



Mason-Dixon Trail System Inc.

Become A Member



# Mason-Dixon Trail

## Fall edition

### October 2023

OCT 2023

Fall Edition

## Timber Rattler Uncoiled



The timber rattler: something to be proud of and something to fear. It was our struggling young nation's iconic symbol of defiance against Great Britain. The Gadsden flag was designed by General Christopher Gadsden and quickly adopted by the Marines. In 1775 our fledgling Navy was escorted by a contingent of Philadelphia Marines to intercept British ships supplying their invading troops. They sported yellow drums with





the image of this noble serpent with thirteen rattles, coiled and ready to strike and the legend: “Don’t tread on me.” That’s a powerful warning when you consider the consequences of stepping on a timber rattler.



Which is just what happened to my hiking hound recently in the mountains of the Carolinas. Not to worry. Emergency centers up in those parts routinely administer IV antivenin in astonishing alacrity, to man and beast. Two thousand dollars and a couple weeks later, she is back on the trail. Thus, I have decided to educate myself on the subject of pit vipers. Not to be feared, mind you. But to be respected and admired. Yup, I just said that. Admired. [Click here to continue reading the article at Dr. Ruthie Blogspot](#)

## Test your M-DTS Trivia!

**In the last edition of the Newsletter, we posted the below question. You have waited long enough! The answers are here!**

As all of us hikers who have tripped along the Mason-Dixon Trail know, our favorite trail really rocks! Over the last couple of years, our newsletter has covered some interesting topics on ways geology shaped the landscapes that the M-DT explores. So, test your knowledge (or ability to use Wikipedia, LOL) on these geology trivia questions! And then check our next newsletter for the answers and some explanations.

**1. What is the kind of hard banded rock that is found in many places along the mason Dixon trail?**

- A. Nice
- B. Gneiss
- C. Rock of Gibraltar
- D. Dolomites

**2. What is the approximate geological age of most of the very hard Piedmont rocks over which the Mason-Dixon Trail runs?**

- A. 2023 years
- B. 1.235 million years
- C. 450 million years
- D. A gazillion

**3. The Susquehanna river valley was formed by:**

- A. Carving of Ice Age glaciers.
- B. The United States Army Corps of Engineers



C. A meteorite impact

D. Erosion by the force of the Susquehanna River.

**4. The flatter parts of the Mason-Dixon Trail in Maryland and Delaware that are not very rocky belong to what physiographic province according to geographers?**

A. The Appalachian Mountains

B. The Rocky Mountains

C. The Atlantic Coastal Plain

D. Chesapeake Bay wetlands

**5. What is the name of the green rock along parts of the Mason-Dixon Trail in Hartford and York counties that makes an attractive building stone?**

A. Granite

B. Emerald

C. Serpentine

D. Solyent Green

**6. How deep is the channel of the Susquehanna River in its most deeply eroded sections along the Mason-Dixon Trail?**

A. 5 ft

B. 15 ft

C. 120 ft

D. 500 ft

**7. Looking at them in map view, Otter Creek, Muddy Creek, and Broad Creek are good examples of what kind of river pattern?**

A. Straight

B. Intermittent

C. Meandering

D. Herringbone

**8. Name the mineral mined at Iron Hill near Newark Delaware and the product it was used to make.**

A. Red jasper for Native American arrowheads

B. Iron Hill beer

C. Iron for Revolutionary War cannon balls

D. Iron for 18th Century clothes irons

**9. What unique geographic feature does the Mason-Dixon Trail visit in White Clay Creek State Park?**

A. Highest elevation in Delaware

B. Tri-State marker at the point where 3 states meet

C. Location of first DuPont company gunpowder mill

D. Ancient fault zone responsible for most Delaware earthquakes

**10. The Mason Dixon Trail passes through the property of Vulcan Quarry next to Havre de Grace. What type of rock is being mined there for what use?**

A. Coal for power plants

B. Crushed metamorphic rock for construction aggregate

C. Diamonds for jewelry

D. Zinc for metal fabrication

[Click here to see the answers!](#)



# State Updates!



Before

After

## Maryland

Lapidum Reroute – Mike Hall has a meeting with the East Coast Greenway group on September 13th and will bring up the reroute topic again.

The Havre de Grace sections have been cut and are clear. A new volunteer has helped with clearing debris and notifying us of downed trees.

Rt1 to Fishermans Park at Conowingo was recently cut and cleared as well.

## Pennsylvania

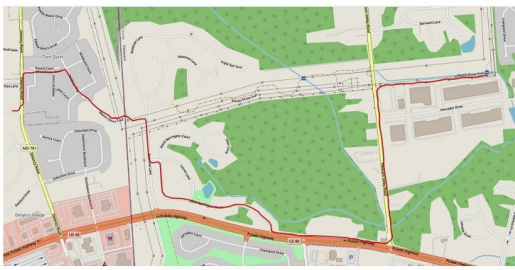
After a few years of joint work, Lancaster Conservancy has allowed the Mason-Dixon Trail System to open a reroute of the M-DT through Hellam Hills Nature Preserve. This reroute will increase the length of the trail in the Preserve from 2.5 mi. to 6.8 mi. The added points of interest are the climb up Buzzards Roost to a view of the Susquehanna River and Lancaster County, more views of the Susquehanna from Wildcat Bluff, the ruin of an old dam and reservoir, views down into Wildcat Run and springs that feed it. Blazing coming soon!



## Delaware

*Recent trail users have discovered that the section of the trail in Delaware where Maps 8 and overlap, between the MD-DE State*





Line to Pleasant Valley Road, DE, has been posted with a No Trespassing sign by landowner by Delmarva Power. As a result, a new route will need to be designed. In the coming weeks, trail users can check for a new map and route linked at the trail status page (under map 8) at <https://masondixontrail.wixsite.com/mdts/trail-status>.

## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR M-DT TIRELESS MAINTAINERS

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining"!



Dave Strine (shown above at our club's assigned section of the AT) is a quiet, unassuming gentleman who enjoys the trails in York County. After every "weather event" he scouts the woods for blowdowns, armed with his chainsaw. His dedication to the trail is admirable; he expects no kudos for his tireless efforts.

His wife, Roxanne (below), is a distance trail runner who has done the Mason-Dixon end to end in an exhausting blaze of just five days, 13 hours, and 20 minutes. Of course, she accompanies him on trail work and is the maintenance coordinator of the western sector of our 200 mile trail. Here she is managing a massive cleanup in the Accomac area.





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His wife, Cathy, is his steady accomplice in trail clearing. Braving groundbees as she swings her roaring weed whacker, she leaves a clear path to admire and enjoy. Working with this couple (above) makes some of us feel like under-achievers. Sigh. Below, Cathy and Dave with dueling whackers!





If you see these folks on the trail, give them a high five. Better yet, ask them what needs to be done next to preserve our lovely outdoor paradise. You don't have to be part of a massive effort. You can even adopt a small section and visit every so often to do light maintenance work and report the heavy stuff to the sawyers. A couple hours of lopping or weed-whacking is vastly appreciated!

**Here are some contacts if you'd like to give the trail some TLC:**

**\*Eastern sector (Chadds Ford, down through Delaware and Cecil County)**

Pete McLaughlin [https://mclaughlin.pete@gmail.com](mailto:mclaughlin.pete@gmail.com)

**\*Central sector (Harford County to Lock 12)**

Mike Hall [https://mikehallf350@gmail.com](mailto:mikehallf350@gmail.com)

Rob Bartholomew [https://rdbart64@msn.com](mailto:rdbart64@msn.com)

**\*Western sector (Lock 12, York County, up to Whiskey Springs:**

Roxanne Strine [riverdawgmd@yahoo.com](mailto:riverdawgmd@yahoo.com)



**Read the September  
Board Meeting Minutes**



## Minutes of the Mason Dixon Trail System Meeting

September 9, 2023

Riverfront Park, Wrightsville PA

Attending: Jim Hooper, Rob Campbell, Ron Gray, Dave Strine, Mike Hall, Tim Schmidt, Tom Waltman, Christina Graber, Amy King, Linda Lambert, and Steve (from Havre de Grace)

The meeting was called to order by Jim Hooper at 1:05 pm.

### Secretary's Report

The minutes of the preceding minute held on June 3, 2023 (taken by Christina Graber, and prepared by Linda Lambert) were approved.

### Committee Reports

#### 1. Clothing

##### a. Rob (Campbell) reviewed inventory:

- Caps - 15 (4 sold in 2023 to date; includes new order of 12 from 1/27/23)
  - T-shirts (logo front/map back)
    - S - 3    M - 9    L - 15    XL - 7    XXL - 3 (6 sold in 2023 to date)
  - T-shirts (map front/logo on sleeve)
    - S - 2    M - 3    L - 7    XL - 0    XXL - 0 (3 sold in 2023 to date)
- We don't plan to reorder any more of this style, so let's push the inventory we have.
- Patches - 277 in my stock (6 sold in 2023 to date)
  - Stickers - 91 (2 sold in 2023 to date)

## Save The Date

### MDTS December Board Meeting

11 December 2023

Starting at 7:00pm

We invite you to join us for the next Mason-Dixon Trail System hike and board meeting.

To join the meeting, click the link below:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88205458673?pwd=V2FUUjVZVHRDTWtGalozMHhtRGFjZz09>

Meeting ID: 882 0545 8673

Passcode: 426885



## MDTS Board



# Mason-Dixon Trail System Officers

## President:

Ruthie Franczek  
6827 Underwoods Corner Rd  
Smyrna, DE 19977  
[Ruthiefranczek@hotmail.com](mailto:Ruthiefranczek@hotmail.com)

## Vice President

Volunteer Needed  
[vicepresident@mason-dixontrail.org](mailto:vicepresident@mason-dixontrail.org)

## Treasurer

Amy King  
[treasurer@mason-dixontrail.org](mailto:treasurer@mason-dixontrail.org)

## Membership Secretary

Linda Lambert  
[Ljlmmts@gmail.com](mailto:Ljlmmts@gmail.com)

## Website Coordinator

Alyssa Zevallos

## Social Media

Christina Graber  
MDTS FB or Instagram Messenger

## Past President

Tim Schmidt  
[wanderfool@comcast.net](mailto:wanderfool@comcast.net)

## Director – Pennsylvania

Jim Hooper  
[j.e.hooper@ieee.org](mailto:j.e.hooper@ieee.org)

## Director – Maryland

Mike Hall  
[mddirector@mason-dixontrail.org](mailto:mddirector@mason-dixontrail.org)

## Director – Delaware

Mike Ott  
[mikeott52@aol.com](mailto:mikeott52@aol.com)

## Trail Coordinator – Western Section

Roxanne Strine  
[riverdawgmd@gmail.com](mailto:riverdawgmd@gmail.com)

## Trail Coordinator – Central Section

Mike Hall  
[centralcoordinator@mason-dixontrail.org](mailto:centralcoordinator@mason-dixontrail.org)

## Trail Coordinator – Eastern Section

Peter McLaughlin  
[easterncoordinator@mason-dixontrail.org](mailto:easterncoordinator@mason-dixontrail.org)

## Volunteer



## VOLUNTEERS WANTED!



# Mason-Dixon Trail Volunteers

Learn more at:  
[www.mason-dixontrail.org](http://www.mason-dixontrail.org)

### 1. TRAIL SPOTTER

Someone who hikes/walks/runs a section of trail and reports any problem they may spot, such as: a downed tree, missing or confusing blazes, or other problems.

### 2. TRAIL ANGEL

A volunteer that provides support on any portion of trail, whenever and however they are capable.

### 3. WORK DAY VOLUNTEER

By participating in a work day event, volunteer group trail maintenance, or construction project you will be helping improve the trail network for all to enjoy.

### 4. TRAIL SECTION MAINTAINER

Become an official maintainer for a designated section of trail. Depending on your location across the three states, we can help find you a section of trail near your home that could use your routine support.

### 5. TRAIL COORDINATOR

Maintains a list of trail sections and the maintainer(s) for each section, recruits and oversees trail maintainers and work, records work performed, identifies problems and requests a team to assist, reports trail conditions at meetings, and attends quarterly meetings.

### 6. TRAIL DIRECTOR

Coordinates with the appropriate state and local government agencies, coordinates with appropriate non-profit organizations, interfaces with property owners, reports issues to the board, and attends quarterly meetings.

### 7. SHUTTLE SERVICE PROVIDER

Shuttle service providers offer shuttle services to long distance hikers along the Mason- Dixon Trail. The ideal candidate should have a good size vehicle, preferably 4- or all-wheel drive and in good working order, current insurance and a general geographic knowledge of the area surrounding the Mason- Dixon Trail.

**#MasonDixonTrail**

## Mason-Dixon Trail System

6827 Underwoods Corn Rd, Smyrna, DE 19977



Email Us





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