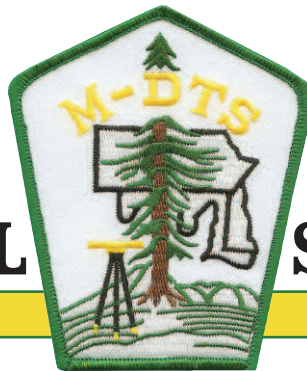


Newsletter of the MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, INC.



Mason-Dixon Trail Celebration, Hike and Quarterly Meeting

**Quarterly
Hike and
Meeting**
June 4, 2011

Hike:
9:30 am
Meeting:
2:00 pm

On Trails Day, June 4th, the Mason-Dixon Trail System will celebrate the opening of the rebuilt Sawmill Run bridge, which was knocked down in a storm last year. The rebuilding of the fifty-foot bridge has taken all winter. This is the most expensive trail project that we have done with over \$2000 spent by the M-DTS for this effort. In addition, over 600 man-hours of the York Hiking Clubs Thursday trail work crew has been spent on the

bridge. Meet at the York Hiking Club cabin at 9:30 am to walk thru the Otter Creek Camp Ground over to the bridge. After the reopening of the bridge, the group will do a short hike and then go back to the cabin for refreshments and a meeting. The meeting should start at about 2 pm. The address of the cabin is 1145 Furnace Rd, Airville, PA 17302 (Google Maps has 1135 Furnace Rd). It is a stone farm house just upriver from Otter Creek along RT 425 on the right. Please contact Jim Hooper at (717) 252-3784 or j.e.hooper@ieee.org if you have any questions.



York Hiking Club crew working on bridge

Cuff's Run Pump Storage

by Jim Hooper

On March 2, the National Park Service notified us that there was a preliminary proposal submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to study development of a pump storage facility at Cuff's Run. This would have impacted about five miles of the most remote, beautiful part of the Mason-Dixon Trail System. The affected section is part of the portion of the trail that was designated as a National Recreation Trail. It would have put a dam on Cuff's run that would have been over 1000 ft long.

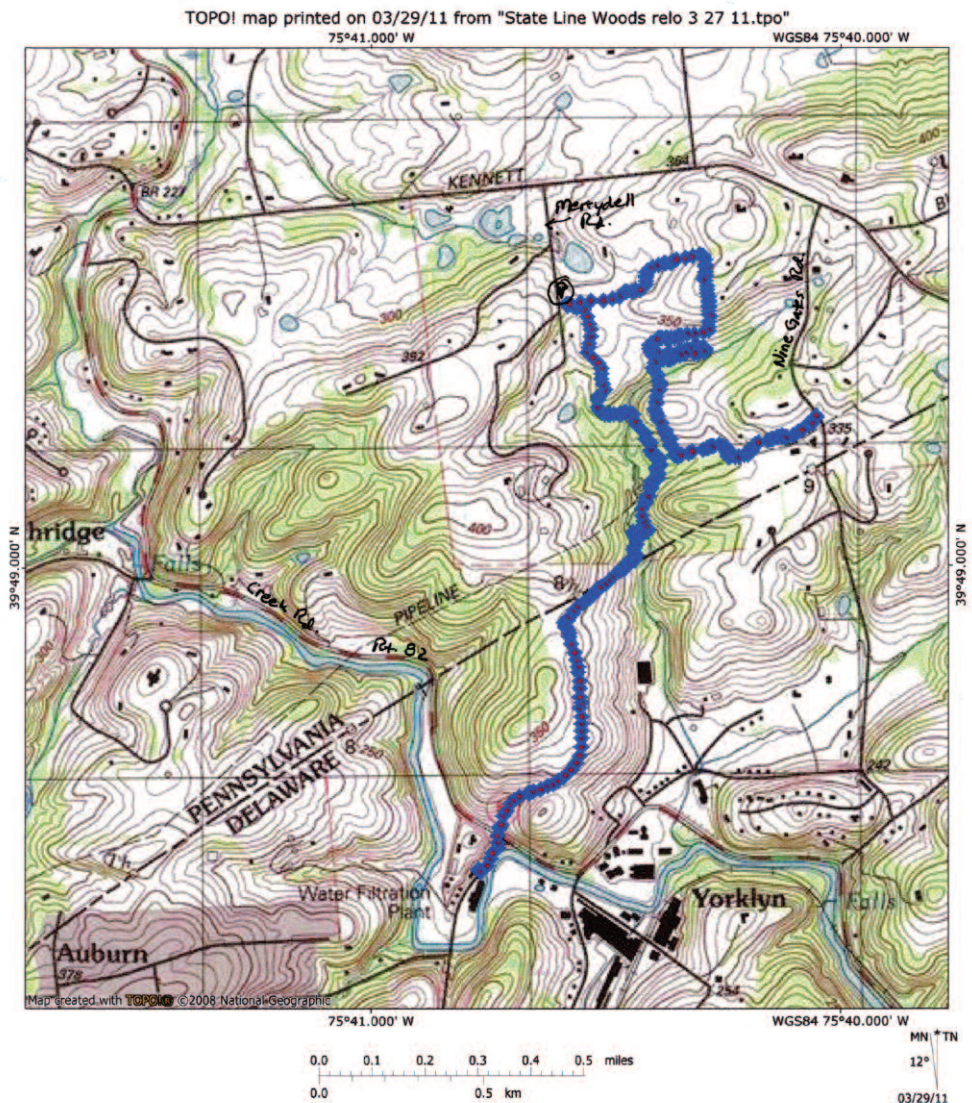
I immediately informed the local newspaper and all of the local interested parties that I could think of. The local townships that were impacted did not know about the proposal. Articles appeared in the local paper and people started writing letters to FERC and the local newspapers. In addition, I took a representative of the National Park Service to see the impacted area.

The results of all of the opposition is that the Boston-based company withdrew their application before FERC could rule on it. Fighting this before the company had spent very much money helped stop the project! The lesson is to find out early and do not hesitate to raise your objections. Longer you wait and the more money spent on the project, the harder it is to stop.

MDT Relocation (April 2011) through State Line Woods

MDT Map 10 West to East

- 7.1 mi** : Turn left on Bengé Rd and cross over Red Clay Creek
- 7.3 mi** : Note clearing on left in front of stone wall – a good parking area for access to DE section of State Line Woods Trail. Angle left onto Rte 82. Enter gated Delaware preserved land on right and follow asphalt roadway (note blue blazes at edge of road)
- 7.8 mi** : Watch for turn blaze on edge of road; turn right and follow path through field leading towards woods
- 7.9 mi** : Enter woods – you are now in State Line Woods in Pennsylvania – property owned by the Kennett Land Trust. Trail crosses a stream and continues through woods.
- 8.4 mi** : Cross pipeline right of way and enter woods.
- 8.8 mi** : Reach field and follow mowed path along west edge of field.
- 9.1 mi** : Reach parking area and access to Marybell Rd. Turn right on trail that follows north boundary of the preserve
- 9.4 mi** : Trail turns right at corner and climbs hillside – nice views of surrounding countryside – then descends along edge of field.
- 9.7 mi** : Turn left and follow mowed path around another field
- 9.9 mi** : Cross stream, angle right and follow trail that climbs up to the right and follows along west and south edge of field.
- 10.4 mi** : Turn right to exit field and reach pipeline right of way.
- 10.5 mi** : Turn left, cross clearing, angle left and reach Fassett Rd.
- 10.6 mi** : Follow Fassett Rd to Nine Gates Rd.
- 10.8 mi** : Turn left (north) to continue on MDT.



Game Land Fine

Recently an AMC hike leader got fined \$275 for leading a group larger than 10 people on a Game Land hike. Please notify your Game Commission Regional Office when

you plan to lead a group of 10 or more on Game Lands. The southeast regional office for Chester and York Counties is (610) 926-3136 or (610) 926-3137.

The Bridge is Walkable

by Ron Gray

On April 21, 2011 the last piece of decking was placed on the rebuilt bridge over Sawmill Run. The crew ran out of screws and railing pieces, but the bridge is usable by the hiking community. About one hour of work remains. Thursday April 26, 2011 the work group should place the last of the railing

and begin cleaning up the remains of the old bridge and other debris from the stream bed.

This has been a very cold, wet, slippery, long rebuilding effort. It seems that every Thursday it was either bitter cold, very icy, snowy, or raining with high water. It was a fun project; however.



SAWMILL RUN BRIDGE

*The rebuilt Sawmill
Run Bridge*



CUFF'S RUN



*Sarah and Joyce
painting blazes
above Cuff's Run*

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WHERE ON THE TRAIL?



The Mason-Dixon Trail is full of history and wonderful sights—with each bend in the trail revealing new surprises. Have you seen these things as you have walked the M-DT? If you have, or even want to guess, send in your answers. The person with the most answered correctly will be announced in the next issue of the newsletter. In the meantime, keep hiking and looking around. Who knows what you will find!

Send your answers of what each item is and where it can be found with your name and city to Tony Nardi at anthonymardi@hotmail.com

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

Rick Maerker

13 Denise Drive

Thornton, PA 19373

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

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