



A MEMORABLE HIKE *Part 1*

by Marie K. Lapp

Barbara's aunts have a tradition of going on a hike once or twice a year. In the past they section hiked the Appalachian Trail through Pennsylvania. Now that project was completed.

"Does anybody have a suggestion where to hike next?" was the question asked at a family get—together.

"If I get to go along I would have a suggestion," Barbara said. "The Mason-Dixon Trail passes only a few miles from our home. We hiked a short section of it with our family, but I would enjoy doing more of it. What do you others think?"

"Sounds like a plan to me," agreed Aunt Ellen "Do you have trail maps?" "No, but I imagine I could get information at Our local library," Barbara replied.

"Okay, you get maps and I will see what I can find about the trail," Aunt Sara said. "Could you have them by next month when we get together to clean Grandma's house? Maybe we could look over them and decide on a date then."

Barbara answered, "I wasn't planning on going to Grandma's. How about I mail the maps to you then you can let me know what you decide." "All right. That should work." So, the subject was dropped until later.

After the cleaning day at Grandma's Barbara got a call from Aunt Sara. "Are you still interested in going hiking with us old folks?" she asked. "Certainly," came Barbara's quick reply. "When are we going?"

"We thought around the end of October, after the harvest is in, would be a good time for us. Would that work for you?"

"I think so. Is anybody else going besides the five of you?"

"Some of our cousins have shown an interest. They went along before already. Ellen also said Rachel asked if she may go if you are going.

"Oh, that would be great!" Barbara exclaimed. Rachel was a special cousin close to her age. "When did you say that you're going?" Sara laughed. "I don't think I said yet. How does October 29 sound?"



Wilson Run



After a glance at the calendar Barbara answered, "As far as I know now that should work. Did you decide where to start?"

"Yes, we're thinking Otter Creek Campground looks like a good place. Then we would go to Fishing Creek at the marina. It's about fourteen miles. Not as long as some hikes we did already, but we want to be done before dark. We plan to start at seven and are hoping to be done by four or so."

"Good. Looks like you have all the bases covered. I meet you at Otter Creek at seven o'clock on October 29."

Barbara hung up and got out her trail maps. "Let's see, Otter Creek is right here." She traced her finger over the words as she read the fine print, "Turn left and climb the bank after 500 feet; climb by switch-backs, bear left at the trail junction." And a little farther down, "Cross a small stream this looked by switch-backs to Urey Overlook." H-m-m, this looked interesting! She counted eleven switch-backs in fourteen miles, plus several steep climbs and descents. Did these older ladies know what York County's 'river hills' looked like? A warning was in order.

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Mason-Dixon Trail Quarterly Hike and Meeting

Sunday, March 15, 2020 See back cover for more details

A Memorable Hike Part 1 *continued*

Her mother answered on the second ring. “Mom, this is Barbara. I talked with Aunt Sara a little while ago and she told me about the plans for the hike. I was just wondering’ are you ladies up to hiking that section? I mean, I counted eleven sets of switch-backs. It sounds sort of rough.”

“Really? Well, Sara and Ellen were doing the planning. They are both experienced hikers. Do you think it would be worse than some sections they did on the AT?” “I don’t know. Probably not. So you think I should just let it go?” “I think we’ll be fine. We’re only planning to go fourteen miles instead of twenty, after all.”

“Okay. I hope you’re right. I only know that some of those back roads have some pretty steep hills. I can about imagine what it looks like in the Woods. But you’re right. At least we aren’t putting in a long day. It might not be as bad as think.”

Barbara felt slightly better after talking with her mother, but she was not convinced that her aunts knew what they were in for.

The big day dawned, nice and warm and sunny. A beautiful fall day. But alas, Barbara woke up with an awful stomach ache! A quick phone call sent the hiking party on without her.

Wait! Who can be sick on such a nice day, with one’s aunts traipsing through the woods only a few miles away? Not her! So mid-morning she made some phone calls. All the local taxi drivers were busy. She called an elderly friend. “Hello, what are. you doing this nice day?” “Oh, nothing much. Do you have a job for me?”

“Well, I might, if you’re interested in taking me up to Apollo County Park in about an hour. My aunts are hiking on the Mason-Dixon Trail today. I had been planning to go along, but then I was sick this morning. I ‘m feeling



Along Boyd's Run

some better now and would like to go hiking this afternoon. I can rest it out tomorrow.” “Sure, I’ll take you,” came the reply.

After lunch Barbara found herself at a small parking lot in Apollo County Park. A trail branched off to the right. Was it the Mason—Dixon? Apparently not, as it had white blazes and the Mason-Dixon is blue blazed. “What are my chances of finding them?” she thought. She studied the map a bit more and decided this trail will take her over to the Mason-Dixon.

“I’m going to walk back that trail a ways to see what I can find,” she told her driver. “I’ll be back in about fifteen minutes or so.”

The white trail soon joined the Mason-Dixon. “Now how can I know whether they are in front of or behind me? I’ll walk to that little creek down there and check for footprints,” she decided.

After a quick look she concluded that no large group of people had gone that way recently. She turned around to go back. Then lo, what “did she see, but two women heading down the hill toward her. She recognized them as her mother’s cousins.



Urey Overlook

“Hello!” she called. “Are you leading the pack or rounding up the strays?”

“Barbara, is that you? We’re leading. The rest were taking their good old time to eat lunch and we got tired of waiting. But how did you get up here? I thought you were sick. Won’t your mother be surprised?”

Briefly Barbara explained, ending with, “And now that I ‘ve found you I’ll go tell my driver that he’s free to leave.” She hurried back the way she had come, told her driver of her good fortune, and arrived back on the trail just as the next group of hikers arrived. What a happy reunion!

To be continued in the next issue.

President's Message

I'd like to welcome our new Treasurer, Stacey Kingsbury. Stacey has experience serving on the boards of other non-profits, including time as a treasurer.

SAVE THE DATE!

On National Trails Day, Saturday, June 6, 2020, the Mason-Dixon Trail System will again join with the Lower Susquehanna Greenway and Exelon to host a trail work event on the M-DT in the Conowingo Dam Area. Details to follow on the website and in the next newsletter.

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM LEADERSHIP

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Trail Maintenance Highlights

|| October 2019 – January 2020

EASTERN SECTION

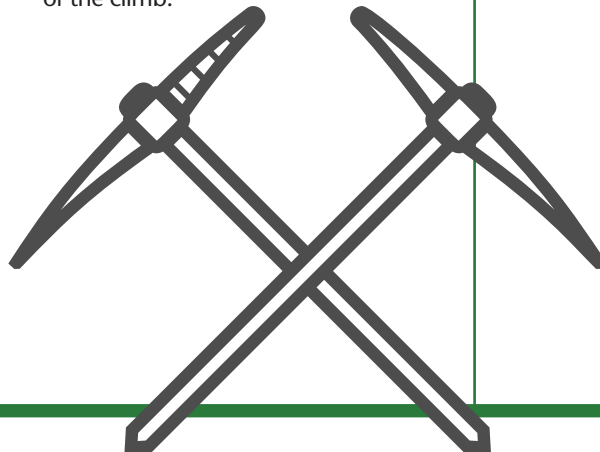
- Most of the maintenance was walk through inspections that including picking up fallen branches and lopping
- One of the inspection trips was at Principio Business Park in preparation for the March 15 work hike. The purpose was to measure how many steps we'd need to climb an eroding bank. On the way there, we discovered a muddy runoff pond from some new warehouse construction where the trail used to be. Fortunately, there's a nice woodlot at hand where we can relocate the trail.

CENTRAL SECTION

- Mostly routine maintenance lopping and some blowdowns
- Planning for a new relocation to replace a 1.2 mile road walk from the Lapidum Road bridge over I-95 to the entrance to Vulcan Quarry on Level Road (MD-155) with a walk through the woods on Vulcan property involved two meetings and walk through to flag and GPS the route. Hopefully, we will soon begin clearing and building the trail.

WESTERN SECTION

- Despite the relatively mild Fall and Winter, at least so far, there were plenty of blowdowns to deal with. One of these involved two large trees crisscrossing each other right where the trail came down the hill, crossed the stream and climbed up the other side. Pretty nasty.
- Two worktrips explored the former Wizard Ranch Boy Scout Camp which was acquired by Lancaster Conservancy. The Conservancy invited M-DTS to explore possible routes for the M-DT climbing from the Accomac Inn up through Wizard Ranch and then down into the Hellam Hills Nature Preserve where it would reconnect with the M-DT. This relocation would depend on Lancaster Conservancy attaining rights-of-way through a couple of private properties at the top of the climb.



MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM

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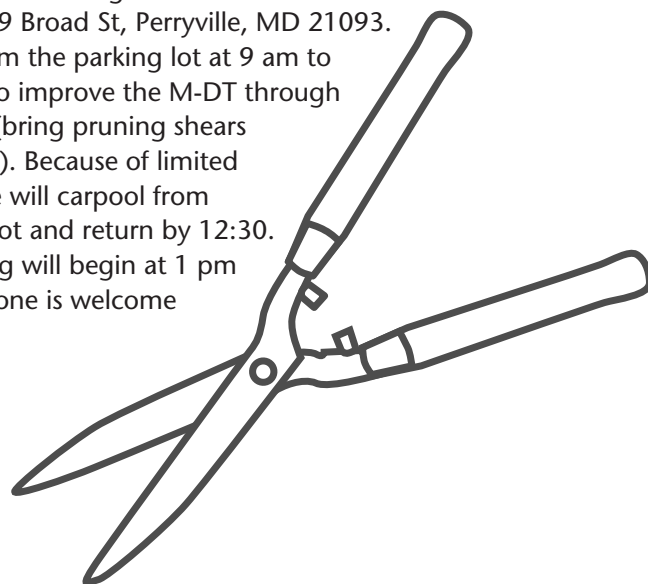
M-DT Quarterly Hike and Meeting

Sunday, March 15, 2020

Hike: 9:00 am

Meeting: 1:00 pm

The next hike and meeting of the Mason-Dixon Trail System (M-DTS) will be on Sunday, March 15. Parking for both will be at the Rogers Tavern Museum, 259 Broad St, Perryville, MD 21093. The work-hike will leave from the parking lot at 9 am to work on different projects to improve the M-DT through the Principio Business Park (bring pruning shears or loppers if you have them). Because of limited parking at the work site, we will carpool from the Rogers Tavern parking lot and return by 12:30. The quarterly board meeting will begin at 1 pm in the Rogers Tavern. Everyone is welcome to both events.



The M-DTS Newsletter is published about four weeks in advance of each of the four M-DTS board meetings held annually. Submissions are welcomed.

The Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. is a non-profit 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 199-mile Mason-Dixon Trail which passes through historic and scenic areas of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware.

New members are welcome. To join, send \$20 (which covers initial membership as well as the M-DT maps) to:

Mason-Dixon Trail System, Tim Schmidt, 1803 Orwig Road, New Freedom, PA 17349

Thereafter, the annual fee is \$7. Life membership is available for \$250.

Visit the Mason-Dixon Trail web site at: www.mason-dixontrail.org

Visit the Mason-Dixon Trail Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/theMDTS