

# MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.



## M-DTS NEWSLETTER March 2010

### The Eastern Terminus of the M-DTS in Historic Chadds Ford is the Site for the Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, Hike and Meeting

#### The Morning Hike

Hikers should gather at 10:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the Chadds Ford Elementary School. Bring a snack and water. We should be back at the school by 12:30 for lunch (bring your own).

Our loop hike of roughly 6 miles will pass the eastern terminus sign of the Mason-Dixon Trail and will feature the rather novel bridging over a Brandywine Creek flood plain area. Herb Blades designed the bridge and a work hike established its physical presence several years ago. The bridging has survived occasional flooding. Perhaps its biggest threat has been the encroachment of invasive weeds and not the turgid waters of the Brandywine. The hike will loop back to the school along the original route of the M-DT on back country roads.

#### Driving Directions to the Chadds Ford Elementary School

The school is located on the north side of US Rt. 1 on the west side of the Brandywine Creek. **If coming from the west** (Kennett Square direction), pass Longwood Gardens on Rt. 1 North, and in about 3 more miles, after descending a long hill, turn left at the traffic light into the school driveway before crossing the Brandywine. It will be the fourth traffic light along Rt. 1 after Longwood Gardens (counting the two PA Rt. 52 lights). **If coming from the east** (from US Rt. 202), take Rt. 1 South for about 5 miles. After the traffic light for Rt. 100 in Chadds Ford, pass the Brandywine River Museum on the left, cross the Brandywine Creek, and turn right into the school at the first traffic light after the Brandywine (~100 feet after the bridge).

#### The Quarterly Business Meeting

The business meeting will convene at 1:00 p.m. at the Chadds Ford Elementary School. For directions, see the above description.

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#### It's That Time Again

*Your 2010 M-DTS membership dues are now due. We hope you will continue to support the Mason-Dixon Trail System. An addressed return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.*



**MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM INC**President ..... Jim Hooper  
[REDACTED]Vice President..... Ron Gray  
[REDACTED]Secretary & Newsletter Ed....Robert Bennett  
[REDACTED]Treasurer.....Rick Maerker  
[REDACTED]Director - Pennsylvania .....Rob Campbell  
[REDACTED]

Director - Maryland..... Open

Director - Delaware..... Yvonne Blades  
[REDACTED]

Trail Coordinators:

Western Section..... Skip Newcomer  
[REDACTED]Central Section..... Cindy Kelly  
[REDACTED]

Eastern Section..... Open

The M-DTS Newsletter is published about four weeks in advance of each of the four M-DTS members' meetings/work parties held annually. Submissions are welcomed. Mail or email to editor. (See address above.)

The Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. is an 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  
[REDACTED]

Thereafter, the annual fee is \$7.

Life membership is available for \$250.

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Visit the Mason Dixon Trail web site at:

[www.masondixontrail.org](http://www.masondixontrail.org)

## Minutes of December 5, 2009 M-DTS Board and Members Meeting

President Hooper called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. at the Havre de Grace City Hall. **Members present:** Bob Bennett, Bernie Frick, Ron Gray, Jim Hooper, Joyce Hooper, Cindy Kelly, Rick Maerker, Skip Newcomer, Dwayne Shreve.

### Review of Minutes of September 20, 2009

Under "Kudos from Keystone Trails Association" (p.4), the entry should read: "Jim Hooper teamed with Tim Schmidt to sweep the first section of the KTA Super Hike."

**Membership:** Rick Maerker reports that to date we have twenty-one new members and ninety-one renewals.

**Treasurer's Report:** Rick Maerker reports that as of December 5, 2009 we are in good shape with \$1150.69 in our checking account that with our two certificates of deposit makes our total assets \$10462.29. Jim Hooper moved that we accept the report subject to audit. The motion passed unanimously.

### Trail Reports

#### Western Section – Lock 12 to Whiskey Springs

Coordinator: Ron Gray

Ron Gray reports that he is working with Skip Newcomer, acquainting him with the role of Trails Chairman for the Pennsylvania portion of the Trail in anticipation of Skip's possible succeeding him in the office of Coordinator for this section.

Jim Hooper reports that the section of trail from Kline's Run Rd to Bank Hill Rd is now open. The York County Park director, however, is retiring, and it is not known how long it will take to replace him..

In Game lands 242 (Map 1: w-e, mi. 12.3) the first planned trail relocation is in place, and the planned second relocation has been submitted to the Game Land Commission for approval.

#### Central Section—Havre de Grace to Lock 12.

No report of new activity.



### **Eastern Section—Chadds Ford to Perryville**

Bob Bennett reports that pooling, flooding, and erosion are damaging portions of the trail between Church Road and Elkton Road in Newark (Map 9: e-w. mi. 8.3-ca. mi. 11).

### **Other Business**

**T-Shirt Sales.** Joyce Hooper reported one recent sale. Thirteen shirts remain available from our most recent order.

**Trail Maps:** Rob Campbell reported where maps are being bought. From box of 80, & Rick a box of 80, Jim 75 sold from box of 80. Two more cartons remain. Dwayne Shreve requested a supply.

**Meetings:** Jim and Rob attended a review of the Study Plans on the Conowingo dam license renewal. Jim attended a ceremony celebrating the preservation of the Susquehanna Indian archaeological sites. He was presented a blanket from the Native Americans as an expression of appreciation for his work in preserving these sites.

**Keystone Trails Association Susquehanna Superhike:** Given the success of this year's event, the KTA will hold the hike again next year. The starting point will be shifted to a larger site, the Otter Creek Campground, in order to accommodate better the check-in registration of the large number of runners gathered at the start and to provide pre-race water and facilities.

**National Recreational Trail Status for portion of the Mason-Dixon Trail:** Jim Hooper reported that he received and has submitted the names of necessary number of letters of support from landowners in the vicinity of the proposed section of trail for national recreational trail designation by the National Park Service. Additions to this initial portion are being sought as more land owners contacted sign on their support for the proposal.

**Publicity:** Jim Hooper opened discussion of importance of generating public awareness and support for the trail. Keeping reporters of local newspapers and newsletters informed of the trail: its recreational benefits, improving locations when opportunities arise, general maintenance, and the like are important dimensions of our mission. Bob Bennett called attention to a recent article in the local Newark Post celebrating the trail's contribution to the City's outdoor recreational options. He also noted the designation of the trail on the Delaware and Pennsylvania White Clay Creek State Park/maps and the White Clay Creek Bi-State Preserve map.



**Next Meeting and Adjournment:** Rick Maerker proposed to host the next quarterly hike and meeting on Saturday April 17, 2010, the hike starting at the Trail's eastern terminus in Chadds Ford and afternoon meeting at the Chadds Ford Elementary School or, if raining, at the Chadds Ford Museum. There being no further business, with thanks to Cindy Kelly for arranging the meeting site at the Havre de Grace City Hall and regrets that the rain, sleet, and snow had put a literal damper on the day's morning hike, the call to adjourn was made by President Hooper at 3:45 p.m. and passed without further discussion.

## **News and Notes Since Our Last Meeting**

### **Keystone Trail Super Hike**

Keystone Trails Association will be sponsoring its second annual Super Hike on September 11, 2010. Jim Hooper and other Mason-Dixon members will be assisting in administering the day's event (as a sweep, which means monitoring a portion of the trail to assure any participants who need help as not stranded). We will also be clearing the trail ahead of time of debris. Event organizer, [REDACTED] also invites us to set up a table and canopy at the finish area to provide information on the Mason-Dixon Trail and potentially sell maps.

The 28.4 mile event is an ambitious undertaking and requires a large number of people to assist in it. This is an important as well as a fun way to contribute to the promotion of trail recreation and to our healthy relationship with the Keystone Trails Association. Contact Jim Hooper or KTA directly if you are interested in assisting in the event. For more details check out the KTA website: <http://www.kta-hike.org/>

### **White Clay Creek Feste**

The Mason-Dixon Trail System will again be providing a table with information about our activities at the second annual White Clay Creek Feste, scheduled from noon to 4 p.m. on May 1st at the Carpenter Recreation Area of White Clay Creek State Park. Bob Bennett will be manning the table and welcomes especially our New Castle County members to come and support the activities of the park and spread the word about our trail in this area. Please contact Bob at [REDACTED] if you think you can help. The park service invitation reads:

Join Delaware State Parks, White Clay Wild and Scenic Program, United Water and other local organizations to celebrate the White Clay Creek. Enjoy food, live bands, kid's activities, displays and exhibits! For information, visit [www.whiteclay.org](http://www.whiteclay.org). Rain date: Sunday, May 2

### **The Mason-Dixon Trail as a Walk through History**

Recently Jim Hooper wrote: "I just got a copy of photos of the M-DTS from William Shaffer. It reminded me of a project that would be good to get a student to take on. That is to develop a brochure documenting the history along the M-DTS."



### **Spring Cleaning!**

Now that it is spring, maintainers should reblaze the trail and clear any limbs that came down during the winter. Would hikers please let us know about any problems that they find.

### **Election Results**

Mary Bleecker, recorder of votes for the recent election of M-DTS officers, reports that all the listed incumbents have been re-elected.

### **Secretary-Newsletter Editor Position Open**

Bob Bennett is currently holding the position of secretary/newsletter editor until a candidate comes forward to volunteer to succeed him. Bob is ready to share with whoever is interested as much information as is needed about the responsibilities and methods that go with producing the quarterly news letters and related tasks. In that regard he welcomes the opportunity, if need be, to "co-edit" the first one or two issues under the new editor to expedite a working knowledge of some of the methods he has learned during his tenure. If you are interested in this part of the Mason-Dixon Trail System mission, please inform President Hooper and, if or as needed, Bob Bennett.

### **Visit our Web Site**

For updates, engaging color photographs, and additional information about the Mason Dixon Trail System, consult our handsome web site administered by Dwayne Shreve: [www.masondixontrail.org](http://www.masondixontrail.org). The site address is always listed in this newsletter at the bottom of the information column on page 2. A google search can be confusing since its response to the command "Mason Dixon Trail" takes you to the York Hiking Club site.

### **Valediction**

"What is remarkable is that a loosely connected group of interested people and organizations was able to establish such an attractive trail through woods and fields, by creeks and rivers in such a highly populated area."

John Wristen – Interview January 5, 1989  
Early M-DTS Blazer and Maintainer