

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.



M-DTS NEWSLETTER October, 2006

M-DTS WORK PARTY -- 9:00 a.m., Saturday, October 28
M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING -- 2:00 p.m., Saturday, October 28

For both the Work Party and Members Meeting: Meet at the PA Fish Commission Boat Launch parking area at the east end of Lay Rd at the Susquehanna River (practically at the gate of PECO's Peach Bottom plant).

The M-DT through Peach Bottom's lands and the section between Lay Road and Robinson Run is all in need of maintenance. Equipment needed: chain saws, loppers, paint set-ups. All workers should bring: work gloves, eye protection, lunch, water and ID.

You must notify Yvonne Blades before 4:00pm Thursday, Oct 26 if you will be taking part in the work party. We have to provide Peach Bottom security with a list of participants before the work party.

Directions to work party and meeting site:

From north: Come down PA Rt 74; about 2 miles south of PA Rt 372, at a sharp bend to the right, leave Rt 74 by going straight on Papermill Rd. Stay on Papermill Rd for 3 or 4 miles. Turn left at intersection with Lay Rd. Follow Lay Rd to the river and the Fish Commission Boat Launch parking lot.

From south and east: Take Rte 1. Cross Conowingo Dam and in about 1 mile, turn right onto Rte 623. Stay on Rte 623 across Broad Creek and cross into PA after about 7 miles. Continue about 3 more miles into PA (road now called Flintville Rd) until stop sign at intersection with Lay Rd. Turn right (east) on Lay Rd and go 2 miles to the river and the boat launch parking lot.

A section of M-DT Map 5 showing the roads in the vicinity of the work site is reproduced on the right. The prominent black line is the Mason-Dixon Trail.



MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM INC

President Anthony Belfiglio
(Now has moved to North Carolina)

Vice President.....Jim Hooper

Secretary & Newsletter Editor...Yvonne Blades

Treasurer.....Mary Bleecker

Director - PennsylvaniaJames McCoy

Director - Maryland.....Alan Roland

Director - Delaware.....Robert Bennett

Trail Coordinators:

Western Section.....Ron Gray

Central Section.....Pat Yale

Eastern Section.....volunteer needed

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 under secretary 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 \$15 (which includes cost of M-DT maps and patch) to

Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc
Mary Bleecker

Thereafter, the annual fee is \$5.
Life membership is available for \$250.

Visit the M-DTS web site at:
www.mason-dixontrail.org

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A ballot is enclosed with this newsletter to members for the election of officers for the Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. for the term from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2009. Please complete the ballot and return before October 24, 2006.

HUNTING SEASONS for NON-HUNTERS

IF YOU'RE OUT THERE, BE AWARE !

WEAR BLAZE ORANGE FOR SAFETY

It is unlawful for non-hunters to be present on **Pennsylvania State Game Lands** from **November 15 through December 15 inclusive** without wearing at least a **Fluorescent Orange hat** (a vest or jacket of 250 sq. inches of **Safety Orange** is recommended). **Orange material must be visible from 360 degrees.**

This is not the only PA "hunting season", it's just the "busiest"

In Delaware, there will hunting in **White Clay Creek State Park** **November 10-18, 29-30, December 9-16, January 13-20.** During these periods, hikers on the M-DT should continue along **Creek Rd** rather than following the circuitous route of the M-DT up into the **hills (Map 9: East to West: Mile 4.9 - 8.1).**

In Maryland, the deer firearms season is **November 25-December 9, January 5-6.**

TRAIL UPDATES

M-DT on Sawmill Run Rd south of Otter Creek (Map 5): The M-DT along Sawmill Run Road was closed due to the road reconstruction project on Rte 425. The road work is now completed and the M-DT along Sawmill Run Road, which is directly below the work site, is again open.

Elk Neck State Forest (Map 8: West to East, Mile 0.8 - 1.4): Beaver activity has resulted in flooding of a section of the M-DT in the Forest. A detour around the flooded area has now been marked with blue ribbons.

Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford (Map 10: East to West, Mile 0.8-1.4): The section of the M-DT that passes through the Brandywine River floodplain and includes the elevated walkway built by M-DTS in May 2005 is a challenge to follow at present due to overgrowth with tall grasses, stinging nettles and mile a minute. The bridge across the "slippery ditch" has been displaced by floods. We hope to get the area cleaned up in the next few weeks - in the meantime the difficult area can be avoided by staying along the RR tracks.

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 12, 2006 MEMBERS' MEETING

The meeting took place on the porch of the York Hiking Club cabin near Otter Creek. Present were: Jim & Joyce Hooper, Lou & Sarah Tateosian, Dwayne Shreve, Bo Hopkins, Laura Bailey, Tim Schmidt, Charles Albin, Mary Bleecker, Ron Gray, Richard Winemiller, and Yvonne Blades.

The minutes of the June 10, 2006 M-DTS members' meeting were approved as circulated.

Treasurer's Report (June 1 to July 31, 2006)

Income		Expenses	
Dues & Renewals	\$110.00	Supplies for April picnic (Belfiglio)	\$37.84
Map/guide sales	<u>37.50</u>	May Newsletter (printing & mailing)	154.00
	\$147.50	Secretary's supplies (Blades)	15.95
		Trail maintenance supplies (Hooper)	39.40
		Donation to Conservation Fund	<u>50.00</u>
			\$297.19

Balance in checking acct 5/30/06 \$4616.46

Balance in checking acct 7/31/06 \$4466.77

Trail Reports

Eastern Section – Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford to Perryville: Coordinator: Chester & New Castle Co. Yvonne Blades [redacted] **Cecil Co. Kevin Jones** [redacted]

- Yvonne Blades reported that the MDT through the Brandywine River floodplain, including the raised walkway, is overgrown with tall grasses, nettles and mile-a-minute. The "bridge across the slippery ditch" has been displaced by flooding. (Map 10: East to West, Mile 0.8-1.4).
- Re-blazing is needed in some sections between Iron Hill and Elkton.
- Runner, Hunt Bartine has reported "barely discernable pathway" and "unfriendly dogs" on sections of the M-DT heading west from Rte 272 in Cecil County.

Central Section – Havre de Grace to Lock 12: Coordinator: Pat Yale

Note: M-DTS member and long distance runner, Hunt Bartine, did a 100K run on the M-DT from Rock Run Mill in Susquehanna State Park to Shanks Mare in Long Level in June 2006. His blog on the internet noted the following problem areas on the M-DT:

- path through Boy Scout camp in need of some clearing.
- the woodsy trail around Peach Bottom plant in much need of new blazes and clearing and improved marking needed near towers (Map 5).
- "50 foot section of virtually impassable tall weeds"
- Bo Hopkins reports briars and overgrowth on the MDT near the Indian Lake camp (Map 6)

Western Section – Lock 12 to Western Terminus at Whiskey Springs: Coordinator: Ron Gray

- Ron Gray reported [redacted] that heavy rains in York County in late June caused flooding of streams and washed out or badly damaged several sections of the M-DT. The trail along Mill Creek, just north of Lock 12 (Map 5), was washed out but is now again walkable. Further north, a section along Oakland Run, 300 yards upstream from the Susquehanna, was completely washed out. The trail crossing at Furnace Run had to be relocated due to storm damage.
- Ron will contact the Game Commission about ATV damage to the M-DT in State Game Land 83.
- Two big trees are down on the climb north from Apollo Park (Map 4). The switchbacks will have to be rebuilt.
- The Thursday retiree group is working one day a week on a further off-road relocation of the M-DT south from Murphy's Hollow up to Grace Plateau. About 2000 feet of new trail has been "brushed".
- Ron reports 775 hours of volunteer trail work so far in 2006 on the PA section of the M-DT.

Other Business

Susquehanna River Hills – Jim Hooper reviewed the current situation with regard to the proposed park. The county now owns the “Highpoint” parcel of land, but the Township has delayed the opening of the park. The county has exercised eminent domain to acquire a second section of land but the landowners are appealing the taking. The third part is under Agricultural Protection and requires a hearing with the Agricultural board (state, county, local). There are some conflicts of interest that need resolving before there can be a hearing.

M-DTS Web Site – It was agreed that there should be no ads on the web site. Jim Hooper suggested that the site should outline possible circle hikes including sections of the M-DT. More pictures were suggested. (Email suitable photos to [REDACTED])

Election of Officers –The nominating committee (Tony Belfiglio, Yvonne Blades and Joyce Hooper) presented the following slate of candidates for election as M-DTS officers for the term from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2009. President- James Hooper, Vice President- Ronald Gray, Secretary- Robert Bennett, Treasurer- Frederick Maerker, Director PA-Rob Campbell, Director MD-Bo Hopkins, Director DE-Yvonne Blades. A ballot will be included with the next M-DTS Newsletter mailing.

Next Meeting – Saturday, October 28 at Dorsey Park. We will rehabilitate the M-DT in the Peach Bottom area and the section between Lay Rd and Grove Rd.

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Storm Damage Along Oakland Run

This photo shows M-DT trail worker, Rob Campbell standing in a deep gully that was created on the route of the Mason-Dixon Trail during the June floods in York County. The site is along scenic Oakland Run, a tributary leading to the Susquehanna River, where the trail follows an old woods road (M-DT Map 5).

A trail relocation will be necessary.



Mason-Dixon Trail in Harford County

Bo Hopkins of Havre de Grace, MD has created an attractive and informative guide to the section of the M-DT that passes through Harford County, Maryland; a project for a Historic Preservation class to research “Heritage Routes” at Harford Community College. The guide was the “media aspect” of his project. It includes the trail description, information on trail conditions, parking, water sources etc. as well as a section on history and local legends. The guide includes photographs taken by Bo and historical photos. He would like to have his guide published and is now taking a class on publishing. One of his photos from the guide is shown at right. The M-DT crosses Peddlers Run on this bridge near Glen Cove.

Bo has become an enthusiastic supporter of the Mason-Dixon Trail and has been placing brochures about the trail and our organization at various sites in Havre de Grace.



Peddler's Run

Photo By Bo Hopkins 2006