

# MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.



## M-DTS NEWSLETTER October, 2004

**M-DTS WORK PARTY -- 9:00 a.m., Sunday, October 24**  
**M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING -- 2:00 p.m., Sunday, October 24**

For both the work party and members' meeting, meet at the home of Jim & Joyce Hooper south of Wrightsville in York County, PA. -- see maps, this page and page 4

There are two work party projects to choose between:

1. **Outdoor heavy work** -- on the relocation north of Apollo Park. Equipment: mattocks, digging bars, chain saw.
2. **Indoor light work** -- Assemble the new M-DT map sets. If you can't be there by 9 am, come when you can. We will be working in the Hooper home. All work party participants should bring lunch and a drink

**Directions to Hooper's:** From Rt 30 -- westbound from Lancaster or eastbound from York: Get off at Wrightsville exit. Head south to Wrightsville. At first light, turn left onto Rt 462. At bridge, bear left and go under bridge onto Rt 624. You are now on the M-DT! -- set your odometer. Follow 624 south for 1.3 miles, then turn right onto Hilt Rd (the M-DT also turns right). At 2.1 mi cross Knights View Rd onto Trinity Church Rd. At 3.1 mi leave M-DT [REDACTED]

From Rt 83/York. Take Prospect Rd (Rt 124) east to East Prospect. At the intersection where Rt 124 turns right proceed straight between the church and the bank. Go about a mile to where the road does a hard left. Go straight onto old road and then the driveway. Name is on mailbox

From southeast: Cross Norman Wood bridge on Rte 372. Turn right, north, on Rt 74; then turn right on Rte 425 and follow it about 15 miles. At the 4-way intersection in Craley, go directly across onto Rte 124. [REDACTED]

(From southeast PA & Delaware: Car pool behind Perkins Restaurant, Rte 41 near Rte 1 at 7:30 am).





## MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM INC

President ..... Anthony Belfiglio

Vice President.....Jim Hooper

Secretary & Newsletter Editor...Yvonne Blades

Treasurer.....Mary Bleecker

Director - Pennsylvania .....James 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 190-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.

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Visit the M-DTS web site at:

## NEW M-DT MAPS NOW ON PRESS

Copy for a revised edition of the Mason-Dixon Trail Maps was delivered to Blyler Offset in Lebanon, PA in early September. Proofs were reviewed and the maps are now on press. Delivery is scheduled for October 21. The 10 maps per set will be collated, cover sheet added and put in plastic bags at the M-DTS work party on October 24. The maps will be printed on Polyart Synthetic Text, a waterproof paper. The cover sheet will be blue but a different shade than the previous edition of maps.

There have been many trail relocations since the last edition. The M-DT is now 193.0 miles long. The new maps include side trails and park trails shown as dotted red lines in addition to the solid red line of the M-DT.

## TRAIL UPDATES AND ALERTS

*The abundant growing season this summer combined with the rains and winds of remnants of hurricanes and tropical storms this fall have no doubt impacted the M-DT. We urge members to get out on the trail, do what you can to clean it up and report any problems to the appropriate Trail Coordinator or a board member.*

**Target practice across M-DT!** Unknown persons appear to have set up a firing range angling across the power line clearing and maintenance road north of Bare Rd (Map 5: East to West, Mile 28.2 to 28.7). The alignment is such that hikers following the M-DT along the maintenance road could be in the line of fire.

**Trail closed north of Apollo Park:** The trail is still blocked between the rocky promontory south of Cuff's Run and Apollo County Park. (Map 4: West to East - Mile 7.6 to 9.7). About 3/4 mile of new trail construction is still needed to complete the relocation.

**No parking at Gaging Station Bridge on Muddy Creek:** The area by the bridge has been posted as "No Parking" and parked cars have been towed away. (Map 5: West to East, Mile 17.3).

**Flood damage in Elk Neck State Forest:** At Elk Neck State Forest, the earthen dam the M-DT traverses, by Plum Pond, was breached during an earlier storm and there is now a steep sided chasm. (Map 8: East to West - Mile 11.1). Hikers are advised to follow the Elk Neck Trail, marked with white, lighthouse-shaped, metal markers on trees, around the south side of Plum Pond and rejoin the M-DT at mile 11.5.

**Floods and overgrowth on M-DT near eastern Terminus (Map 10):** The recent M-DT/Brandywine Trail relocation near Chadds Ford on the Brandywine Creek floodplain is badly overgrown, muddy and almost impassable. A Wilmington Trail Club work hike is scheduled there on November 17.

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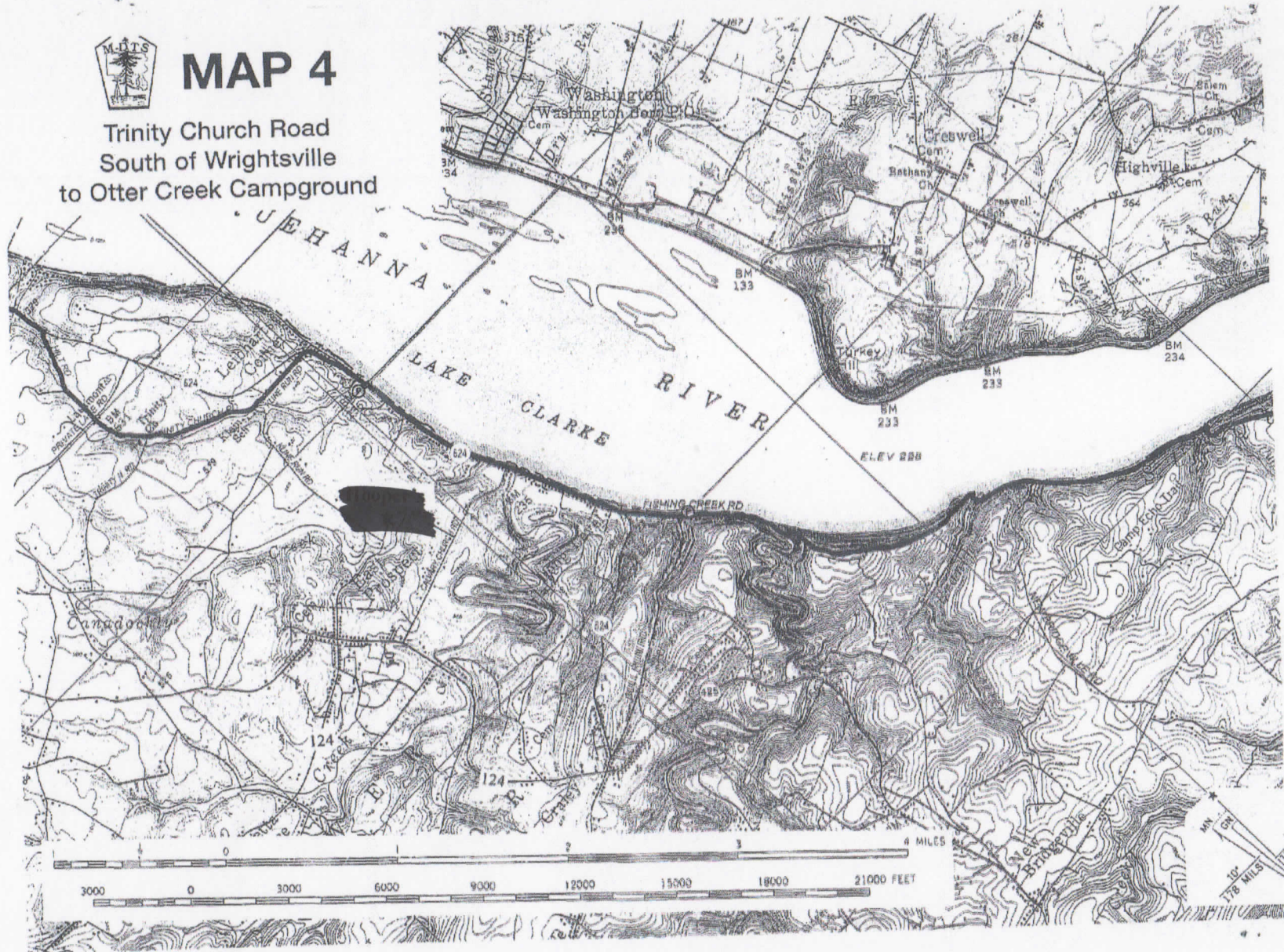


M-DT Map 4 showing area near Hooper residence



## MAP 4

Trinity Church Road  
South of Wrightsville  
to Otter Creek Campground





## MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 15, 2004 MEMBERS' MEETING

The meeting took place at the York Hiking Club cabin following the work party at Apollo Park. Those present for the meeting and/or work party were: vice president Jim Hooper, secretary Yvonne Blades and Ron Gray, Charlie Ament, Tim Schmidt, Jim McCoy, Joyce Hooper and Lou and Sarah Tateosian.

The minutes of the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved with the following correction: The M-DT from Furnace Creek to Rte 425 probably needs maintenance. (Gray, Hooper)

### Treasurer's Report

There was no treasurer's report because the treasurer, Mary Bleecker, recently had a knee operation and was not able to get to the bank. Mary did provide the following assessment of our current wealth in anticipation of the upcoming expense for the new maps. As of 12/3/03 the three M-DTS CDs were valued at \$10,841.53. As of 6/30/04 the M-DTS checking account balance was \$5,181.71. The total is \$16,023.24.

### Trail Reports

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

**Coordinator: Ron Gray**

- Jim McCoy and his wife spent 2 days clearing blow downs and weed whacking on his section from Green Branch to Cuffs Run – 28 hours total.
- Ron reported on the Apollo Park to Greenbranch relocation. Today's work party completed the switchback descent to the river level to cross the side stream and also part way up the other side. Once on top again, there will be 0.8 miles left to do.
- Jim Hooper reported that York Co. has acquired "High Point" by condemnation and is in negotiation with the landowner with regard to the remainder of Lauxmont Farms lands. The potential exists for an off-road M-DT relocation from Wrightsville to Canadochly Creek.
- Ron Gray reports that over 600 volunteer hours have been spent on maintenance of the M-DT in Pennsylvania so far this year.

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

- No new developments on the Muddy Creek parking problem. Ron Gray has been in contact with Rodney Stark of PECO and Rodney has talked to the township supervisor.

#### Eastern Section – Eastern Terminus to Perryville Coordinators: Chester & New Castle Co. – Yvonne Blades Cecil Co. – Tony Belfiglio

- Margit Pruett of the Maryland Conservation Corp at Elk Neck State Forest reports that there will be a new MCC crew of 5 starting September 20. One project will be to reposition the 2 M-DT bridges that were "relocated" by floods. The MCC grant was approved. Yvonne Blades had submitted a letter in support of the grant on behalf of M-DTS.

### Other Business

**New M-DT Maps:** Yvonne Blades reported good progress on updating the maps. She expected to deliver the computer discs to the printer in a couple of weeks. We will order 500 copies this time and depending on the cost of collating, will probably do that ourselves at the next work party.

**Klines Run Relocation:** Jim Hooper reports general approval for the relocation but the final route not yet determined. A stile or gate will be needed. The route will pass through a winery.

**Next Meeting & Work Party:** October 24, at the home of Jim Hooper. Work party to meet at 9:00 am, projects; (1) continue work on the relocation from Apollo Park to Cuff's Run, (2) assemble map sets of the new M-DTS maps. The meeting will follow at 2:00 pm.