

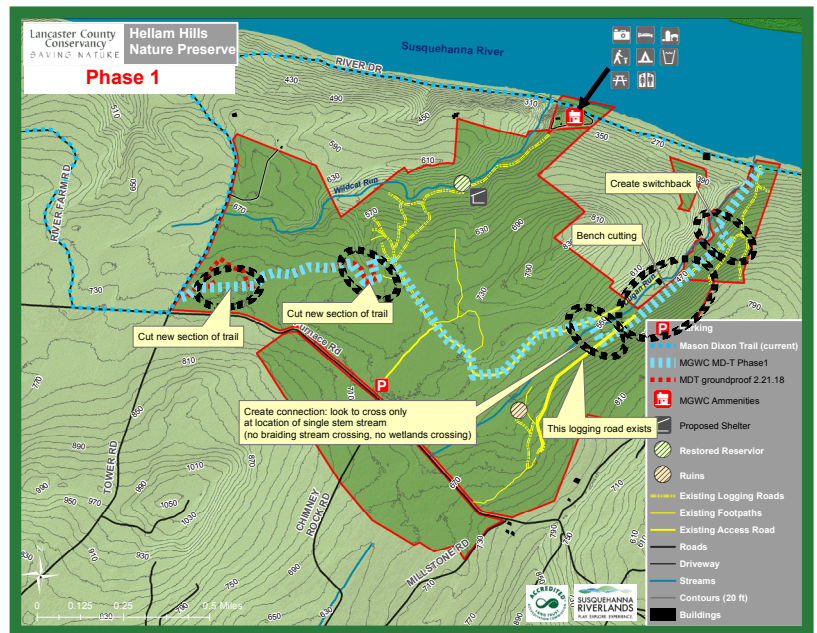
Trail Relocation Hellam Hills

The Conservation Fund of Harrisburg bought the old Marietta Gravity Water Company property. This property is about 1.5 miles up river from the Accomac Inn where the trail follows River Dr. up the hill. When the Lancaster County Conservancy gets funding, they will buy the property from the Conservation Fund. They already own two other pieces of property in the Hills, the house on Wildcat Lane and the land where Dugan's Run comes down to River Rd. They are operating the house as an airbnb (www.lancasterconservancy.org/wildcat-bluff-airbnb/).

The Conservancy is going to rename the 727-acre property Hellam Hills Nature Preserve. They invited the M-DTS to relocate our trail onto the preserve and also invited us to plan to put in a shelter. This relocation will initially move about 2.5 miles of the trail from the road into the woods. The Thursday M-DTS/YHC work team has spent most of the winter exploring the proposed preserve. The map shows the proposed phase 1 relocation route in blue with black circles indicating the areas that will require building new trail. After this is completed and open to the public additional relocation work will be done so that the trail will include Wildcat Run. The present plan is to put the shelter along Wildcat Run where the dam was.

The Thursday work team has started work on the relocation. The Dugan Run area involves side hill digging on a very rocky slope. Using pulaskis and a digging bar the team moved some big rocks. If the rocks get much bigger, they will have to bring in a grip hoist and cable.

People who are available on Thursdays and wish to learn how to build trails should contact Jim Hooper at j.e.hooper@ieee.org to be put on the Thursday work crews email list. The week's plan for Thursday are usually sent out at the start of that week.



Phase 1 Trail Plans

Side hill digging
above Dugan's Run
➔

Ron Gray and
Jim Waller moving
a small rock
↓



Mason-Dixon Quarterly Hike and Meeting

Sunday May 6, 2018 See page 3 for more details

Trail Maintenance Highlights

|| **January – March 2018**

EASTERN SECTION

- On Saturday, March 10, 18 volunteers from the M-DTS and local trail running groups (Trail Dawgs, Mason-Dixon Trail Rebels) participated in a pre-meeting work hike in the Principio area in Cecil County, Maryland. The group worked on relocation of the western section of trail between Belvedere and Red Toad Roads, mostly focused on clearing vegetation to precisely locate the new route within the area approved by the land owner.
- In addition, section maintainers in Cecil County (including Nick Brock and Marshall Moore) did additional trail maintenance, including removal of fallen branches.
- Additional work was done by other organizations that maintain sections of the M-DT in DE and PA. Much of the off-road sections in the Eastern Section lie in state, county, and municipal parks and preserves where local friends groups maintain the trails; this included removal of downed branches by Wilmington Trail Club groups in City of Newark, DE, lands along Christina Creek.

CENTRAL SECTION

- March and April can be best described in two words "Blow Downs". Most of the quarter was spent cutting trees downed by winds during late winter storms. About 50% of the reported trees have been cleared. The remaining

should be removed by mid-May. Please keep the reports coming. We also replaced missing trail markers in the Susquehanna State park in preparation for the Susky HAT Run 50K on March 24th.

- Work also began on the Peavine Island to Lock 15 relocation. The route has been flagged and lopped. Blow down removal and digging-in will continue in the coming months. Plan is to get this relocation open by early summer. Volunteers interested in helping with this effort should contact Mike Hall, the Central Section Maintenance coordinator.

WESTERN SECTION

- The York Hiking Club Thursday Work Crew along with separate efforts by section maintainers Paul Yatabe and Roxanne & Dave Strine performed over 72 hours of trail work clearing all the winter blow downs on the M-DT along the Susquehanna River. Starting from the west, the sections cleared include Fishing Creek to Greenbranch, Cuffs Run through Apollo Park to Kline Road, along Otter Creek to the campground, and from Posey Road down Oakland Run then along the river to Lock 12.
- The Thursday Work Crew also finished exploration of Hellam Hills, finalized the Phase 1 route with Lancaster County Conservancy and began building trail (more details and pictures in the cover article).

HELP WANTED

The Mason-Dixon Trail System will be in need of a Secretary to the Board of Directors starting in January 2019. The primary responsibilities are to attend the quarterly meetings, take notes at the meeting, type them up before the next meeting, and file them after they've been approved. In addition to the meeting minutes, the secretary also serves as the custodian for committee reports, official correspondence and other documents including the organizations governing documents. No experience is required.

So how much time will this take? There are four 2 to 2.5 hour quarterly meetings, so that's 10 hours per year plus travel time. This position doesn't require short hand. The only thing that needs to be recorded word for word are the motions. Everything else can just be summarized. The meetings are informal and the Secretary is encouraged to interrupt the meeting to have someone repeat or clarify what they said.

How long it takes to type up the minutes depends on how fast you can type but it doesn't require a touch typist. Even if you hunt-and-peck it should take you no more than an hour or two per meeting, that's 8 more hours. So, we're up to 18 hours per year so far.

Although it's critical, filing doesn't take much time. The organization provides the binders. If we add 2 more hours, that would bring the total time to 20 hours per year.

If you've been thinking about how you can support the Mason-Dixon Trail, please consider this position. Board members availability, especially the Secretary's, are considered in scheduling the quarterly meetings. If unforeseen circumstances occur and the Secretary is unable to attend, then someone else will take notes and send them to the Secretary. If you're interested or you'd like some more information or you have some suggestions, please email president@mason-dixontrail.org.

National Trails Day Work Hike

|| **Saturday, June 2, 2018**

Join M-DTS, Exelon, and Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway and participate in a work hike at the Conowingo Dam Visitor's Center at 9 am, 4948 Conowingo Road (US Rt. 1), Darlington, MD. Trail work will include chain sawing, weed whacking, lopping and trail rebuilding. Some tools will be available. Please wear appropriate attire for outdoor trail maintenance and hiking. Lunch will be supplied. Giveaways and a drawing will be part of the celebration. Please RSVP by May 30th 410-457-2427

President's Message

In the last newsletter, I talked about the need for a third generation of leaders. I'm going to continue that third generation theme from a different perspective. This time I'm going to share some thoughts on a third generation organization.

I have heard and read many commentaries on how work and family have changed in our current times. Both husband and wife have full time careers. Parents now drive their children to after school activities for multiple reasons. The use of email and smart phones extends the workday to well after you leave the office. I've wondered if these new pressures on people have anything to do with the drop in volunteers reported across the board in service organizations.

I've also wondered about why M-DTS has been so successful at recruiting trail maintainers but not board members. These wonderings have led me to reconsider how we run

the organization. In the past, when a special task came up one of the board members would be "encouraged" to take it on. So, the board members were assigned additional duties not germane to their position.

As part of a move to a third generation organization, I consulted with the current Secretary and we wrote the "Help Wanted" ad for the Secretary with the extra duties stripped out. I'm hoping that this will make it easier to recruit a new Secretary. I'm also hoping that we will be able to find people who will be willing to take on some of these extra duties which could be done at their convenience. More on that in the next newsletter. For now, I'd like to hear from any of you that have ideas or experiences on addressing the issues of running a service organization (or any organization) within the constraints of modern life. Please email your ideas and experiences to president@mason-dixontrail.org.

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM LEADERSHIP

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M-DT Quarterly Hike and Meeting

Quarterly Hike and Meeting

Sun., May 6, 2018

Hike: 9:00 am

Meeting: 12:30 pm

The next hike and meeting of the Mason-Dixon Trail System will be at the Hellam Hills Nature Preserve. The work hike will begin at 9 am. We will be continuing the work described in the cover article by moving rocks, digging trail, weed whacking, lopping and chain sawing. Please bring boots, gloves, safety glasses, and loppers (a pulaski as well if you have one). Don't forget something to eat and drink. Everyone is invited to the meeting which will follow at 12:30 pm. Parking for both the work hike and the meeting will be at 5810 River Drive, York, PA 17406. (Lat/Lon: 40.050822, -76.595001)

Directions to the hike and meeting:

From the Wrightsville exit of US Rt. 30 (the first exit west of the Susquehanna), drive north on Cool Springs Road for 0.5 mi. Follow the signs for the Accomac Inn. At the second sharp left turn, continue straight ahead on Dark Hollow Road for 0.9 mi. Turn right onto Accomac Road and drive 0.4 mi. When the road bears right into the Accomac Inn parking lot, turn left onto River Drive and drive 1.7 mi to the parking area.

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM

Frank Kempf
2174 Esbenshade Road
York, PA 17408

Lock 15 Relocation

Fred Smith, shoreline manager for the Exelon's Conowingo Dam, obtained permission for us to take the trail off the road between Peavine Island and Lock 15 and onto land they own. Please thank him.

The relocation will be 0.9 miles long and save 0.7 miles of road walking. See the map to the right. Both the old road walk and the new route are shown. Going down river, you will turn left after leaving Peavine Island and before climbing up to the road. The trail goes over some rocks along the river. Near the cottages, the trail will cross over the old canal and climb over some rock outcroppings above the cottages. It then continues above the cottages until it gets to the access road leading to the Lock 15 parking lot.

The views on this relocation are spectacular. You see the rocks on Peavine Island across the water and then additional rocks along the river and on Beaver Island. There is a pothole in one of the rocks.

Mike Hall, our Central Section Coordinator, is leading the construction effort. We need to construct the trail behind the cottages, provide some steps to get over the big rocks and possibly build a bridge to cross the canal. Please contact us if you want to help.

Trail relocation →

View of
Peavine Island ↓



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 199-mile Mason-Dixon Trail which passes through historic and scenic areas of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware.

New members are welcome. To join, send \$20 (which covers initial membership as well as the M-DT maps) to:

Mason-Dixon Trail System, Frank Kempf, 2174 Esbenshade Road, York, PA 17408

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

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

Visit the Mason-Dixon Trail Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/theMDTS