

Newsletter of the MASON-DIXON TRAIL



AUGUST 2017

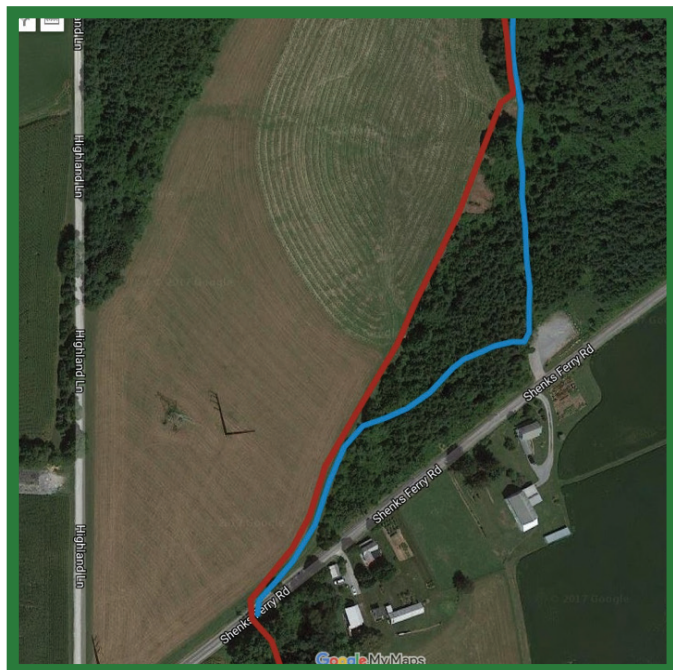
SYSTEM, INC.

In Memorium

Skip Newcomer

On April 11, Skip Newcomer passed away. Skip was a member of both the M-DTS and the York Hiking Club. He was a trail maintainer and had served as M-DTS trail coordinator for the western section. His efforts included leading the effort to rebuild a section of the yellow trail near Otter Creek. He also led the two clubs' effort to turnpike sections of the M-DTS in Gifford Pinchot State Park.

Skip had a cabin on Cabin Creek and loved to sit on a bench outside of his cabin and watch the wild life. Therefore, the M-DTS and York Hiking Club decided to memorialize him by building and installing a bench on M-DT where it runs along Cabin Creek near Long Level.



Apollo Park Relocation

The Thursday work crew put in a small relocation at Apollo Park. The relocation brings the trail up to the Shanks Ferry Road parking lot gate and then enters the woods, parallels Shanks Ferry Rd coming out into the farmer's field half way to the road crossing. It is anticipated that once the leaves are off of the trees, this relocation will be extended so that more of the relocation will be in the woods.

Mason-Dixon Quarterly Hike and Meeting

Our next quarterly meeting is scheduled to be on Saturday, August 19, 2017 at 1:00 PM at:
Gifford Pinchot State Park, 1200 Alpine Road, Lewisberry, PA 17339 (717-432-5011)

The noon lunch and 1:00 PM quarterly meeting will be held under the Sunnyside Picnic pavilion. If rain is predicted that day we will make a judgment call on the blazing effort a few days before this event. The meeting will still be on for 1:00 PM.

See page 2 for more details

Trail Maintenance Report

April – June 2017

EASTERN SECTION

- Don Barber & Ingrid C. Fox of CCTC recently mowed from US Rt.1 to Stabler Rd. Tom Wheatley also mowed and weed whacked the area by long causeway over wetlands. It requires crossing some train tracks.

White Clay Creek Area

- The Preserve work was an Eagle Scout project financed by Friends of Preserve and was a direct replacement of an existing bridge (15 yrs old) suffering from bank erosion. The replacement bridge was relocated about 50 feet to avoid bank erosion section on a small stream (Map 9 E-W approx. mile 21.1). New bridge construction used standardize state park design (5' wide decking and 42" high hand rails on both sides). Material cost is about \$1800 for 20' long bridge.

Iron Hill Area

- Friends of Iron Hill and local mountain bikers have installed marker posts at major trail intersections that include M-D Trail. Prior to this the trails were not really marked. M-D blazes were left alone because there are many small

unmarked trails. A new trail map will be issued that includes paragraph write-up of M-D trail. Mike Ott represented M-D Trail in this process.

M-D Trail along Christina River in Newark (Map 9)

- This approx. 5-mile segment (property of City of Newark Parks) is being maintained by Wilmington Trail Club (Coordinated by Gary Kirk) with permission of City of Newark Parks. For 2nd quarter of 2017, 5 volunteers worked 17 hours with info reported to Newark Parks.

Elk Neck Forest

- Mike Ott checked the blazes in the North East area and they looked in good shape. He also hiked and trimmed the trail from where it enters Elk Neck Forest to just before Landfill Road (Map 8 W-E mile 0 to 1.5). Not a lot of underbrush so most of trimming was on tree branches protruding into the trail or blocking sight line to next blaze. Blaze was good to OK, not real good in two spots where very hard to follow. Guessing it had not been trimmed in more than a year (3 hr).

CENTRAL SECTION

- R. Shakeshank cut back multiflora rose south of Quarry Rd. L. Lambert, R. Busey & D. Herman hauled out a large, heavy speaker & a complete car seat; cut back rhodies from Cold Creek to about the halfway mark; collected about a 1/4 bag of trash between the Gorge and Papermill Road (things still pretty clean! yippee!) and cut back multiflora rose. F. Ziemiński & Son weed whacked between Lay & Burk Rd. R & D Strine also weed whacked and lopped in the Peach Bottom area.

WESTERN SECTION

- T. Schmidt weed whacked and lopped the Holtwood Dam area section. Paul Yatabe cleaned up along Oakland Run. The York Hiking Club Thursday Crew (J. McCoy, F. Kempft, T. Morley, R. & D. Strine, B. Frick, Morgan, T. Schmidt, J. Hooper, D. Lukes) worked 123 hours clearing blowdowns, cutting brush, replacing bridge decking, and re-digging trail between Otter Creek Campground and Long Level
- J. Hooper scouted PA State Game Land #305 for an alternate route for the Western Terminus of the trail.

Mason-Dixon Quarterly Hike and Meeting

Quarterly Hike and Meeting

Sat., Aug 19, 2017

Hike: 9:00 am

Meeting: 1:00 pm

This will be a work hike at Gifford Pinchot State Park. We will initially meet at the Sunnyside Pavilion near the day use parking lot within the park. To get to the Sunnyside Pavilion turn from Alpine RD into the Conewago Day Use Area RD. Drive all the way to the end of the road at the lake's edge, turn right and proceed around the elongated parking area. When you get to the end of the elongated, one-way parking area and start to loop back, you should see the Sunnyside Pavilion on your left. (GPS coordinates for parking near the pavilion are 40.072731, -76.887327). A map showing the parking and pavilion is available at www.mason-dixontrail.org/mdt_hike_mtg_schedule.html. The M-DT goes behind the Pavilion as it migrates from the shared bike path onto the Alpine Trail. The plan is to have 3 teams blazing the M-DT within Pinchot State Park as follows:

- Team 1** — Blaze from the Squire Gratz RD western boundary of the park to PA177, a distance of 1.5 miles.
- Team 2** — Blaze from PA177 to the day use area, a distance of 3 miles.
- Team 3** — Blaze from the Alpine RD eastern park boundary of the park to the day use area, a distance of 2.6 miles.

Teams 1 and 3 have less blazing distance but have to drive further to stage vehicles at each end of their blazing area. The goal is to get all 3 areas blazed by around 12 noon. Paint and brushes will be provided. Wear clothing that you don't mind getting paint on. Also bring a set of loppers, a day pack, water, snacks, M-DT Map 2 and a lunch. All 3 areas may need some lopper work as well. All are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please contact us at: www.mason-dixontrail.org/request_info1.php

President's Message

There's a lot going on with possible re-locations on the M-DT. Elsewhere in the newsletter there is an article and map on a short re-location in Apollo Park that was recently completed. There's also an article on the website about several possible future re-locations at www.mason-dixontrail.org/mdt_relos06172017.html. These possible re-locations are at different stages in the planning and approval process.

On top of all that, M-DTS was recently contacted about a couple of

other possibilities. On July 6, 2017, Jim Hooper and I met with 4 people from the Lancaster County Conservancy (LCC) to discuss recent and possible future acquisitions in York County, PA. They expressed their interest in partnering with M-DTS to develop trails on these properties. Where appropriate, LCC wants to route the M-DT onto their property. This was the first of the meetings to discuss plans for laying out trails this winter.

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM UPCOMING EVENTS

- **August 5, 2017** – M-DTS at Shanks Mare Art and Outdoor Fest
- **August 19, 2017** – M-DTS Quarterly Hike and Meeting
- **September 9, 2017** – KTA Trail Challenge (formerly Susquehanna Super Hike)
- **October 7, 2017** – 4th Annual EYARC Lower Susquehanna Biathlon
- **October 7, 2017** – KTA Code Orange Trail Care at Pinchot SP, PA

Visit mason-dixontrail.org for more information.

M-DTS Publishes 1st Digital Section Map

Back in early 2016 the Mason-Dixon Trail System entered into a partnership with avenzamaps.com. Avenza is a company that specializes in providing maps for smart phones by way of their free apps for iOS, Android and Windows based phones. They have over a half million maps available from various publishers that they partner with. Some of their outdoor related partners include the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, National Geographic, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and many other entities. Some of these maps are free and some can be purchased.

We initially experimented with offering free georeferenced versions of existing maps. Then we published a few free maps that were created to be georeferenced. Now we can say that we have published the first of 10 upcoming georeferenced section maps of the Mason-Dixon Trail.

Our first map is Map 4, which covers from South of Wrightsville, PA to Otter Creek Campground, PA. This map will sell for \$1.99. We will be releasing the other 9 maps in our M-DT map set over the next 2.5 years. These maps will also be the basis for the next generation of paper maps for the M-DT.

The proceeds from the sale of this and future digital maps will help the non-profit Mason-Dixon Trail System to continue to be able to maintain and improve the 200 mile Mason-Dixon Trail. So if you are interested in seeing the selection of M-DT maps currently available on avenzamaps.com, simply click on or copy & paste the affiliate link below and use the vendor search term "The Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc".

www.avenzamaps.com/a/izlok

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Conowingo Trails Day

On National Trails Day, Saturday, June 3 2017, 6 Mason-Dixon Trail System members joined 7 Exelon employees and 5 local volunteers to perform trail work on the M-DT around Conowingo Dam. The work crew was divided into 5 teams, four of which were co-led by a Mason-Dixon member and an Exelon employee.

Team 1 was led by two volunteers from Friends of Conowingo Dam. They trimmed limbs and brush with loppers going south from Fishermans Park. Team 2, led by Jim McCoy, re-dug the climb up from Fishermans Park. Team 3, co-led by Linda Lambert and the section's maintainer, Rick Clark, who is an Exelon employee, brush cut and trimmed from US Rt. 1 south to Fishermans Park with a string trimmer and loppers. Team 4, led by Jim Hooper, cleared blowdowns, brush and limbs with a chain saw, string trimmer and loppers from US Rt. 1 north for 1.6 miles. Team 5, led by Tom Morley, cleared brush and several blowdowns in the Hopkins Cove

The logo for National Trails Day features a large green hash symbol (#) followed by the words "NATIONAL" and "TRAILS DAY" in a bold, green, sans-serif font. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located at the end of "TRAILS DAY".

area with a string trimmer, chainsaw and loppers. We didn't have enough people to reach the few blowdowns in the ½ mile section between Teams 4 and 5. We'll save that for another day.

Although the turnout of local volunteers was less than hoped for, the work completed was more than expected. Everyone seemed to enjoy the work and the free hot dogs and drinks that followed. Thanks to everyone who help.

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, Frank Kempf, 2174 Esbenshade Road, York, PA 17408

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
