

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.



M-DTS NEWSLETTER May, 2010

Scenic Wrightsville Area The Site of Hike and Meeting Saturday, June 19

The morning hike will cover the Mason-Dixon Trail from Wrightsville to Native Lands Park, and then follow the proposed Canadochly Trail to the Hooper farm (6.6 miles). We will meet for the hike at the Wrightsville boat launch at 9 am (Map 3: w-e, mi. 14.7; e-w mi. 2.1). We will lunch at the Hooper farm, and the quarterly meeting will follow there at 2:00 p.m. Contact Jim Hooper [REDACTED] if you have questions.

Directions to the Wrightsville Boat Launch Map 3 marks the location of the boat launch with a P

From Lancaster

Go west on Rt. 30. Take the Columbia Exit (on the east side of the Susquehanna River) and turn left toward Columbia. Turn right at second light onto Rte 462 and the Wrightsville-Columbia Bridge. Proceed across the bridge and turn right at end of bridge and then right again under the bridge on to Rte 624. The parking area for the boat launch will be on your left by the river boat launch.

From York

Go east on Rte 30. Take the Wrightsville exit (that comes **before** the Susquehanna River), and go right. Go down to the light. Turn left onto Rte 462. Just before the bridge turn left and go down under the bridge on to Rt. 624. The parking area will be immediately on your left by the water.

Directions to the Hooper Farm

For those planning to attend only the meeting: Follow the appropriate directions above to Wrightsville and Rte. 624. Stay on Rte. 624 past the boat launch parking area, go beyond the quarry, and up the hill. Turn right onto Hilt Rd (Map 3: w-e, mi. 15.9). At the next intersection, Hilt Rd becomes Trinity Church Rd. Proceed down Trinity Church Road to the second road, Kline Run. [REDACTED]

If anyone has problems call Jim or Joyce at [REDACTED] 31-6600 (cell)

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM INC

President Jim Hooper

Vice President..... Ron Gray

Secretary & Newsletter Ed....Robert Bennett

Treasurer.....Rick Maerker

Director - Pennsylvania Rob Campbell

Director - Maryland..... Open

Director - Delaware..... Yvonne Blades

Trail Coordinators:

Western Section.....Ron Gray

Central Section..... Cindy Kelly

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 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

Thereafter, the annual fee is \$7.

Life membership is available for \$250.

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

Major News Announcement Since our last Meeting: Secretary of Interior Designates a Section of the Mason-Dixon Trail

As a National Recreational Trail
Celebration of this Designation to be held on National
Trails Day,
June 5th

On Trails Day, June 5th, the M-DTS and the York Hiking Club are planning to have ceremony publicizing this recognition and thanking all the land owners that have supported the trail. We will meet at the York Hiking Club cabin, John Paul Jones, at 1:30 pm which is near Otter Creek Campground and walk up to Urey Overlook. We hope to get a key to the gate so we can transport handicap people closer to Urey Overlook. A short hike starting at 12 noon will be held before the ceremony so that people can see how beautiful the Otter Creek gorge is. We are asking for people to RSVP by email so we can get an estimate of how many people will show up. Email: [REDACTED]

This notice also appears on the Mason-Dixon Trail Web Site.

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Minutes of April 17, 2010 M-DTS Board and Members Meeting

President Hooper called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. at the Chadds Ford Elementary School. **Members present:** Bob Bennett, Yvonne Blades, Mary Bleecker, Mike Calabrese, Rob and Marian Campbell, Ron Gray, Jim and Joyce Hooper, Rick Maerker, Dwayne Shreve

Review of Minutes of December 5, 2009

Rob Campbell was added to list of members present at the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Rick Maerker's report was accepted subject to audit.

Election Results: Jim Hooper related the following results reported by M-DTS auditor, Mary Bleecker:

- President: Jim Hooper
- Vice President: Ron Gray
- Secretary: Bob Bennett (Temporary)

- d) Treasurer: Rick Maerker
- e) Eastern Trails Chairman:
 - i) Chadds Ford to the Delaware - Maryland border -- Yvonne Blades
 - ii) Maryland north of the Susquehanna River - Keith Williams
- f) Central Trails Chairman:
 - i) Havre de Grace to Norman Wood Bridge -- Volunteer Needed
- g) Western Trails Chairman:
 - i) Skip Newcomer - Norman Wood Bridge to Whiskey Springs, with assistance of Ron Gray
- h) PA Director at Large: Rob Campbell
- i) Del Director at Large: Yvonne Blades
- j) Md Director at Large: Cindy Kelly

Committee Reports

T-Shirt Sales and Inventory: Joyce Hooper reports one sale since our last meeting. Given our existing supply, the board voted not to order additional shirts at this time.

M-DTS hats: A motion moved, seconded, and passed requested Joyce to look into the possible production and cost for producing M-DTS hats.

Maps: Rob Campbell notes that our future production of maps will benefit from the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and that a group of his students at Penn State University are becoming competent in the use of this new technology. *York College?*

Web Site: Distance Calculator to be Accessible on the Mason-Dixon Trail Web Site: Mike Calabrese is planning to work with web master, Dwayne Shreve, in installing a distance calculator on the web site. The calculator will be an additional aid in one's planning a hike on any given section of the trail.

Meeting with Exelon

Jim Hooper reports his meeting with the new Exelon Shore specialist, [REDACTED]. They discussed issues related to the Trail in the Muddy Creek area, and the possibility of charting an off-road routing in the area of the Conowingo Dam.

Other Business

Susquehanna Super Hike: Keystone Trail Association (KTA) is planning the second annual Super Hike, scheduled for Saturday, September 11. The route will be amended to pass through the campground to Kline Road and then follow the M-DTS to the Norman Wood Bridge.

[REDACTED]

Increasing Membership: Jim stressed the importance of attracting new members, and that we need to identify current members in the various regions through which the Mason-Dixon Trail passes who can assist in promoting the work of our organization, especially to persons in their area who use the trail.

A Pictorial Survey of the Mason-Dixon Trail on DVD:

Bernie Frick has produced a draft DVD of the Mason-Dixon Trail, a photographic record of many points along the trail. The members present wished to review it before deciding how best to promote its circulation.

Newsletter Option:

Jim Hooper noted the need to have a place on our membership application form where persons can elect to receive the newsletter either by hardcopy mail or by email.

New Business

York County Trail Study:

Jim Hooper reported that York County has initiated a Trail Study and have hired a consulting engineer, [REDACTED]. Public meetings in conjunction with this study are scheduled for May 4th and May 5th. Additional meetings not open to the public will also be held.

Wrightsville:

The City of Wrightsville will meet to review its comprehensive plan on Monday, April 19th.

Trail Reports

Eastern Section: Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford to Perryville. Coordinator for Chester and New Castle Counties: Yvonne Blades. Coordinator for Cecil County: Open: No update since last meeting.

Central Section: Havre de Grace to Lock 12: Coordinator: Open: No update since last meeting

Western Section: Lock 12 to Whiskey Springs: Coordinator: Ron Gray

Otter Creek: Skip Newcomer and other members of the York Hiking Club want to make side trails up both sides of the Otter Creek. It would enable hiking loops with the main trail that involve a very beautiful gorge.

PPL Land : Pennsylvania Power and Light (PPL) is negotiating with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Lancaster Conservancy on a sale of a parcel of their land to each. PPL has sent a proposal to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) since the negotiation involves their

license for the Holtwood Dam. The nature of the negotiation will depend upon the nature of the response PPL receives from FERC. They expect to hear by June.

A Camping Site for Visitors to the Native Lands Park;

Jim Hooper has proposed to the Wrightsville Township the establishment of a side trail from the Native Lands Park to the Hooper Farm so that the Hoopers can provide a camping site for visitors. The township is reviewing the proposal.

Game land 242:

Our request for a second off-road relocation of trail from road onto the Game Land 242 (Map 1, w-e, mi. 11 ff) is pending. Decisions of this kind typically take a long time. If successful, the M-DTS will propose one more off-road charting of the trail onto the Game Land 243 in the vicinity of Map 1: w-e mi. 7. Restricted water fowl propagation areas limit the possibilities for this last proposed rerouting.

Next Meeting

The next quarterly meeting will be on June 17, 2010 at the Hooper Farm.

Adjournment

There being no further business offered for consideration, the members thanked Rick Maerker for arranging the day's hike on the attractive Chadds Ford area section of trail and the afternoon meeting place, and the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

News Since Our Last Meeting

Keystone Trails Association Summer Hikes of Interest

The KTA is planning two training hikes for their September Super Hike. These hikes are open to any who wish to join them:

Sunday, July 11, 2010: Otter Creek Campground to Lock 12, 14.8 miles

Meet at Lock 12 parking lot on Rt. 372, just west of Norman Wood Bridge, at 10:00 AM. Bring water and lunch. Rain or shine. Leader: Paul Shaw, [REDACTED]

Sunday, August 22, 2010: East side of Norman Wood Bridge to Pequea Creek Campground, 11.8 miles

Meet at Pequea Creek parking lot along Rt. 324, between Martic Forge and the village of Pequea (campground is across Pequea Creek) at 10:00 AM., rain or shine. Bring water and lunch. Leader: Paul Shaw, [REDACTED]

Storm Destroys Saw Mill Creek Bridge

Saw Mill Creek Bridge is out because of a damaging storm. The bridge is just south of the Otter Creek Campground (0.1 mi on Map 5 w-e). The bridge was built by the M-DTS in 1994. This is sad, bad news.

Share Your Trail With Others

If you are a member of the M-DTS, then it is your trail. Chances are that many of you have one or more favorite sections of the trail that you have hiked a number of times. Members are invited, nay urged, to submit brief commentaries on a favorite section of the Trail. I have mine, and I will share it when four or five others have written to share theirs. Send submissions to [REDACTED]. Between five and ten lines of typescript, but more if you like, should suffice.

Secretary/Newsletter Editor Position

Because of other responsibilities, the election of Bob Bennett to continue as Secretary/Newsletter Editor is a holding position until a volunteer from the membership to replace him is forthcoming. Bob urges anyone who is interested in taking a turn at this service to the organization to contact him at [REDACTED] to discuss what is involved in this position and to gain hands on experience in producing an edition, with his assistance and that of other board members. It is important that members who are committed to the mission of the M-DTS help increase our reserve of persons who can be called upon to serve.

The Email Option for Receiving the Newsletter

Currently about a third of our members are receiving the quarterly newsletter via email in place of surface mail. Any who are currently receiving the newsletter by post, but wish to switch to the email option should send an email to that effect to [REDACTED]. Email subscribers also may receive time sensitive notices on important issues that come up during the periods between the quarterly newsletters.