



Newsletter



Moving the Second Pole in Place

Saw Mill Run Bridge Repair

by Ron Gray

We started site preparation on October 7, 2010. Now all we have to do is place a

deck and railings on the poles. February 17, 2011 and the two poles are finally resting on the new piers.

We first had to remove the tree, which fell on the bridge and clear the old decking from the stream. The decking

was placed across the stream as a temporary crossing. Surprisingly, it is still in place. We also had three dead trees cut down which would probably have fallen on the new bridge.

We borrowed a stone cutting saw from York Habitat for Humanity to cut notches in the rock for the first piece of cribbing for the new piers. It took multiple trips and several poles cut to six foot lengths to complete construction of the piers on Dec. 30, 2010. York County Parks donated some of the pole sections.

January 6th the new pole was delivered and laid down the bank. As it turns out we ordered a fifty-five foot pole and we got a fifty foot pole instead. It was also placed with the wrong end down the hill so that the two poles do not match very well. The small end of one is beside the large end of the other. On that day we also moved the undamaged pole onto the new piers.

After some bad weather we returned on January 20th and found that the pole had moved into the stream and under a large rock. We had to use sledge hammers and digging bars to break away part of the rock before we could move the pole. The pole had also turned sideways and was below the other pole so that we could not just lift it to pull it across the stream. It took us several trips and much changing of our rigging to get the pole pulled across the stream and up onto the new pier.

When all is done, we will have a shorter and narrower bridge. It will be fifty feet long and four feet wide. We will need to do a lot of careful work to get the deck level from side to side since the poles do not match. We are using rough cut oak for the deck to keep it from being so slippery like to old treated lumber.

The Thursday work crew has been busy in some very cold and slippery conditions. Hopefully we will finish by the next newsletter.

March 27 Hike and Meeting

The hike will start at 10 am and feature a recent MDT relocation that passes through State Line Woods in Chester County, PA and adjacent preserved land in Delaware. Distance about 4 plus miles.

Meeting place for the hike; A large "clearing" in front of a stone wall off Bengie Rd just south of Rte 82 in Delaware.

Directions: From York Co. Take Rte 30 east. In Coatesville, turn south on Rt 82. Pass through Kennett Square and continue on Rte 82 into Delaware. Pass the ~~Marshall~~ *Auburn H^{ts}* Mansion on the right and turn right on the next road which becomes Bengie Rd. The "clearing" will be on your right.

The MDTs meeting at 1 pm will take place at the Lamborn Library building in Hockessin. From the parking area described above we will follow blue MDT blazes south west on Bengie Rd, Auburn Mill Rd, Old Wilmington Rd, Valley Rd to the Lamborn Library building off Valley Rd just south of Rte 41. There is parking on the southwest side of the building.

Unapproved Minutes of December 4, 2010 M-DTS Board and Members Meeting

President Jim Hooper called the meeting to order at 1:35pm at the York Hiking Club Cabin. Members present: Jim

Hooper, Joyce Hooper, Lou Tateosian, Yvonne Blades, Ron Gray, Bob Bennett, Skip Newcomer, Paul Yatabe, and Rob Campbell. Visiting was [REDACTED] of the Appalachian Mountain Club, Recreation Planner for the PA Highlands Trail.

Changes to M-DTS Board of Directors were announced by Jim Hooper: Bob Bennett has resigned as Secretary. Rob Campbell will replace Bob as Secretary. Tim Schmidt will replace Rob Campbell as PA Representative to the Board. We still need a Newsletter Editor, as Rob assumed the role of Secretary but will not also be Newsletter Editor.

Minutes of the June 19, 2010 meeting were approved.

Minutes of the Sept. 12, 2010 meeting were accepted with one revision by Ron Gray: Rob Campbell was also in attendance at the meeting with the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway on Aug. 23.

Treasurer's Report: In Rick Maerker's absence, Jim Hooper submitted the report giving income and expenses from 1/19/2010 through 12/5/2010. There are no outstanding expenses as of now. The report was accepted subject to audit.

National Recreational Trail: Jim Hooper talked about our goal to extend the NRT status of the M-DT south of the Norman Wood Bridge on to Exelon land. He has had no response to his query about this from Exelon. It was suggested we consider requesting NRT status for the section of M-DT in the White Clay Creek area of Delaware and Pennsylvania.

Committee Reports

Clothing Committee (Joyce Hooper) – We purchased 18 Ultra khaki hats, 30 Adams stone hats, and 6 visors from B&T Sportswear in Columbia. B&T

embroidered our M-DT design on each. Seven hats were sold as of today. The hats sell for \$20 (Adams stone), \$18 (Ultra khaki), and \$14 for the forest green visor. They will be available through the M-DT web site.

We have only 9 M-DT T-shirts left, and the question is whether we should order more. The Board suggested the Clothing Committee research retail sales outlets such as Shanks Mare and Wilderrest in Lancaster, and report back at the next meeting. If there is interest in sales from other outlets we can consider ordering more T-shirts.

Maps Committee (Rob Campbell) – Rob indicated that a real committee has been formed, consisting of Paul Yatabe, Bernie Frick, Tim Schmidt, Ron Gray, and Rob. All have much interest in developing the M-DT map sets, and have many ideas of ways to produce new maps. One project will be to produce a separate map of the National Recreation Trail segment of the M-DT.

Web Site (Dwayne Shreve) – no report.

Meetings

Delaware Trail Summit (Bob Bennett) – Bob attended the DE Trail Summit, which had 120 separate sessions. He was able to make connections with several attendees regarding the M-DT. He expressed concern with an organization called the American Trail Association which he felt was more supportive of ATV and 4-wheeler trails than hiking trails.

South Mountain Trail Summit (Jim Hooper) - attended by Jim Hooper, Rob Campbell, and Tim Schmidt on Nov. 3rd in Carlisle. At this summit we made contact with [REDACTED], a transportation consultant who has ideas on how to take the M-DT across Rt. 15 in Franklin Twp., York County. See

meeting with [REDACTED] on next page.

York Co. Trail Study (Jim Hooper) - initiative to look at current and future trail development in York Co. We had a separate private meeting with Tim Wilson, one of the staff of the trail study, to discuss some of our land ownership issues. The final public meeting of the York Co Trail Plan was November 18 in York, and was attended by Jim Hooper, Ron Gray, Rob Campbell, and Tim Schmidt. The M-DT is acknowledged strongly in the Plan. In fact, the planners suggested that M-DT be contacted for assistance with trail planning.

PA Game Commission (Jim Hooper) - Jim reported on a meeting he had with PGC Executive Director [REDACTED] Keystone Trails Assoc. Executive Director [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] AMC Recreation Planner for the PA Highlands Trail. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the PGC of our common issues so they would continue to be supportive of relocation efforts on to PGC lands.

Wrightsville Waterfront Committee (Jim Hooper) - Jim is meeting with those working on the Wrightsville Comprehensive Plan, to provide access for the M-DT down along the river as the plan is developed.

Lower Susquehanna Conservation Landscape Initiative (Jim Hooper) - Jim reported that he had attended this meeting of stakeholders whose goal is to preserve land down to the Pa/Md border. The group included DCNR, York & Lancaster Planning Commissions, and Susquehanna Heritage Greenway.

[REDACTED] Franklin Twp. - Jim Hooper, Ron Gray, Tim Schmidt and Rob Campbell met with [REDACTED] transportation consultant, to look at

possible ways to provide safer crossing of Rt. 15 in northern York Co. We toured several possible trail relocations. Further exploration is needed.

Future Meetings:

Hellam Twp. Recreation Board: to look at ways to relocate the M-DT through the Marietta Gravity Water Co. property.

[REDACTED] DCNR: [REDACTED] is Park Manager for Susquehanna State Park in Lancaster Co., and will be managing the land on the west side of the Susquehanna River at Lock 12, the PPL lands being transferred, and the Gladfelter Paper lands being transferred.

State Game Lands 242; we need to meet with [REDACTED] SGL property manager for the northern York Co. state game lands. We have already submitted relocation plans for this area, but have had no response from the Game Commission.

Old Business

Publicity - we still need individuals in each area to help with publicity for the M-DTS.

Pa Highlands Trail [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] requested that we provide him a list of issues where he could help us in areas where M-DT and PA Highlands Trail will be co-located, in northern York County, and to suggest signage that will indicate both M-DT and PHT.

New Business

KTA Super Hike - will be Saturday, Sept. 10, 2011, and will be run, as last year, on the Mason-Dixon and Conestoga Trails.

Otter Creek Campground - is currently closed. Plans are being

discussed for new management, and how the campground will be utilized given the land transition issues.

Trails Reports

Eastern Section

Bob Bennett reported that State Line Woods Preserve is encouraging M-DTS to relocate onto the Preserve in PA and Delaware. There is good parking access in Kennett Twp., PA and New Castle Co., DE.

Keith Williams is working on the problems with the one landowner at Red Toad Rd.

Elk Neck State Forest – Yvonne Blades reports a bridge has washed out, and she and Herb have relocated the trail at that point.

Newark, DE – Bob Bennett suggests that there may be a good possibility of a loop trail off the M-DT in Newark.

Central Section

No report from Ron Green

Susquehanna State Park, MD. - Yvonne reports much bicycle activity in the park on our trail.

Muddy Creek land issue – there is movement to resurvey the area around the bridge over Muddy Creek at the M-DT to determine who really owns which land.

Western Section

Transfer of land from PPL to DCNR and Lancaster Conservancy is still in process. Jim Hooper wrote a letter from M-DTS to FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) about the proposal.

Sawmill Run Bridge reconstruction – there is ongoing work to rebuild this bridge. A stream level crossing is currently in place.

Trail damage at Grace Plateau – a logger inadvertently tore up a section of the trail at the top of the hill. Skip Newcomer and Jim Hooper have been remediating the trail.

Game Land 242 – we are still waiting for approval of our second relocation of this section.

Game Land 243 – we still need to generate a relocation proposal for this section, but we have explored the relocation possibilities.

Next Meeting Date

Our next M-DTS meeting will be Sunday, March 27, 2011. Bob Bennett and Yvonne Blades will find us a meeting place, and we'll explore the State Line Woods Preserve in PA and DE. It was suggested that we contact the Chester County and Wilmington Trail Clubs regarding our meeting, to increase attendance at our hike and meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:15pm.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for the third annual Susquehanna Super Hike & Ultra Trail Run, scheduled for Saturday, September 10, 2011. Many volunteer opportunities are available, including registration, parking, checkpoints, trail sweeps, event timing, hospitality, and more. There are slots open on both Friday (3:00 PM – 8:00 PM) and all day (5:00AM – 8:00 PM) on Saturday; sign up soon to get your preferred location, time, and position! All volunteers receive a Super Hike t-shirt and are encouraged to join us for our post-event celebratory picnic. Please contact [REDACTED] Program Administrator, at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

[redacted] for more information, or visit www.kta-hike.org to download the volunteer form and return it to KTA at [redacted]

Membership Chair Needed

Yvonne Blades has handled the membership list for 18 years and wishes to be relieved of the job. We need a new membership person. It involves maintaining the list, generating two sub-list, one of the people who get the newsletter by email and one for the snail mail list. Then generate mailing labels for the snail mail. Yvonne did it with Microsoft Excel and Word.

Newsletter Editor Needed

Rob Campbell took the secretary's job from Bob Bennett. However, he did not want the newsletter responsibility. We need a person to gather the articles and minutes and use Microsoft Word to put the newsletter together.

Newsletter Distribution

The club saves money and volunteer hours if people get their newsletter by email. Please let us know if you want to get the new letter by email.

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM INC

President Jim Hooper
[redacted]
Vice President Ron Gray
[redacted]
Secretary Rob Campbell
[redacted]
Treasurer Rick Maerker
[redacted]
Director - Pennsylvania Tim Schmidt
[redacted]
Director - Maryland Cindy Kelly
[redacted]
Director - Delaware Yvonne Blades
[redacted]
Trail Coordinators:
Western Section Skip Newcomer
[redacted]
Central Section Ron Green
[redacted]
Eastern Section
Cecil County Keith Williams
[redacted]
[redacted]
Delaware

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 193-mile Mason-Dixon Trail, which passes through historic and scenic areas of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware.

New members are welcome. To join send \$19 (which covers cost of M-DT maps and patch) to

Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc
Rick Maerker

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

Visit the Mason Dixon Trail web site at:
www.masondixontrail.org

2010 FINANCIAL PICTURE OF M-DTS ACTIVITY

OPENING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 1/19/10		\$1618.59
INCOME		
Dues/Donations (90 "old"; 58 "new")	\$2854.00	
Maps/Guides (135 sold)	\$1358.61	
Patches (24 sold)	\$28.00	
2 T-shirts + 7 hats	\$135.00	
Contributions	\$210.00	
TOTAL INCOME		\$4585.61
EXPENSES		
Administration		
1/14/10 Yvonne Blades (misc. exp. for 2nd half, 2009))	\$99.87	
1/14/10 Jim Hooper (300 M-DTS brochures)	\$62.01	
1/14/10 Bob Bennett (ballot expenses)	\$11.94	
1/14/10 Rick Maerker (Treas postage for 2009)	\$92.55	
4/1/10 Bob Bennett (March newsltr expenses)	\$78.75	
4/10/10 Jim Hooper (postage and parking)	\$5.73	
5/26/10 Yvonne Blades (mlng dues, Mar, May nwsltrs)	\$217.55	
6/1/10 Jim Hooper (300 M-DTS brochures)	\$54.06	
6/11/10 Robert Bennett (May newsletter)	\$110.45	
6/14/10 Sarah Tateosian (rfrshmnts Trails Day celeb)	\$35.00	
6/14/10 Joyce Hooper (rfrshmnts Trails Day celeb)	\$81.34	
8/7/10 Jim Hooper (300 brochures & blank DVD)	\$70.50	
8/7/10 Jim Hooper (downpayment for hats)	\$60.00	
8/7/10 B & T Sportswear (54 caps/hats)	\$725.22	
9/2/10 Jim Hooper (300 brochures and envelopes)	\$56.88	
9/11/10 Dwayne Shreve (rnlw internet domain name)	\$30.51	
11/11/10 Jim Hooper (501 M-DTS brochures)	\$103.57	
11/14/10 Bob Bennett (Nov. newsletter)	\$71.67	
12/6/10 Jim Hooper (mailing costs)	\$9.21	
12/6/10 Yvonne Blades (2010 admin. costs)	\$22.63	
12/6/10 York Hiking Club (use of cabin for 12/4 mtg)	\$14.00	
12/18/10 Rick Maerker (treas. 2010 admin. expenses)	\$177.43	
Sub-Total		\$2190.87
Trail Maintenance		
4/10/10 Jim Hooper for brush axe	\$21.97	
5/3/10 Ron Gray (chainsaw blade sharpening)	\$25.44	
5/13/10 Allen Britton (laminated signs)	\$43.75	
6/1/10 Jim Hooper (1 gal. paint)	\$35.27	
6/29/10 American Trails (trail marker signs)	\$74.00	
8/7/10 Jim Hooper (new carburator for weed whckr)	\$126.62	
11/11/10 Ron Gray (mtrls to rebuild Swml brdg)	\$45.13	
12/6/10 Yvonne Blades (blazing paint)	\$57.29	
12/6/10 Ron Gray (rebar for Sawmill Run bridge)	\$29.68	
12/13/10 Harper Tree Service (rmv 3 trs Swml Run)	\$250.00	
Sub-Total		\$709.15
Donations/Dues		
7/12/10 KTA 2010-2011 dues	\$50.00	
Sub-Total		\$50.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$2950.02
ENDING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 12/31/10		\$3254.18
CD — 30-month		\$4251.25
CD — 24-month		\$5395.68
TOTAL ASSETS AS OF 12/31/10		\$12901.11