



## M-DTS NEWSLETTER July, 2003

**DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL TO BOB YOST**  
**1:00 p.m. Sunday, August 17 at Iron Hill**

**M-DT WORK PARTY -- 9:00 a.m., Sunday, August 17**  
**M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING -- 2:00 p.m., Sunday, August 17**

*The Dedication and the Members' Meeting will take place in Iron Hill County Park near Newark, DE.*

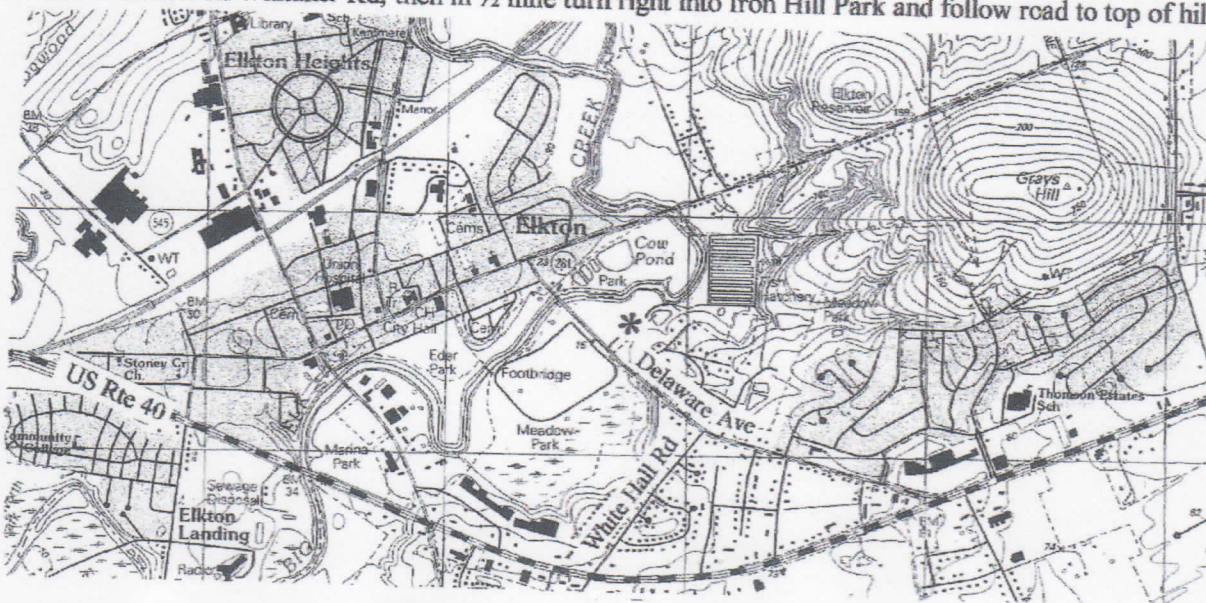
**Directions to Iron Hill:** From I-95, exit south on Rte 896 in Newark. At the first traffic lights, turn right on Old Baltimore Pike and in 1 mile turn right on Whitaker Rd. The entrance to Iron Hill Park will be on your right in about ½ mile. Follow paved park road to the parking lot at top of the hill. We have reserved the pavilion there.

**Work Party:** We will build a new off road section of trail in the Elkton area to replace a section lost due to new home development. Equipment needed: brush cutter, mattock, pruning saws, loppers, paint set-up, 4"x 4" post and equipment to put it in place. All workers should bring: work gloves, eye protection, lunch and water

**Directions to work party meeting place in Elkton:** From the west: Take Rte 1 across Conowingo dam, turn right at end of dam onto Rt. 222 toward Perryville, then east on I-95. Exit south on Rte 272. Turn left on Rte 40 and follow it about 7 miles. Turn left at traffic light at White Hall Rd, then veer left at Delaware Ave and continue toward large open park area by Big Elk Creek. Watch for gravel road on right, before the soccer field, leading through brick gateway to parking area. We will car pool to the work site from there.

**From the east:** From Rte 896 south of Newark, turn west onto Old Baltimore Pike and follow it 4.6 miles to Rte 7 (Delaware Ave) in Elkton. Turn left, cross Big Elk Creek and take first left after the creek onto gravel road leading through brick gateway to parking area.

**To reach MDTs meeting and dedication site after work party:** Turn right on Rte 7 (Delaware Ave). At T junction turn right on Main St. Follow this road (becomes Redhill Rd in MD, then Old Baltimore Pike in DE) for 3.6 miles. Turn left on Whitaker Rd, then in ½ mile turn right into Iron Hill Park and follow road to top of hill.



\* = work party meeting place



## MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM INC

President .....Jim Hooper

Vice President.....Jim Denny

Secretary & Newsletter Editor....Yvonne Blades

Treasurer.....Mary Blecker

Director - Pennsylvania .....Timothy Schmidt

Director - Maryland..... Anthony Belfiglio

Director - Delaware.....Robert Bennett

Trail Coordinators:

Western Section:.....Ron Gray

Central Section.....Pat Wolf

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

Thereafter, the annual fee is \$5.

Life membership is available for \$250.

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Visit the M-DTS web site at:

## Robert V. Yost 1927-1997 "Founder of the Mason-Dixon Trail"

On Sunday, August 17, we will dedicate a handsome, granite memorial to Bob Yost, the founder of the Mason-Dixon Trail. Back in the 1970s, while Bob was recovering from a heart attack, he had the idea of linking the Horse-Shoe Trail with the Appalachian Trail by a southern route. He discussed the idea with fellow hikers and his enthusiasm for the project spread. As president of the newly formed organization, he assigned sections of the route to various members and pushed the job to completion. In 1979 the Mason-Dixon Trail System was incorporated and in October 1985 the 200 mile Mason-Dixon Trail was officially opened.

Come, join us on August 17 while we honor his memory and celebrate his accomplishments with a "champagne" toast.

## TRAIL ALERTS

### M-DT BLOCKED NORTH OF APOLLO PARK

The M-DT is blocked between the rocky promontory, south of Cuff's Run, and Apollo County Park (Map 4: West to East - Mile 7.6 to 9.7) due to new land ownership. M-DTS is building a 2.5 mile relocation on a rocky slope below the old trail. The work will not be completed this year.

**M-DT at Stony Creek (Map 7: West to East: Mile 9.2)** There is a metal gate across the telephone cable right of way that M-DT follows through the area. It is on the west side of the creek and the ROW there has become overgrown with brambles. We suggest walking around the brambles and gate to cross the creek. *Note: This is a wet foot crossing on slippery rocks.*

**Trail flooded in Elk Neck State Forest:** High water levels plus beaver activity have necessitated a lengthy detour marked with blue ribbons (Map 8: West to East - Mile 5.9)

**Access to woods near Elkton (Map 8: East to West: Mile 2.1)** The route for the M-DT from Continental Dr into the woods has been cut off by new home development. A new route will be cleared and blazed from the pond on Melbourne Boulevard at the August 17 work party.

**M-DT near Cossart Rd. (Map 10: East to West: Mile 2.2)** The "makeshift bridge across small stream" has washed away. The stream is muddy, has a soft bottom and is deep. There is no alternate crossing at the present time.

### TRAIL MAINTAINER NEEDED

One or two volunteers are needed to maintain the M-DT from the east gate of Elk Neck State Forest in Cecil Co, MD to the top of Iron Hill in Delaware (Map 8: West to East: Mile 8.2 to 16.0; Map 9: West to East: Mile 0.0 to 3.5).

Please contact Yvonne Blades at [redacted] for more information or to volunteer.



### MINUTES OF THE JUNE 15, 2003 MEMBER'S MEETING

The meeting took place at the York Hiking Club Cabin at Otter Creek following the work party at Apollo Park. Those present at the meeting were: president Jim Hooper, secretary Yvonne Blades, treasurer Mary Bleecker and Ron Gray, Joyce Miller and Turner Darden. Jim Hooper, Joyce Miller, Ron Gray, Yvonne Blades, Charlie Ament and Ted Sanderson participated in the work party.

The minutes of the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as circulated (Gray, Darden).

#### Treasurer's Report

Mary Bleecker presented the treasurer's report covering the period from January 1 to June 15, 2003.

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Membership dues	\$1723.00	Trail Maintenance	\$124.02
- new & renewals		- 6 loppers, paint	
Sale of Map/guides	169.50	Purchase of M-DT patches	370.00
Sale of patches	2.00	Newsletter costs (Feb & Apr)	221.45
Interest	5.28	Mailing re postponed meeting	97.50
	\$1899.78	Treasurer's 2002 expenses	103.35
		US Postal service	51.40
		LSHG membership	25.00
		Deposit for Yost monument	500.00
			\$1492.72
Balance in checking acct 1/1/03	\$4650.45		
Income minus expenses 1/1-6/15/03	407.06		
Balance in checking acct 6/15/03	\$5057.51		

The secretary reported that 25 names will be deleted from the M-DTS membership list for non-payment of 2003 dues. An updated membership list will be prepared and distributed to members of the M-DTS board. Membership now stands at 185 which includes 17 new members so far in 2003.

#### Trail Reports

##### Western Section - Western Terminus at Whiskey Springs to Lock 12

Coordinator: Ron Gray

- Jim Hooper reports that his "Devil's Hole" relocation near Long Level is 50% completed.
- Today's small work party (6 people) completed 300 more feet of new trail construction through rocky ground on the relocation north of Apollo Park. There is 2 miles still to be done to finish the relocation.

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

- Pat Wolf and Neil Watson have done trail maintenance work on the M-DT through Peavine Island.
- Dave Linthicum has submitted the following report: "After giving permission for a new M-DT route through their woods above the Conowingo Reservoir just last year, the Indian Lake Christian Service Camp (Map 6, immediately north of Glen Cove marina/footbridge) has recently made nice improvements of their own. A couple of nice benches, a quarter mile of wood chips on the surface, and steps are just some of the improvements."

##### Eastern Section - Perryville to Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford Coordinators: Cecil Co. - Tony Belfiglio Chester & New Castle Co. - Yvonne Blades

- Some residents in the Whitaker Woods development near North East are concerned about ATV use on the cable right of way that the M-DT follows at the south edge of the development. M-DTS have put up signs saying "foot traffic only". The home owners association, if there is one, should decide on the policy re: ATVs and try to enforce it.

- Herb and Yvonne Blades have worked on the "beaver relocation" in Elk Neck State Forest. Herb cut logs and wired them together to make steps down the steep three-foot bank to the creek and channeled the stream to make it easier to step over. The ½ mile relocation has been flagged with blue ribbon
- The Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation have produced a new trail map of White Clay Creek State Park and Preserve which includes the 5 miles of the Mason-Dixon Trail that passes through the area. The map also includes trails in the Judge Morris Estate and Middle Run Natural Area. The maps are available at the park office on Thompson Station Rd.

### **Old Business**

**Yost Monument** - Turner Darden reported that the monument is being crafted in Vermont and will be shipped in early July. The concrete pad for the monument is already in place at Iron Hill County Park in Delaware. A deposit covering half of the cost has been paid to the monument maker. The remainder will be paid on delivery. The dedication will take place at our next meeting (August 17). Turner will reserve the pavilion at the top of Iron Hill for the event.

**Greenway Meeting** - Jim Hooper attended the Susquehanna Greenway "Reach 6" advisory committee meeting which covers the section of the river from Harrisburg to the Maryland border. He reported that an architect has been hired to produce a concept design for a greenway along the river.

### **New Business**

**Conservation Funding** - Ron Gray moved that we pursue setting up a special fund under the Conservation Fund for donations toward protecting land, now owned by power companies, that the Mason-Dixon Trail traverses. Seconded by Joyce Miller. Carried

**M-DT Maps** - Mary Bleecker moved, seconded by Joyce Miller that up to \$1500 be available for purchase of software, etc to assist in the map making process for the next M-DT maps. Carried.

**Election of Officers** - The term of office for the present officers of M-DTS expires December 31, 2003. President Jim Hooper will appoint a nominating committee to present a slate of candidates for election for the three year term from January 1, 2004 - December 30, 2006. The elected officers are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one Director from each of the three states through which the M-DT passes: Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware.

**Next Meeting and Work Party** - Sunday, August 17.

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<p align="center"><b>Used Power Equipment Available</b>  <b>Brush cutter and high wheel mower available.</b>  <b>Contact Ron Gray at [REDACTED]</b></p>
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