



M-D-T-S NEWSLETTER March 1999

IN THIS ISSUE

- Temporary Trail Detour in Elkton Area (Map 8) Due to Bridge Construction - see page 4

M-D-T-S WORK PARTY - 9:00 a.m., Sunday, April 25 M-D-T-S MEMBERS' MEETING -- 2:00 p.m., Sunday, April 25

Work Party: Meet at parking lot on Paddrick Road, off Rte 623, just south of the Broad Creek Bridge. We will continue trail work in the Broad Creek area. Tools needed include mattocks, hand saws, loppers, pruners and paint set-ups. Bring work gloves, lunch and a beverage. (From Southeast PA & Delaware. Car pool at Perkins, Rt 41 near Rt 1 at 8:00 am)

Members Meeting: Will be held in the Reservation Headquarters building at Broad Creek Scout Reservation.

Directions: From South or East: From US Rt 1, at traffic light 1.7 mi southwest of Conowingo Dam, turn north on MD Rt 623 for 4.1 mi to just before Broad Creek bridge. Turn left onto Paddrick Rd and park on right for the work party. For the meeting, continue on 623 (across Broad Creek) for 1 mile. Turn left on Susquehanna Hall Rd (gravel) for 1.1 mi.; turn left at the scout sign into Broad Creek Scout reservation and park on the right at the headquarters building, our meeting site.

From York area: Go south on I-83. Get off at exit 1 (Shrewsbury) and go east on Rt 851 for about 3.5 mi to Stewartstown. Turn south on Rt 24 (becomes 23 in Md). About 5 miles south of Stewartstown, turn left on Rt 136. Follow Rt 136 for 15.5 miles. Turn left on Prospect Rd for 0.2 miles then right on Deep Run Road for 1.0 mi. Turn right on Susquehanna Hall Rd and after 0.7 mile, turn right into the Scout Reservation and park on the right for the meeting. For the work party, continue on Susquehanna Hall Rd 1.1 mile. Turn right on Md Rt 623, and just south of the Broad Creek bridge turn right onto Paddrick Rd and park on the right.



\$\$ 1999 M-DTS MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER \$\$

Your 1999 Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. membership dues are now due. The 1999 dues form is included with this mailing to those who have not yet renewed their membership for 1999. We hope you will continue to support M-DTS.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 31, 1999 M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING

The meeting was held at the Headquarters building at Broad Creek Scout Reservation following the work party. Members present were: president Jim Hooper, secretary Yvonne Blades, treasurer Mary Bleecker, and Tim Schmidt, Ron Gray, Pat O'Dell, Richard Winemiller, Jim McCoy, Rick Maerker, Dave Linthicum, Clair Piersol and Ken Trimble. We welcomed guests (and local residents) Donna and Rich Gerner and Linda Schatz and Rick Lind who also took part in the work party.

The minutes of the October 18, 1998 members' meeting were approved as circulated.

Financial Report

Rick Maerker presented a summary of the 1998 financial activity of Mason-Dixon Trail System Inc. as well as a comparison with the yearly average of the last 10 years.

	1998	1989-98 (Average)
Income		
Dues/Donations (130 renew, 23 new)	\$2953.50	\$2146.11
Sale of maps (~104 sold)	1117.00	461.83
Sale of patches	2.00	44.20
Interest	<u>42.22</u>	<u>39.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$4114.72	\$2691.13
Expenses		
Newsletter	\$442.02	\$355.44
Administration	675.20	382.71
Trail maintenance	179.82	223.93
Map/Guide	0.00	1064.19
Patches	0.00	70.20
Capital Expense	0.00	71.00
Donations/Dues	<u>210.00</u>	<u>70.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1507.04	\$2237.46

Opening balance in checking account as of 1/1/98	\$2461.31
Income minus expenses in 1998	<u>2607.68</u>
Ending balance in checking account as of 12/31/98	\$5068.99
CD -30-month @ 5.73%, due 8/12/00	2628.44
TOTAL ASSETS of M-DTS, Inc as of 12/31/98	\$7697.43

M-DTS Constitution

The proposed revision of the M-DTS Constitution was included with the January M-DTS Newsletter along with a ballot for members to vote on the revision. Mary Bleecker reported that 93 ballots were received within the 30 day time frame allowed and all voted in favor of the revision. The revised constitution is now in effect.

Trail Reports

Eastern Section - Coordinator: Rick Maerker

- There is a break in the M-DT because the bridge is out on Oldfield Point Road, across Little Elk Creek, south of Elkton, MD. Hikers will have to follow the detour route posted by the Highway Department.
- The Wilmington Trail Club held a work hike on the M-DT in Elk Neck State Forest on November 22. There were 24 participants. Four trees across the trail were cut by chain saw and the trail was cleaned up through to Rt 272. The logs in one of the small bridges need to be replaced (Mile 5.5, Map 8, W->E). There are some standing dead trees nearby that can be used. Herb Blades will do the job but will need help. A future alternative would be to relocate the trail to avoid the stream crossing. Herb and Yvonne scouted a nice route but approval will be needed.
- Rick Maerker is looking into a possible relocation of the M-DT to avoid the present crossing of Stony Run just west of North East, MD. There is new development going on in the area.

Central Section - Coordinator: Pat O'Dell

- Ron Gray and Jim Hooper cleared the blowdowns that had blocked the M-DT along Muddy Creek near the descent to Coal Cabin. They also "disabled" the dirt bikers bridge that had become unsafe. The bridge was across a dry gully. The bypass route in and out of the gully needs improvement.
- At today's work party, a 1/5th mile relocation was built to improve the ascent southbound from Broad Creek. It needs blazing. Further south, a section of the steep descent from Bald Hill was rebuilt and widened - blazing needed. There is another section still to be done.
- Also today, Jim Hooper, Dave Linthicum and Yvonne Blades scouted potential routes north from Broad Creek. A complication is that the road that served the cottage owners near the mouth of Broad Creek has been closed by a new land owner and is now under litigation. To avoid crossing this part of the road we would have to build the trail on very steep terrain. Potential routes north of Line Bridge Road also involve steep terrain.

Western Section - Coordinator: Ron Gray

- There is a blowdown to be cut above Holtwood.
- Ron Gray and Jim Hooper have cut blowdowns in Apollo Park and along Cuff's Run.
- Ron and Jim have looked at Round Top area as a potential site for a trail relocation.
- Ron reports that the plan to have the Messiah College Outing Club maintain a new section of the M-DT has fallen through due to the retirement of the staff member who agreed to coordinate it.
- Ken Trimble has made a new sign for the western terminus of the M-DT. Ken and Rick Maerker will install it as high as possible to help avoid vandalism.

Bald Hill Protection Meeting

Jim Hooper, Ron Gray, Dave Linthicum and Yvonne Blades represented M-DTS at a meeting to discuss the future of Bald Hill, a high point, 330 feet above the Susquehanna River, south of Broad Creek. The M-DT passes through the area. The meeting was arranged by Katherine Adams of Harford County Parks and Recreation and included representatives from MD Dept of Natural Resources, Heritage, and Wildlife Divisions, M-DTS, PECO Energy, Conowingo Dam, and local residents. There was good discussion and useful contacts were made.

Bald Hill is an unique area of serpentine barrens. However in recent years the area had become a dumping ground and was severely degraded. PECO, the land owners, have now cleaned up the site by removing 19 truck loads of trash and installing Jersey barriers at all access roads except the road needed by the cottage owners. The site has also been degraded by invasion of undesirable woody vegetation.

DNR will create a plan of action to preserve and protect this special area. We may be asked to help at work days to rejuvenate the site.

Other Business

Camping Sites on the MDT - Information about possible camping sites on or near the M-DT has been accumulated and will be included in the next Newsletter.

Publicity for M-DTS - The possibility of creating a M-DTS Web site was discussed. A web site would publicize and advertise M-DTS and provide information about work parties and meetings, however it was considered to be a low priority at this time.

More publicity for M-DTS is needed in the local areas where the trail passes through. It was suggested that M-DTS membership brochures be placed in the local libraries and at the Glen Cove Marina.

Side Trails - Jim Hooper emphasized that M-DTS is a Trail System. We should provide information about side trails to help users plan loop hikes. In future, our M-DT maps could include side trails.

Next Meeting - The work party will meet at 9:00 am at the Paddock Road parking area and continue work on improving and widening the southbound descent from Bald Hill. Reblazing is also needed. The members' meeting will be at 2:00 pm in the Broad Creek Scout Reservation headquarters.

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TEMPORARY DETOUR OF M-DT DUE TO BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION NEAR ELKTON, MD

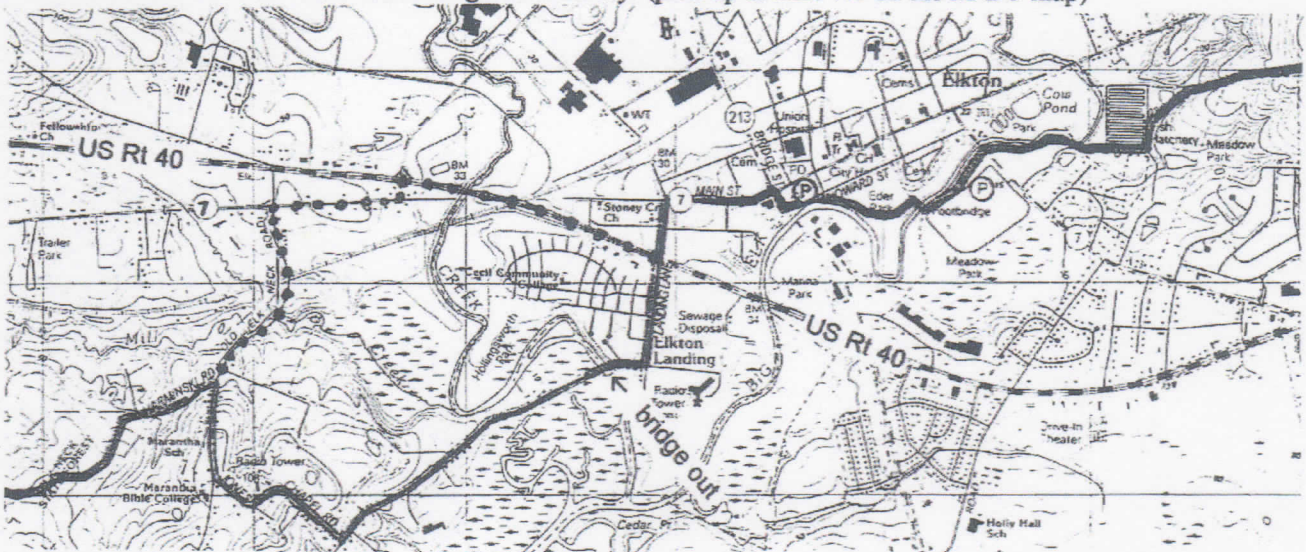
Another bridge building project in Maryland has caused a break in the M-DT. This time it is the bridge across Little Elk Creek on Oldfield Point Road in Cecil County. Expected completion date of the new bridge is December 1, 1999. The temporary M-DT relocation follows the detour posted for motorists which goes along busy Route 40. There is no sidewalk but there is a wide shoulder.

MAP 8, West to East, detour

- 8.2 mi Leave Elk Neck State Forest at gated roadway and continue on Huminski Road
- 8.4 mi Turn left onto Old Elk Neck Road
- 9.1 mi Turn right on MD Rt. 7 and follow it to the junction with US Rt. 40
- 9.6 mi Turn right and walk along the right shoulder of Rt. 40. Keep far to the right of this busy road. The shoulder becomes narrow where Rt. 40 crosses the Amtrak line.
- 10.5 mi Reach Landing Lane, turn left and cross US Rt. 40 at the traffic light. You have rejoined the M-DT which continues on Landing Lane to Main Street. (pick up at mile 11.0 on the M-DT map)

MAP 8, East to West, detour

- 5.0 mi Turn left on Landing Lane.
- 5.1 mi Cross US Rt. 40 at the traffic light, turn right and walk along the left shoulder of US Rt. 40 keeping well over to the edge of this busy road.
- 6.0 mi Turn left on MD Rt. 7 and follow it to the junction with Old Elk Neck Road.
- 6.5 mi Turn left on Old Elk Neck Road
- 7.2 mi Turn right on Huminski Rd.
- 7.4 mi Enter Elk Neck State Forest at gated roadway. (pick up at mile 7.8 on the M-DT map)



detour

CAMPING ON THE MASON-DIXON TRAIL

Although there may be some places where a backpacker could make a no trace, overnight bivouac, in general, camping on the M-DT is limited to areas where the trail traverses state parks or forests. Established campgrounds are in:

Gifford Pinchot State Park (York County, PA) - Campground open mid April to mid October. Reservations required. Phone 1-888-PA-PARKS. The M-DT passes close by the campground.

PP&L Otter Creek Campground (York County, PA) - 11001 Furnace Road, Airville PA 17302. Phone [REDACTED]. M-DT passes right through the campground.

Susquehanna State Park (Harford County, MD) - Mailing address: 3318 Rocks Chrome Hill Road, Jarrettsville MD 21084. Reservations required. Phone [REDACTED]. Closed in winter. Campground is about a mile from the trail.

Elk Neck State Forest (Cecil County, MD) - Primitive camping, no water. Camp only in designated camping areas. M-DT passes close to two camping areas which are shown on the M-DT maps and mentioned in the trail guide. Nominal fee - ranger will collect fee in evening. Now under jurisdiction of Elk Neck State Park [REDACTED]

Scout Groups may receive permission to camp at Broad Creek Memorial Scout Reservation (Harford County, MD). For information write: Camping Services
Baltimore Area Council
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Note:

- (1) There is no camping allowed in White Clay Creek State Park in Delaware nor in the White Clay Creek Preserve in Delaware and Pennsylvania.
- (2) Camping is not allowed in Pennsylvania State Game Lands.