

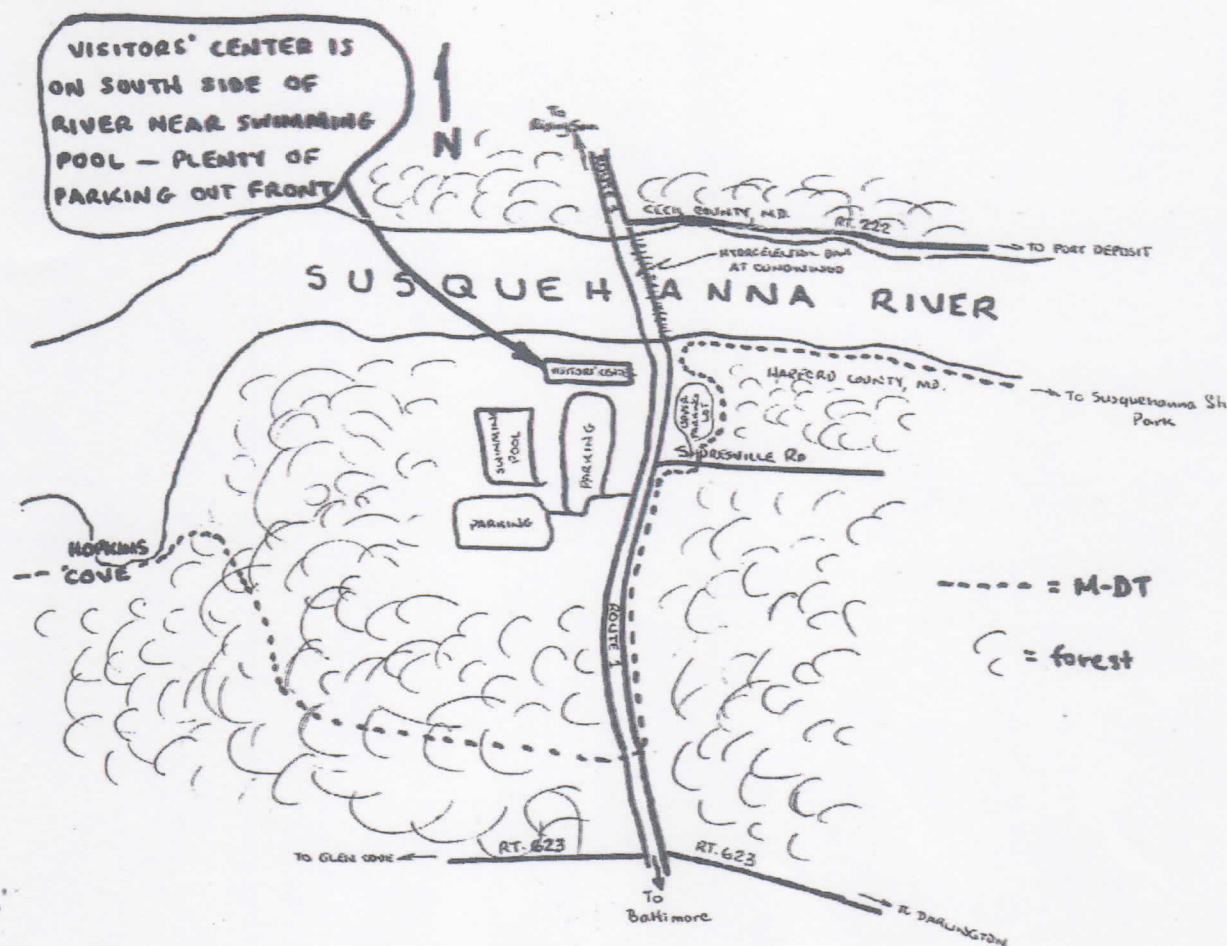
MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.



M-DTS NEWSLETTER January, 1994

M-DTS MEMBER'S MEETING - 12:00 noon, Sunday, February 6

The next M-DTS member's meeting will be held on Sunday, February 6, at the Conowingo Visitors' Center from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm. See map. Bring a bag lunch. For those willing to stay after the meeting and do a little work we have two possible projects: 1) Scouting an off-road route for the M-DT between the Visitors' center and Hopkins Cove. This project will depend on prior approval from PECO. Failing this an alternate project is 2) Clearing blow-downs on the M-DT along the old railroad bed south of Shures Landing (below Conowingo Dam). Chain saws and/or large bow saws will be needed.



\$ 1994 MEMBERSHIP DUES NOTICE ENCLOSED \$

Your 1994 Mason-Dixon Trail System membership dues are now due. The 1994 dues form is on page 5 of this newsletter. A stamped, addressed, return envelope is enclosed for your convenience. No envelope is enclosed if you: (1) joined late in 1993, (2) are a life member or (3) you sent in dues twice in 1993 (3 members did!).

Minutes of the September 5, 1993 M-DTS Members Meeting

The meeting was held at Gaging Station bridge following a 3-hour workparty clearing blowdowns and cutting brush on the M-DT along Muddy Creek. Members present were: Jim Hooper, Warren Davies, Rick Maerker, Richard Winemiller, Ronald Gray, Parke John and Yvonne Blades.

The minutes of the July 11/93 meeting were approved as circulated.

The secretary reported that final dues notices have been sent to 38 members who had not yet renewed their memberships for 1993.

Trail Reports:

Eastern Section - Yvonne Blades has rerouted a 1/4 mile section in Elk Neck State Forest to avoid a swampy area near the landfill.

- Bob Bennett reports that Eagle Scout candidate Mike Gainer and Troop 56 have constructed 4 bridges on the M-DT across side streams running into Christina Creek.

Central Section - Rick Maerker has not yet received the report on the Lower Susquehanna Greenway Plan developed at Towson State University.

- PECO has scheduled a tenants' meeting for September 11th at Conowingo Visitor Center. M-DTS is invited to send a representative. Rodney Stark will be present.
- Dave Linthicum reports his section (Conowingo through Broad Creek Scout Camp) is in good shape now. There were extensive blowdowns last winter necessitating some relocations. He plans to relocate 1/3 mile of M-DT northwest of Hopkins Cove to avoid a severe blackberry bush problem following logging in the area.

Western Section - Ron Gray reports blowdowns between Lock 12 and Otter Creek, and north of Otter Creek - between Rd 425 and Cline Road. He requests that maintainers let their section coordinators know if they need help especially with blowdowns.

- Jim Trautman, Lorraine Sis and Fred Fox have been out doing maintenance work.
- Jim Hooper has cleared blowdowns on his section with his chain saw.
- No maintainer yet for the Greenbranch to Cuff's Run section
- Ron Gray has submitted the Sawmill Run bridge application along with the required photographs. He expects it will take about 2 months for approval. PP&L will supply the winch for bridge placement.

Other Business

- Ron Gray will scout a possible future relocation through SGL #242 north of Pinchot State Park.
- The agreement with PECO concerning the relocation near the Peach Bottom plant has been signed.
- **Next meeting** - October 31, 1993 at Otter Creek

Minutes of the October 31, 1993 M-DTS Members Meeting

The meeting was held on a drizzly day under shelter at Otter Creek campground. Before the meeting a mud-splattered crew of eight completed the approaches to the site of the new bridge over Sawmill Run. Participants were: Jim Trautman, Rick Maerker, Jim Hooper, John Schetky, Ron Gray, Richard Winemiller, Clair Piersol and Ken Trimble. Following the meeting, another work party consisting of Kay Way, Vivian and Warren Davies and Yvonne Blades cleared the M-DT from Lock 12 to River Road, through Peavine Island. Those attending the meeting included all the members listed above plus visitor Frank Harvey from Wrightsville, PA.

The minutes of the September 5th members meeting were read by President Rick Maerker and approved.

The treasurers report (submitted by Mary Bleecker) covered activity since July 10, 1993. There were 4 new memberships, 6 renewals and 14 M-DT trail guides sold giving an income of \$343.50. Expenses for the newsletter, mailing labels and the bridge fee totaled \$138.63. The checking account now stands at \$2486.17 and the CD (Delaware Trust) \$677.49. One new member was gained from the American Hiking Society/National Trails Day "Two-for-One" membership deal. The share due M-DTS has not yet been received from AHS.

The secretary distributed a list of those in arrears with 1993 dues after dues reminders in the January and April newsletters and a "final notice" sent with the August newsletter. The list was reviewed and the removal of 23 names from the membership roles and the mailing list was approved.

Trail Reports

Western Section - Ron Gray has had the mower repaired.

- Jim Trautman reports the trail through Pinchot Park is in good shape.
- Jim Hooper has done reblazing and reports that the section built by the boy scouts is holding up well.
- No maintainer yet for the Greenbranch to Cuffs Run section.
- Ron Gray reports the blowdowns have been removed on Cline Rd to Rt 425 section and on Oakland Run. Lock 12 area is OK.
- All the required materials for the permit for the Sawmill run bridge have been submitted and, as of today, the approach routes are completed.

Central Section - Kay Way, plus helpers, will tackle the Peavine Island section after the meeting.

- Ron Gray and Richard Winemiller have done further work at Muddy Creek clearing blowdowns and some trail relocation. Another M-DTS workparty is needed here to do further trail relocations and maddock the trail on the steep slope down to the Susquehanna.
- Kay Way and Yvonne Blades will be blazing the Peach Bottom relocation on Thursday (Nov.3)
- Yvonne Blades has clipped and checked the M-DT through Susquehanna State Park. A few steps are needed at the start of the trail at Lapidum, some blazes need refreshing, the area along the river that was flooded last spring is dry now but the proliferation of trails is confusing and reblazing and more clean-up is needed. Along the old RR grade there are a lot of trees down - paths have been made around the blowdowns but we need to clear the original route (chain saws) to encourage users to stay on the trail and not trample the vegetation along side. This is a sensitive wildflower area.

Eastern Section - In Elk Neck State Forest 2 log bridges on the trail need repairing and some blazes need freshening.

Other Business

- **PECO Tenants meeting**, Sept. 11/93: Kay Way reported on this meeting she attended as the M-DTS representative. Several PECO projects either completed or underway were described: a 130-seat auditorium and classroom at Muddy Run Recreation area, a primitive campground at Broad

Creek, plans to enlarge Glen Cove, and the new Lock 15 Interpretive Trail and picnic area.

• **Cuffs Run Pumped Storage Project.** - John Schetky gave an update on this proposed project (which would inundate the M-DT in Cuffs Run). He attended a recent public meeting where company representatives, government officials and private citizens were present. Widespread opposition was expressed to the project. The company is trying to extend the time schedule for application for a license from the Federal Energy Regulating Commission.

Next Meeting: Sunday, February 6, 1994 at the Conowingo Visitor Center

M-DT is on the Map!

The ADC Company of Alexandria, VA publishes county street maps in book form. The Mason-Dixon Trail is shown on the street map for Harford County published in 1992 and will be shown on the Cecil County and New Castle County maps due to be published this year.

New Members

We welcome the following members who have joined M-DTS since June 1993:

Barbara Bowden

[REDACTED]

Parke H. John, Jr

[REDACTED]

Phillip Lieske

[REDACTED]

Jim Owen

[REDACTED]

J. B. Rector

[REDACTED]

Chuck Redstone

[REDACTED]

James Roeder

[REDACTED]

Frances Stroh-Betz

[REDACTED]

Jane Sutton

[REDACTED]

William S. Tinney

[REDACTED]

Linda VerNooy

[REDACTED]