the liability protection. Trails and hiking are specifically spelled out. At that point Rick Maerker did some "blue skying" with some pipe dreams that he'd like to see legislated. The first would be to further beef up the hold-harmless act by specifically stating that all legal fees incurred by the defendant would be absorbed by the plaintiff (the purpose would be to eliminate frivolous lawsuits and to free "friendly" landowners from the fear of any costs associated with law suits from accidents on their private property). Rick also hatched the idea of offering a 10% real estate tax waiver for any private property owner who allows his land to be used free of charge for recreational purposes. The loss in tax revenue might be made up by individuals and hiking clubs who would be willing to pay a small fee for open space and recreational trails. Dream on, Rick, dream on.

Next Meeting

The next M-DTS meeting will be held at the MD State Police Shooting Range pavilion off of Quarry Road north of Havre de Grace (the M-DT goes within 100 yards of the pavilion) on Sunday, September 17, 1995, at 1:00 p.m. Work parties starting at 9:00 a.m. will meet on both sides of the Susquehanna (see the map on the front page). Your participation is most welcome at either or both the work party and the meeting. Don't forget to bring a lunch for yourself!

New Members

We welcome the following new members who have joined M-DTS since June, 1995:

Nelson H. Evans
[REDACTED]

Timothy L. Schmidt
[REDACTED]