
MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.



M-DTS NEWSLETTER February, 2006

M-DTS Hiking Extravaganza

Instead of the usual M-DT work party along with our next M-DTS meeting, we are planning a day of **hiking** with hikes and walks of various lengths and difficulty offered. **Refreshments will follow.** The date will be **Saturday, April 29.** Save the date! The location and other details will follow in a later communication.

A Call for Volunteer Trail Workers, Trail Maintainers and Officers for M-DTS

Note: The following statement has also been placed on the M-DTS website and in boxes to be placed along the Mason-Dixon Trail.

"The members of the Mason Dixon Trail System, Inc. hope that you enjoy your hike on the Mason Dixon Trail. It has been constructed and is being maintained entirely by volunteers from several states. Our organization is aging and needs to mentor a new generation to run the organization. Unless we get some new active members we are in danger of losing the trail. Please consider helping. We need officers in the organization as well as trail maintainers. We meet four times a year at the convenience of the officers. Maintainers work at their own pace."

For more information contact James Hooper at [REDACTED] or Ron Gray at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

M-D Trail Relocation Work Near Wrightsville Receives Publicity in York Daily Record.

From the Record: Dec. 1, 2005 – "A small group of seniors Wednesday said opening their hearts, giving their time and digging in the dirt keeps them appearing and feeling young. The volunteers, all of whom are retired, worked to clear about a mile of path for a hiking trail to be moved to a safer location.

They moved the portion of the 193-mile Mason-Dixon Trail off a dangerous part of Rte 624 near Wrightsville. Now it crosses properties owned by Safe Harbor Water Power Corp and County Line Quarry, which run along the Susquehanna River."

Other quotes from the article: "I'm excited to get it off the road" said Jim Hooper, who has been a trail volunteer for 28 years. "There is no government funding in this at all. We need volunteers all of the time"

Allen Britton said "Everybody I know who is a hiker has a youthful attitude. People who do volunteer work are healthier. Ron Gray is hooked on trail work. "It's kind of in my blood," he said

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM INC

President Anthony Belfiglio

Vice President.....Jim Hooper

Secretary & Newsletter Editor...Yvonne Blades

Treasurer.....Mary Blecker

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 Blecker

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

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

Your 2006 M-DTS membership dues are now due. We hope you will continue to support the Mason-Dixon Trail. An addressed return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Mason-Dixon Trail Murphy's Hollow Relocation

Thanks to [REDACTED] of County Line Quarry, M-DTS received permission to move the Mason-Dixon Trail off a very dangerous part of Rt. 624 just down river of Wrightsville, PA. The area the trail now traverses is called Murphy's Hollow. The relocation crosses Safe Harbor and County Line Quarry property.

The following is a description of the relocation:

M-DT Map 3

West to East

- 15.2 mi. Once past the quarry, turn left onto Lockwood Rd. which goes down to Lock 1, the only double lock on the Susquehanna Canal. Watch for right turn off the road onto a trail that climbs up toward the top of the hill via switchbacks. It passes around the river side of the hill and then descends, crosses a small stream and comes out to a private road (Murphy's Hollow Rd).
- 16.1 mi. Turn right and follow the road back to Rt. 624.
- 16.2 mi. Turn left on Rt. 624.
- 16.4 mi. Turn right on Hilt Rd etc.

East to West

- 0.8 mi. Turn left onto Rt. 624
- 1.0 mi. Turn right onto a private road (Murphy's Hollow Rd).
- 1.1 mi. Turn left onto the trail, which descends to cross a stream, then climbs up hill. It passes around on the riverside of the hill, then descends via switchbacks to a road (Lockwood Rd) that leads out to Rte 624, (If one turns right on this road one can go down and see Lock 1, the only double lock on the Susquehanna Canal.) Turn left on Lockwood Rd.
- 2.0 mi. Turn right on Rt. 624; go past the quarry and into Wrightsville.

Eagle Scout Project on M-DT In Newark, Delaware

A problem area on the Mason-Dixon Trail along Christina Creek in Newark has been fixed by Eagle Scout candidate, [REDACTED] of Newark, Delaware and his crew of scout workers. At this site, the M-DT crosses a side stream. Two previous bridges at the site have been washed away in floods. Samir and his crew relocated the trail and bridge crossing further up the side stream and have built a sturdy 14 ft footbridge at the new location.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 30, 2005 M-DTS MEMBER'S MEETING

The meeting took place at the Hooper residence following the work party. Those present for the meeting and/or the work party were: president Anthony Belfiglio, secretary Yvonne Blades and Jim and Joyce Hooper, Jim McCoy, Sarah and Lou Tateosian, Ron Gray, Richard Winemiller, Bernie Frick, Charlie Ament, and Tim Schmidt. The minutes of the August 14, 2005 M-DTS member's meeting were approved as circulated.

Treasurer's Report (July 27 – Oct. 30/05)

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Dues & New Members	\$105.00	July & October Newsletters	\$132.34
Map/Guide sales	254.00	Trail Maintenance	15.37
Interest	<u>0.57</u>	Treasurer expenses (stamps etc)	45.05
	\$359.57	Central PA Conservancy	50.00
		KTA membership dues	25.00
Balance in checking acct 7/27/05	\$3306.35	Incorporation fee & address	
Balance in checking acct 10/30/05	\$3323.16	change fee (PA)	<u>75.00</u>
			\$342.76

Trail Reports

Eastern Section – Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford to Perryville: Coordinators: Chester & New Castle Co. – Yvonne Blades [REDACTED], Cecil Co. – Tony Belfiglio [REDACTED]

- The new, 185-foot long, elevated walkway on the M-DT/Brandywine Trail in the Brandywine floodplain near Chadds Ford survived its first real test during the floods in October. The nearby "bridge over a slippery ditch" was displaced by the flooding but has now been put back in place.
- A local resident in the Yorklyn area has suggested a possible relocation of the M-DT off road and onto land now owned by the state of Delaware.
- Yvonne Blades recently checked the section of the M-DT in Elk Neck State Forest from the road to the landfill to Cemetery Rd (Map 8). It is in good shape and well blazed.
- Tony Belfiglio reports unpleasant encounters with dogs on the M-DT along Nazarine Camp Rd
- Tony reported that land is now being cleared for the new Principio Business Park. The M-DT passes through the area (Map 7, West to East: Mile 6.00). Plans for the Business Park include a relocation of the M-DT. Hiking through the area is not recommended at this stage of the development.

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

- Yvonne & Herb Blades checked the M-DT from Cold Cabin up Muddy Creek (Map 5: East to West: Mile 7.9 – 11.6). There are a lot of dead hemlock trees – several had fallen on or across the trail. The Blades, using a folding saw and loppers, were able to make the trail passable.
- There was a report of tree blow downs in the Lock 12 area.

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

- One of the wooden steps is missing on the climb up from Mill Creek (Map 5: East to West: Mile 21.4). The rest of that section is in good shape.
- Ron Gray reports that the Thursday retiree work crew has rebuilt 200 feet of trail between Greenbranch and Fishing Creek. (Map 4: West to East; Mile 5.6 – 7.1)
- Work is needed on the section through Apollo Park.
- At today's work party, work proceeded on a mile long relocation of the M-DT off busy Rte 624 onto land owned by Safe Harbor Power Co. and County Line Quarry.

Other Business

KTA Meeting: Jim Hooper represented M-DTS at the fall council meeting of Keystone Trails Association and reports the following: The amended Highway Occupancy Agreement signed by PennDOT and DCNR will apply to all state highway crossings on the 18 designated hiking trails.

Retiring KTA president [REDACTED] did an excellent job making the case to continue the state law banning Sunday hunting in Pennsylvania at hearings of the PA Game & Fisheries Committee last June.

The Mid-Atlantic Foot Trails Coalition has been formed to pursue the idea of a long distance foot trail parallel to the AT. It would include the Mid-State, Link and Tuscarora Trails through Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania Hiking Week will be May 27-June 4. The Spring KTA meeting will be in Wellsboro, April 7-9. Hikers in PA contributed 31,500 hours to trail maintenance in 2005. 1034.5 of those hours were on the M-DT.

KTA is striving to increase its membership to be a stronger voice in the protection of hiking trails in Pennsylvania. They are asking member clubs to include a KTA membership letter and application with their next communication with their membership.

Moved by Blades, seconded by Hooper: M-DTS will include the KTA information with the next M-DTS Newsletter mailing. Carried.

Volunteer Recruitment Statement: Ron Gray has prepared a statement about the need for volunteer trail workers and officers for M-DTS. The statement will be placed on the front page of the next M-DTS Newsletter, on the web site and in boxes located on the M-DT. Jim Hooper has made 3 boxes, one for each state.

It was noted that some York County schools require students to participate in a community service project to graduate. Trail work would qualify as a service project.

Susquehanna Riverlands Preservation Project: York County won in court regarding acquisition of "Highpoint" to be included in the proposed Riverlands Park. The developer has 30 days to appeal.

M-DTS supports the proposed park and the possibility of relocating a section of the M-DT off roads and through the park. It was moved by Hooper, seconded by Gray, to present to York County Commissioners; "If the park plans go ahead, M-DTS proposes to build and maintain a 4 mile long relocation of the Mason-Dixon Trail, with a beautiful viewpoint, through the park."

Incorporation: All the necessary paper work and fees have been sent in to update the Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. incorporation status.

Next Meeting: President Tony Belfiglio suggested that instead of the usual work hike we offer a variety of hikes followed by hamburgers, hot dogs etc. The date will be April 29. Location to be determined.

A quote from the Fall 2005 issue of the KTA Newsletter

*"Volunteers are unpaid not because they are worthless,
but because they are priceless"*

2005 FINANCIAL PICTURE OF M-DTS ACTIVITY

ENDING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 1/1/05			\$2866.57
INCOME			
	Dues/Donations (109 "old"; 24 "new")	\$2287.00	
	Maps/Guides (~72 sold)	\$662.00	
	Patches	\$0.00	
	Interest	\$2.99	
	TOTAL INCOME		\$2951.99
EXPENSES			
	Administration		
	1/6/05 (secretary—stamped envelopes & phone)	\$215.92	
	2/12/05 (map mailing envelopes)	\$9.30	
	2/12/05 (February newsletter and envelopes)	\$92.54	
	2/15/05 (mailing costs for maps & postage)	\$58.86	
	2/22/05 (cost of map production work)	\$100.00	
	2/24/05 (treasurer—stamps)	\$52.00	
	4/28/05 (April newsletter)	\$60.00	
	6/17/05 (legal fees for re-incorporation)	\$91.20	
	6/17/05 (secretary—stamped envelopes)	\$199.00	
	8/1/05 (July newsletter)	\$64.35	
	9/11/05 (treasurer—postage & phone, Jan. — Aug.)	\$45.05	
	10/13/05 (re-incorporation costs to PA)	\$75.00	
	10/13/05 (October newsletter and envelopes)	\$67.98	
	11/05 (website expenses to Dwayne Shreve)	\$41.40	
	12/4/05 (secretary—postage & phone costs)	\$11.42	
	Sub-Total		\$1184.02
	Trail Maintenance		
	5/14/05 (cable cutters for elevated walkway)	\$22.12	
	5/20/05 (Maerker for elevated walkway supplies)	\$718.39	
	7/5/05 (Maerker for Cossart Rd. bridge materials)	\$238.03	
	9/1/05 (Gray—chainsaw chain sharpening)	\$15.37	
	12/1/05 (Hooper—lumber & stain)	\$32.83	
	Sub-Total		\$1026.74
	Donations/Dues		
	Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway	\$25.00	
	Central PA Conservancy	\$50.00	
	KTA	\$25.00	
	Sub-Total		\$100.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES		\$2310.76
ENDING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 12/27/05			\$3507.80
	CD — 30-month		\$3206.22
	CD — 24-month		\$4603.01
TOTAL ASSETS OF M-DTS, INC. AS OF 12/31/05			\$11317.03